



DISTRICT LINES

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL

WINTER 2002, VOLUME XVI, NUMBER 1

STATEN ISLAND, BOROUGH WHERE LANDMARKING LAGS

The Historic Districts Council recently spent a day touring New York City's least-landmarked borough and concluded that the Landmarks Preservation Commission has a lot of catching up to do. Staten Island, the third-largest borough in land area, has only two designated historic districts: St. George/New Brighton and New York City Farm Colony – Sea View Hospital. These meager designations do an injustice to Staten Island's varied and interesting architectural communities, many of which are under threat of rapacious development. The Preservation League of Staten Island, with HDC's encouragement and support, is spearheading a boroughwide drive to correct this neglect and bring much-needed preservation attention to the Island.

During the course of the tour, HDC's New Districts Committee looked carefully at a number of undesignated neighbor-



SANDRA LEVINE

A row of 1900 neo-Tudor buildings designed by Carrère & Hastings for developer George Washington Vanderbilt, best known for his creation of the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina.

hoods, including Stapleton Heights (also called Mud Lane), the Nook (a section of Stapleton), Snug Harbor East, Vanderbilt

Avenue, Westerleigh (also known as Prohibition Park), and an undesignated sec-

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AFTER THREE DECADES, MURRAY HILL BECOMES A HISTORIC DISTRICT

Murray Hill was first developed in the 1850s as a fashionable district for some of New York's most distinguished families. Over the years, the neighborhood has retained much of its mid-19th-century appearance – its predominantly low-scale residential character of quiet, tree-shaded streets lined with handsome townhouses, contiguous brownstone rows, and converted carriage houses in a variety of architectural styles. Many of the dwellings are set back from the street behind front yards graced with ornamental iron fences, adding an elegance and gentility to the area not usually associated with Midtown Manhattan.

In addition to its architectural features, the area also has its share of interesting

cultural history. In the late-19th and early-20th centuries, the neighborhood was home to some of New York's more noteworthy residents. The narrow Italianate brownstone at 125 East 36th Street was the first home of newlyweds Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Rhinelanders, Belmonts, Tiffanys, and Havemeyers also lived in the neighborhood. Architect Ralph Townsend was commissioned by Todd Lincoln, son of the President, to design a double Georgian-style house at 122-124 East 38th Street for his two daughters. Another prominent architect, William Adams Delano, lived in a brownstone at 131 East 36th Street, which he transformed to a tasteful Parisian town-

house. Delano also designed a sophisticated French Renaissance facade for a former carriage house at 126 East 38th Street for use as his office.

Murray Hill's 30-year effort to obtain official historic-district status moved forward on January 29, 2002, when the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission voted unanimously in favor of designation. The boundaries of the district stretch from East 35th to East 38th Street, roughly between Lexington and Park Avenues, encompassing the historic core of Murray Hill, one of Manhattan's finest Victorian-era neighborhoods. Supported by the Historic Districts Council,

Continued on page 9

TO MARKET, TO MARKET ... (THE GANSEVOORT, THAT IS)

According to Landmarks Preservation Commission Chair Sherida Paulsen, the designation of the Gansevoort Market area on the West Side of Manhattan as a historic district could happen in six to 12 months, but no one in the Save Gansevoort Market Task Force is regarding it as a done deal.

Although much research has already been done on the area, commonly known as the meatpacking district, more is needed. A major step in the effort for designation was the submission to the LPC last September of a report written by architectural historian Thomas Mellins entitled "The Proposed Gansevoort Market Historic District: An Overview." Among other material, he used archival research on the riverside buildings below 14th Street that had been done for a 1989 document called "The Architecture of the Greenwich Village Waterfront," edited by architectural historian Regina Kellerman and published by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP). New research will bring that study up to date, but since the LPC suggested expanding the proposed historic district northward to West 16th Street, similar research will be done for the buildings north of 14th Street. The general boundaries as proposed are West 16th Street on the north to Horatio Street on the south, and from Hudson Street or Ninth Avenue west to the Hudson River.

New research will deal not only with the vital statistics of individual buildings—dates of construction and alterations, uses and owners—but will also examine more broadly how the evolution of transportation and industry and the links between them have shaped the district as a whole over the years. Industrial history is rich in this area, as is the evolution of marketing that gives the district its name. In looking at the district's changes, we can better see how the flow of history is expressed in existing buildings and streetscapes, how the layers of history can be read in the present environment. In the end, says Jo Hamilton, co-chair of the task force, the goal is "to refine the meaning of 'sense of place,' and to pin it down with examples and history."

"It's very, very exciting," says Andrew Berman, the new (since January 2, 2002)



The Homestead Restaurant on Ninth Avenue, a true landmark in the heart of the proposed district.

executive director of GVSHP, which is overseeing the task force. "The Gansevoort Market district is different. It's not your typical rowhouse area. Architectural quality by conventional standards exists, but there is much more here than the traditional case for districting, and there is untapped potential in regard to what LPC has not touched on."

To further the designation effort, a new committee has been formed to advise and consult with the LPC about a master plan to accompany the proposed district's designation report. The master plan would include proposals for design guidelines for area development. Organized by Linda Yowell, a member of the task force and co-chair of the Preservation Committee of GVSHP, the new group will be chaired by architect James Stewart Polshek and composed of promi-

nent preservationists from the Historic Districts Council, the Municipal Art Society, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and architectural consultants.

Guidelines would govern alterations and new construction in the district, and they would be specific to existing buildings and streetscapes. "We need to demonstrate that the industrial history of this area as a mercantile district is tied to the way the buildings look today," said Ms. Yowell. "And we need to write guidelines that allow change while preserving the streetscapes and a sense of place."

Few designated historic districts in New York City have such guidelines. Spelling out what does and does not conform to regulations helps the LPC to administer a district. Having them may advance the case for designation. Just as important, making guidelines available to owners clarifies what alterations are acceptable and what may not be, what changes require permits and what do not, thereby demystifying the process. This can go a long way to convincing property owners that the regulations of a historic district are not arbitrary or capricious. Although not common in New York, in other cities throughout the world, preservation districts often have such guidelines.

When the guidelines are ready, says Ms. Hamilton, the task force will approach property owners, hoping to enlist their support for designation. "We want to listen to owners' concerns to try to meet them intelligently," she adds. While not legally necessary, owner support is always welcome in the quest for designation.

"There's a lot up in the air about how development and preservation are going to be in the future," says Mr. Berman. "We're not going completely out on a limb here, but we're moving farther along it."

Other activities of the task force are:

Creation of a Website—www.savegansevoortmarket.org—which includes Mr. Mellins's report, a fact sheet about the district and the movement, and a Request For Evaluation form which can be downloaded, filled out, and sent to the LPC.

A self-guided walking-tour brochure, which is being prepared for springtime strollers.

A special tour of Gansevoort Market during HDC's Preservation Conference in March. ■

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Editor Simeon Bankoff

Layout and Production Ross Horowitz

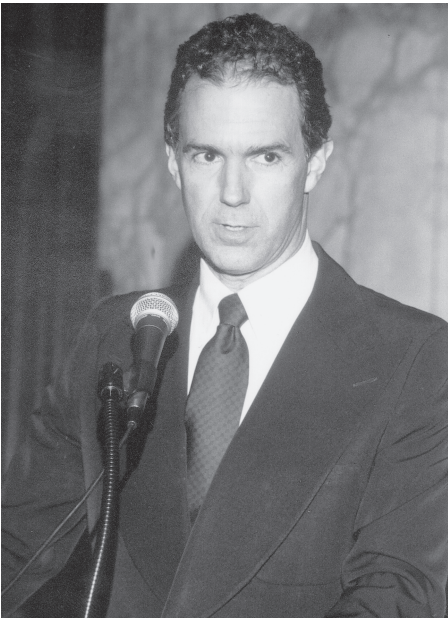
Editorial Consultant Jack Taylor

Contributors Penelope Bareau, Claire Bierhorst, Minor Bishop, Hal Bromm, Franny Eberhart, Ann Walker Gaffney, Sandra Levine, Joyce Mendelsohn, Jack Taylor

The Historic Districts Council is the city-wide non-profit advocate for New York's designated historic districts, and for neighborhoods worthy of preservation. The Council is dedicated to preserving the integrity of New York City's Landmarks Law and to furthering the preservation ethic.

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As New York moves beyond September 11th, a wealth of good ideas have come forward for rebuilding south of Vesey Street. The Historic Districts Council has been active in the re-imagining process—joining Manhattan Community Board 1, New York New Visions, the Civic Alliance, and many others. Near the World Trade Center site, proposals are focusing on saving unprotected and endangered historic resources as new perils arise in the rush to revitalize downtown.

This issue has particular urgency in Tribeca, where both CB1 and the Tribeca Community Association have spent years lobbying for extensions to historic districts that were underdesignated a decade ago. Along with too many others throughout the city, the four Tribeca districts are all much smaller than the community had sought. Now a new extension to the southern area—closest to Ground Zero—is in the offing. HDC, CB1, and the (aptly named) Committee to Extend the Tribeca Historic Districts have brought forward a proposal to preserve these intact but unprotected streetscapes, and the Landmarks Preservation Commission has responded. However, the extension as counter-proposed by the LPC is miserly in scale, leaving many significant streets still vulnerable to inappropriate alterations and development. Although the LPC seems to understand the communi-

ty's very real concerns, and has promised to act soon, many remain skeptical.

In addition to protecting more of Tribeca, now is the time to finally create the Civic Center Historic District, originally proposed in the first Koch Administration when Kent Barwick was chair of the LPC. With a single stroke, the Commission could grant landmark protection to some of the city's greatest early office buildings. By designating the Civic Center, the historic municipal core of New York City would be saved for reinvestment and reuse. The magnificently restored grand entrance staircase of the Tweed Courthouse on Chambers Street and the newly restored Sun Building on Broadway are stunning examples of restoration done right and old buildings reborn.

A solid consensus has formed around the very wise concept that the entire 16-acre World Trade Center site must be reunited with the neighborhoods around it by restoring the street grid that was unfortunately erased by the center's oddly elevated plaza. In case you forgot (or never knew) what that grid looked like, New York New Visions has produced an excellent map with the old street beds ghosted in. Bringing the plaza site to existing grade and remapping historic streets would knit the surrounding communities of Tribeca, the Civic Center, and the financial district together both physically and psychologically, with important economic benefits to all.

Greenwich Street, a key thoroughfare that marches through Tribeca heading south, was blocked—both visually and physically—by the ungainly 7 World Trade Center. Madelyn Wils, chair of



Mutilation in progress (summer 2001) on the northwest corner of Warren and Church Streets, outside of the Tribeca South Historic District. This site is slated to become luxury loft condominiums. Note the Cary Building (right rear), an individual landmark at Chambers Street.

CB1 and also a member of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, agrees with HDC that the historic street grid is crucial to a successful integration of the site into the surrounding neighborhoods. She promises to do everything she can to prevent a reconstruction of 7 WTC that would block Greenwich Street, stating it would happen “over my dead body.” That kind of commitment is music to the ears of many in preservation. Let's hope everyone is listening. —Hal Bromm

HDC PRESERVATIONIST AT GROUND ZERO

Preservationist Robert J. Bob Kornfeld Jr. has been a memberpart of f the e Ground Zero team this past fall and winter. He has prepared assessments of damaged buildings for New York City and taken part ina plan for the restoration of the designated landmarked 90 West Street, and of the American Express x Tower Building (3 World Financial Center), which wereas heavily damaged by the collapse of the South World Trade Center Ttowers.



Mutilation in progress (summer 2001) on the northwest corner of Warren and Church Streets, outside of the Tribeca South Historic District. This site is slated to become luxury loft condominiums. Note the Cary Building (right rear), an individual landmark at Chambers Street.

Architect and Historic Districts Council DC board member Bob Kornfeld Jr. always identified with the anti-Vietnam War attitudes of his generation. He's a bit surprised that, now, as he spends his days working at Ground Zero, it feels good to wear a hard hat covered with American-flag stickers along with his jeans, work boots, and bright-orange safety vest.

Bob works for The LZA/Thornton-Tomasetti Group, which was hired by the New York City Department of Design and Construction as the city's prime engineering consultant for Lower Manhattan right after the September 11th attacks. Engineers from Bob's office worked quickly in the days following the World Trade Center disaster, combing the site to analyze the collapse and ensure the safety of rescue workers, figuring out where to assemble cranes, and inspecting surveying hundreds of 200 neighboring buildings for stability. LZA/T-T architects and mechanical engineers followed the initial survey with visits to the most heavily damaged buildings in order to prepare Life Safety Assessment Reports. These reports, evaluating facade damage, roof debris, site safety, and other issues affecting renovation work or re-occupancy, such as fall and hazards, electrocution hazards and, damage to fire protection systems, and gave requirements for protecting and stabilizing the buildings. For more than over the past several four months, Bob has been performing these site visits, working in a field office at the site, preparing assessments, implementing the necessary work following up on implementation, detailed Life Safety Assessment Reports containing recommendations for repairing the most imperiled buildings and working on restoration projects for the owners of several of the buildings.

One of the buildings he has worked on intensively is 90 West Street, an historic designated New York City NYC landmark completed in 1907 and designed by Cass Gilbert (who also designed the nearby Woolworth Building) architect Cass Gilbert and completed in 1907. The 90 West Street building was severely damaged on September 11th. As the South Tower collapsed, the north face of 90 West Street was pelted pounded by heavy steel debris with large chunks of flaming steel that which penetrated the

building's wall and set off fires that burned for two days. Smaller debris damaged the ornate terra cotta and stone facade masonry, lit the building on fire. I-beams javelined through walls. Large portions of the facade's stonework detailing were obliterated by the spray of rubble which blasted the building. The elegant copper, mansard roof was also badly damaged by the fire. Since the attacks, in some places the green patina was burned off and the roof turned black; in other places, the copper sheets warped or peeled apart. Sheet metal column covers (from the facade of the South Tower) lodged in the courtyard scaffolding, where some restoration work had previously been undertaken.

Under Bob's supervision, unstable debris has been removed from the building, and structural damage has been shored. Work is being done to, and the building is being protected the building from the elements and to be and re-winterize it properly. networks of scaffolding-like shoring have been built in fragile areas of the building to stabilize it. Although it while the building 90 West Street looks as if like it has been heavily shelled, gone through a WWII bombing battle, Bob is enthusiastic about the possibilities for building's restoration. He points out that the superstructural system is relatively intact and while the facade damage is horrific, it is but is mostly concentrated in several discrete areas. Finally, the extent of interior damage actually allows makes this tragedy to become an opportunity to do a complete upgrade of the building's mechanical systems in excellent shape, and the work of gutting the building, a prerequisite to renovation, has largely been accomplished already by the fire. The landlord has expressed interest in restoring the building in a historically-accurate manner.

The World Financial Center has not generally been loved by preservationists, but in the wake of the World Trade Center attack, it is taking on a historical patina both physically and symbolically in the wake of the World Trade Center attack. In the future, visits to the Winter Garden will likely feel more like a shrine than a tourist trap. Structural repairs designed by LZA/T-T are under way on the atrium Winter Garden, which was par-

tially collapsed by heavy steel debris from the twin towers.

Since November the reconstruction of the American Express Tower (3 World Financial Center) has been progressing at breakneck speed, keeping Bob has been stationed at LZA/T-T's field office in the city's command center on the 30th floor of the building to head up the architectural portion of the facade restoration. The frame and floor slabs are being reconstructed at heavily damaged or collapsed areas, and the contractors are gearing up for a major campaign of stone wall-panel and window replacement.

There are two other landmark buildings in the immediate area. The Verizon Building (Barclay-Vesey Building), designed by architect Ralph Walker, was heavily damaged when 7 WTC collapsed against its east elevation. It is stabilized, and awaits facade restoration. A block away stands St. Paul's Chapel, Manhattan's oldest surviving church, where George Washington worshipped at the beginning of his presidency. The landmark church suffered no damage and has been converted by its congregation into a respite center for disaster recovery workers.

The experience of working in the damaged buildings has been intense. Bob has spoken about navigating in, in near-darkness, around by thousands of glass- and dust-covered desks and seeing them adorned with family photos and mementos, some with calendars opened to September 11th, some with September 11th newspaper copies of the New York Times, and half-eaten breakfasts, in front of still-on computers. On one office wall in 90 West Street, Bob noticed a glass-framed photograph propped against the wall of a debris-strewn stair well. It was of the National Historic Landmark landmarked "Insert Name Here Mansion Mohonk Mountain House" in upstate New Paltz, New York. Someone working at 90 West Street was a preservationist. Its beauty and serenity are a good omen for the restoration of this beautiful wounded landmark near Ground Zero building.

STATEN ISLAND, BOROUGH WHERE LANDMARKING LAGS *Continued from page 1*

tion of St. George. To anyone whose familiarity with Staten Island is limited to either the ferry slip or the drive across the island to get to New Jersey, these neighborhoods would come as a big surprise. Heavily treed, hilly, winding streets are lined with finely detailed single-family houses in a variety of styles dating from the mid-19th century. Neighborhoods like these are rare in New York City. Yet they have received little formal recognition and almost no protection, especially on Staten Island.

Chan Graham, president of the Preservation League of Staten Island (PLSI), notes that while all the historic areas on Staten Island are worthy of designation as historic districts, Stapleton Heights and the Nook should, in his opinion, take priority. PLSI has been moving forward with designation proposals to the LPC for an extension to the St. George Historic District and for Snug Harbor East. HDC is coordinating with PLSI's efforts and has sent a request to the LPC to look at all of the proposed Staten Island historic districts.

In addition to pursuing new landmark designations, PLSI has been an active preservation advocate for Staten Island. Among their programs is a popular house tour – this year 250 people attended – that includes properties such as the Moore-McMillen House, an 1818 designated farmhouse that had been the home of the founding director of Historic Richmond Town, and the Church of St. Andrew, the oldest house of worship on Staten Island. PLSI also regularly testifies before the LPC and has joined HDC in opposing proposals to attach a catering hall to the Charles Kreischer House and to construct townhouses on the property of the late-17th-century Manee-Seguine Homestead.

As part of their ongoing advocacy, PLSI maintains a list of endangered places on Staten Island (www.preserve/plsi), one of which, the site for a proposed lighthouse museum, has topped the list for years. The lighthouse originally on the site still exists but was moved to Raritan Bay in 1895. It is now considered redundant by the Coast Guard. Mr. Graham estimates that \$1.5 million would enable it to be relocated back to the lighthouse-museum site. In a positive recent move, New York City's Economic Development Corpora-



PENELOPE BAREAU

"This exuberant 1885 house on St. Paul's Avenue in Stapleton Heights is unprotected by the Landmarks Law."

tion has issued a call for proposals for work two of the seven buildings remaining on the site.

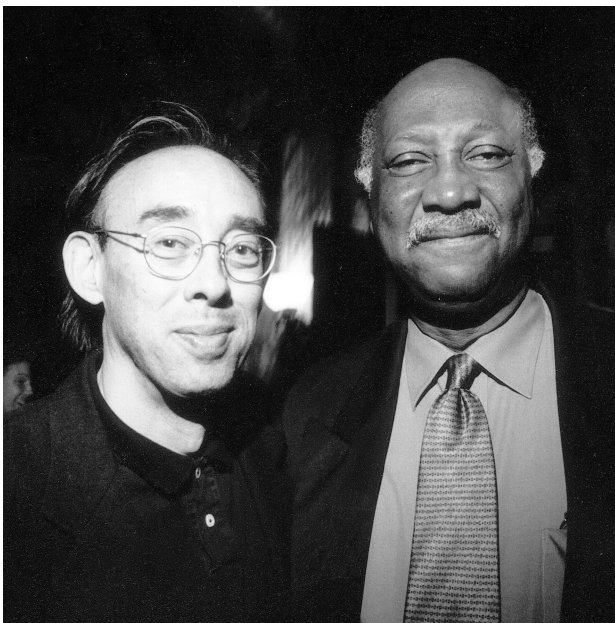
This year the National Trust for Historic Preservation awarded PLSI a local initiative grant, the only grant awarded in New York State. The two-part grant will enable PLSI to study the feasibility of expanding its scope of activities and then, if the expansion is warranted, to hire its first-ever executive director since its founding in 1986. HDC will be working with the organization on this exciting prospect, with the hope that 2003 will bring an even stronger voice for preservation on Staten Island.

Two other exciting preservation-related events in the borough are the recently completed restoration of the interior of Staten Island's Carrère & Hastings-designed Borough Hall, a pet project of newly elected Borough President James Molinaro, begun when he was Assistant Borough President. Farther in on the Island, in the long-neglected New York City Farm Colony–Sea View Hospital Historic District, architect Page Ayres Cowley has completed a survey of the remaining structures in the Farm Colony. This documentation will prove invaluable should the long-wished-for opportunity for adaptive reuse ever come to pass.

Finally, an update about Spanish Camp (see District Lines, Vol. 15, No. 2, Spring 2001). Almost a year after the illegal demolition of the Dorothy Day Cottages, the property owners have agreed to convey to the city some of the land along Seguine Pond, including the site of the three destroyed cottages, as well as an access route to the public beach. According to Mark Silberman, counsel for the LPC, "Subsequent to its public hearing [in April 2001], the LPC is considering designation of the site as a landmark." Now that the issue of public access to the site is resolved, perhaps this commemoration can happen. ■



Dorothy Marie Miner, the 2001 Landmarks Lion, with HDC's Susan Tunick at the 13th Annual Landmarks Lion Award Ceremony on November 15, 2001. Susan, president of the Friends of Terra Cotta, created the award plaque, incorporating historic and new ceramics. The event took at the newly-restored Courthouse of the Appellate Division, First Department, of the New York State Supreme Court, an interior and exterior landmark.



Former LPC Chair Gene Norman and former Commissioner Anthony M. Tung.



Lisa Ackerman of the Samuel H. Kress Foundation and Wendy Nicholas of the National Trust for Historic Preservation before one of the designated landmark murals of the Court room.



Presiding Justice Joseph Sullivan and Clerk of the Court Catherine O'Hagen Wolfe greet Dorothy Marie Miner. Justice Sullivan presided over many of the appellate decisions that supported the Landmarks Law.

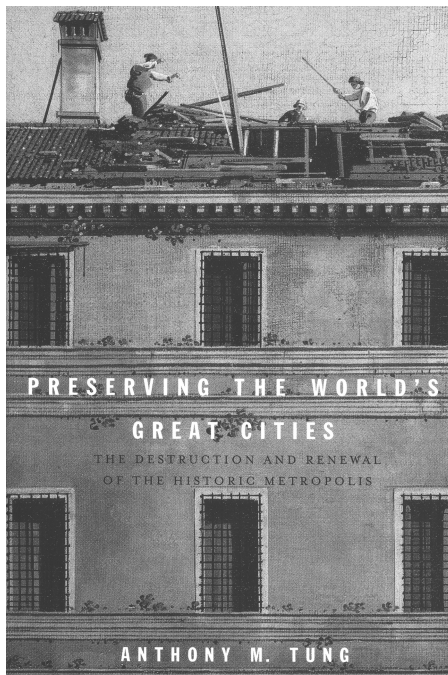


Holly Leicht, Jane Rudofsky Johnstone of the Municipal Art Society and Autumn Rierson of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



HDC's George Calderaro, Florent Morellet of Save Gansevoort Market and former LPC Director of Researcher Marjorie Pearson.

BOOK REVIEWS



SHOULD THIS NEW BOOK BE REQUIRED READING?

For those active in or sympathetic to the historic-preservation movement, the answer is a resounding “Yes!”

The author, Anthony M. Tung, who served for nine years as a New York City Landmarks Preservation Commissioner, donned the mantle of a latter-day Marco Polo and journeyed to 22 urban centers around the globe to document their efforts in “Preserving the World’s Great Cities: The Destruction and Renewal of the Historic Metropolis.”

It is a definitive survey, at home and abroad, that in many ways reflects Mr. Tung’s outspokenness on the Commission – a forthrightness with applicants and public alike that earned him a reputation for “zealotry” in pursuing his personal convictions about historic preservation and landmarking.

In this 469-page epic of prodigious observation and research, we can all gain from that passion again – ardor and expertise that are appropriate to Mr. Tung’s appearance as the keynote speaker at the Historic Districts Council’s 2002 Preservation Conference on Saturday, March 9th, at Manhattan’s New School, 66 West 12th Street.

The odyssey Mr. Tung embarked upon in the mid-1990s took him to 22 of the cities he calls “the most artistically and historically significant places” worldwide. How these cosmopolitan centers have dealt with the daunting task of preserving their heritage is invigorating and instructive reading – and a damning indictment of, especially, the 20th century’s “culture of destruction.”

From Rome to London and Paris, from Jerusalem to Kyoto and Moscow – with surprising excursions to less-predictable environs like those of Mexico City and Singapore – Mr. Tung lays out the failures and successes that should be object lessons for New York. Most prominent among the failures are Cairo and Beijing; among the successes, Amsterdam and our own Charleston.

Are there grounds for hope in the 21st century? The future of preserving the historic built environment comes down to this philosophical tenet, writes Mr. Tung: “A sensitivity to conservation.... There are, of course, specific legal, economic, historical, social, political, and physical circumstances involved...but their complex interrelationship can only be described as cultural. Preservation is different in different places because the culture of every great city is unique. And in our age of globalization and creeping homogeneity, it is exactly this uniqueness that is in need of saving.”

Clarkson Potter/Publisher, New York; 2001; \$40. With 71 black-and-white photographs, by the author and Janet M. Vicario, and numerous historic and contemporary city plans drawn by the author. The provocative dust-jacket illustration is of a detail from a painting by Antonio Canaletto (1697-1768) of a building on the Rialto in Venice, with workmen on the rooftop who could be either demolishing the structure or restoring it. ■

SHOULD THIS BUILDING BE A LANDMARK?

Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts is asking that question about this and 21 other 20th-century

buildings in a provocative booklet called “Modern Architecture on the Upper East Side: Landmarks of the Future.” Based on the organization’s recent exhibition of the same name, the booklet illustrates and briefly describes modern buildings on Manhattan’s Upper East Side that are not protected by individual-landmark status or by being part of any of the area’s historic districts.

The Friends exhibition and booklet are part of their effort to raise consciousness about modern architecture and act to protect the best of it before it is too late. Even as the exhibition and booklet were in preparation, the facade of one of the buildings that was to have been included was removed.

The structure pictured is the Group Residence for Young Adults at 217 East 87th Street. Completed in 1968, it is in the so-called “New Brutalist” style rarely seen in New York, and is by the architect Horace Ginsbern, who is best known for Art Deco designs but practiced in a variety of styles throughout his long and prolific career.

Copies of the free booklet may be obtained from Friends by calling (212) 535-2526 or writing them at 20 East 69th Street, New York, NY 10021. For more information about Friends programs and events, visit their Website at www.friends-ues.org. ■



PHYLLIS HOFFZIMER

IN MID-MANHATTAN, A NEW HISTORIC DISTRICT *Continued from page 6*

**MARY ELLEN “MICKEY”
MURPHY
1917-2002**

[NOTE: PUT INTO BLACK BORDER AND TYPE WITHIN BORDER IS FULL MEASURE, BOTH LINES OF TITLE IS CENTERED WITHIN BOX]

Mickey Murphy came to the board of directors of the Historic Districts Council to represent Brooklyn and lobby for areas, especially on the waterfront, that needed and still need preservation attention. But her sound advice, political sense, and long memory encompassed all of New York City.

Mary Ellen “Mickey” Green Murphy was born in Wisconsin and grew up in Ohio. She was graduated from Smith College in 1938, received a M.S. from the Columbia School of Journalism in 1939, became a reporter for The New York Post and later worked for Time-Life and many other publications. She married journalist

Mark Murphy, with whom she and Ralph Weld edited “A Treasury of Brooklyn” in 1949.

Mickey and Mark bought a house on Sidney Place in 1945, years before even the most adventurous newcomers bought houses in Brooklyn Heights. Mark died in 1952, but Mickey raised their two children in that house and remained there until her death in January. Before the Promenade-topped Brooklyn-Queens Expressway was built and before the Port Authority took over the privately owned piers, Mickey was walking along the Brooklyn waterfront watching the ships come in to unload and getting to know the sailors and longshoremen. When pier activity diminished in the 1970s – because cargo container cranes couldn’t be accommodated on the narrow upland between the Heights cliff and the East River – Mickey began her first efforts to save the piers’ maritime use and allow public access to the river.

As Kent Barwick said in his remarks at her January 19th memorial service at Bargemusic, Fulton Ferry Landing: “Mickey was on the west side of the river years ago when citizens long walled off from the water pushed through the fat chain-link fence. She was with the two

Joes: Joe Cantalupo, the garbageman, and Joe Mitchell, the courtly New Yorker reporter fighting to save Fulton Market. She was there with Peter Stanford, the Harvard boy who took on Socks Lanza and the even more formidable Department of Ports and Terminals. But the moment things started happening on the Brooklyn shore, she was here where the action is, a sidekick of Olga [Bloom, founder of Bargemusic], that other force of nature, beating back the bureaucrats with music, charm, and good humor.”

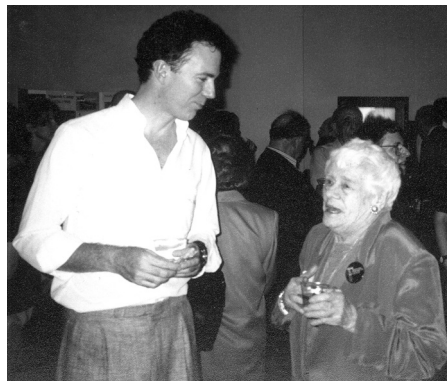
Mickey’s advice was: Know the issues, know the zoning, know the players, and know the politicians – and she knew almost everyone. In addition to being a director of HDC, she was a governor of the Brooklyn Heights Association, a member of Brooklyn Community Board 2, and a board-of-advisers member of the Waterfront Center, a Washington-based organization. Her passion, knowledge, and involvement will be missed by us all. She was truly *sui generis*. ■



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HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL
232 EAST 11TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10003
PHONE: (212) 614-9107
FAX: (212) 614-9127
E-MAIL: HDC@HDC.ORG



*Hal Bromm and Mickey Murphy at the 1998
HDC Preservation Party at St. Mark's Church
in-the-Bowery.*

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The voice for New York City's historic neighborhoods

AFTER THREE DECADES, MURRAY HILL BECOMES A HISTORIC DISTRICT *Continued from page 1*

the Municipal Art Society, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America, The Drive to Protect the Ladies' Mile District, and many elected officials and Murray Hill property owners, the long campaign for this designation was ably led to fruition by the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association's Preservation and Design Committee. However, the district voted upon was much smaller than the district originally requested.

As early as 1981, what was then called The Murray Hill Committee sought landmark protection for an area between East 34th and East 40th Streets and bounded by Madison Avenue on the west and Third Avenue on the east. After an initial rebuff by City Hall and a successful contextual rezoning of the midblocks areas, the community came forward with a much smaller proposal, of an area consisting of both sides of East 35th Street between Park and Lexington Avenues. Finding this retrenchment far too timid, HDC's Designations Committee (the predecessor of the New Districts Committee) recommended new boundaries to encompass from East 35th Street to East 37th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues (these recommendations were published in *Districts Lines*, Vol. 6, No. 2, Autumn 1991). Eleven years later, the LPC has finally acted on this long-awaited district, but not before a number of townhouses fell prey to unsympathetic alterations like unfortunate rooftop additions, inappropriate paint colors, and damaging through-wall installation of air conditioners. The City Planning Commission must now issue a report to the City Council, which will later affirm, amend, or reject the designation.

Along this long road to historic-district status, the Murray Hill Preservation and Design Committee established an Annual Awards Ceremony to promote public awareness of the rich architectural heritage of the neighborhood and to honor those owners who did the right thing by repairing or restoring their historic properties in ways that preserved the architectural integrity and character of the community. Over the past eight years, the awards program has broadened to include the sensitive renovations of apart-

ment and office buildings and even the construction of new buildings that reflect their surroundings and contribute architecturally to the streetscape of Murray Hill.

The Historic Districts Council applauds the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association for staying the course in their quest for designation and all their successful efforts to maintain the history and appearance of its beautiful buildings and streetscapes. We look forward at long last to welcoming Murray Hill as an official historic district. ■



This carriage house was converted by architect William Adams Delano for his office. Delano, a graduate of Yale and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, designed many town and country homes in the New York City area, many of them designated landmarks. Among his better-known non-residential work is the Marine Air Terminal in Queens and the South Balcony of the White House."



This handsome double house was commissioned in 1905 by Todd Lincoln for his two daughters.

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, November 15, 2001
Courthouse of the Appellate Division,
First Department, of the New York
State Supreme Court
Madison Avenue and 25th Street
Manhattan

Join us for the celebration of the 13th
Annual Landmarks Lion Award, to

Dorothy Miner

*"...for showing unusual devotion and
aggressiveness in protecting
landmarks and historic districts"*

As long-time Counsel to the Landmarks
Preservation Commission and as a
preservation law educator, Dorothy
Miner has been at the forefront of many
of the milestone legal victories that
have helped define preservation today

BECOME A FRIEND OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICTS COUNCIL TODAY!

SoHo, the Upper East Side, Park Slope, Sugar Hill, Douglaston, St. George are all neighborhoods that are designated historic districts, protected from inappropriate alterations and development. But unfortunately many more neighborhoods throughout the city are not. Richmond Hill, Old Astoria, Morningside Heights, and the Grand Concourse are among the more than three dozen communities that are seeking protection under the Landmarks Law. And they need help and guidance in their quest for designation. That's where the Historic Districts Council steps in.

As the citywide advocate for New York's historic neighborhoods, HDC fights to preserve and protect New York's architectural and cultural heritage by working with local community groups and giving voice to under-designated areas. Even in designated districts, persistent vigilance, education, and outreach are necessary to maintain and enhance our historic neighborhoods.

Your Friendship contribution helps HDC to continue its important mission. And, more importantly, our Friends serve as the human foundation—a concerned and committed preservation citizenry—that supports all our work.

Join the campaign to preserve New York City's architectural and cultural heritage—become a Friend of the Historic Districts Council today!

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