

34 ½ East 12th Street – built 1855

Currently Police Athletic League Building

Originally Grammar School 47

Later 12th Street Advanced School for Girls (1856) – first public school for girls in NYC

Later Girls High School (1897) – first high school for girls in NYC

Designated an individual NYC landmark – 1998

[Landmark designation report \(1998\)](#)

Additional history:

- <https://www.villagepreservation.org/2021/03/02/setting-women-up-for-success-lydia-fowler-wadleigh/>
- <https://www.villagepreservation.org/2015/11/02/landmarks50-the-police-athletic-league-building/>
- <https://www.villagepreservation.org/2012/08/01/back-to-school/>

Building has been in an apparent state of disuse, in poor condition, and under scaffolding, for almost two decades.

It is listed as the headquarters of the [Police Athletic League](#), which [describes itself as](#) “New York City’s largest independent youth development not-for-profit organization.” However, NYC’s [ZOLA lists](#) the NYPD as the building owner.



*Image:
Dylan Chandler
for Village
Preservation*

VIOLATIONS

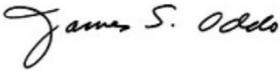
The most recent and most significant DOB violation was issued on [May 7, 2025](#), for: "Failure to maintain building exterior facade and/or appurtenances in code compliant manner. Observed at exposure 1 (north elevation) broken window, spalling/spalled stone lintels & sills. Damaged parapet cornice. Remedy: repair and/or replace."

Other open DOB violations are all related to elevator inspections -- there are 7 such violations -- the building currently owes \$10K in civil penalties, all for the elevator violations.

PERMITS

The earliest sidewalk shed permit accessible online was [approved on May 30, 2008](#). Additional permits for scaffolding and shed were issued on [June 10, 2013](#) and [September 18, 2015](#), respectively, and renewed several times since. The current sidewalk shed permit is valid through October 10, 2026 (see attached -- note that it says the shed is for "remedial repairs," but these permits have had that qualifier for many years and don't seem to be connected to any actual repair proposal).

There is just one [LPC permit](#), from 2019 (expired in 2025), for "exterior work at the roof, including installing a chiller and associated dunnage and conduit, as well as interior alterations at the first through fourth floors, including mechanical and structural work."

		
Work Permit Department Of Buildings		
Permit Number: M00001944-I1-SH		Issued: 12/19/2025
Permit Classification: TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT		Expires: 10/10/2026
Address: MANHATTAN 34 1/2 EAST 12 STREET		Issued To: JEHANZAIB GONDAL
Work on Floor(s): SIDEWALK 001 THROUGH 001		Business: HARD ROCK CONSTRUCTION
Total number of dwelling units at location: 0		License No: GC-617250
Number of dwelling units occupied during construction:		
Description: PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF HEAVY DUTY SIDEWALK SHED FOR REMEDIAL REPAIRS AS PER PLANS. NO CHANGE IN USE OCCUPANCY OR EGRESS UNDER THIS APPLICATION. LIVE LOAD 300 PER SQUARE FEET. SIDEWALK SHED SHALL COMPLY WITH CHAPTER # 33 OF THE 2014 CODE		
For detailed information regarding this permit, please log on to DOB NOW at www.nyc.gov/buildings . Call 311 with any questions or complaints.		
Borough Commissioner: 	Commissioner of Buildings: 	
Tampering with or knowingly making a false entry in or falsely altering this permit is a crime that is punishable by a fine, imprisonment or both.		

