



**Greenwich
Village
Society for
Historic
Preservation**

252 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003

(212) 475-9585
fax: (212) 475-9582
www.gvshp.org

Executive Director
Andrew Berman

President of the Board
Arthur Levin

Vice-Presidents
Linda Yowell
Leslie Mason
Arbie Thalacker

Secretary/Treasurer
Katherine Schoonover

Trustees
Mary Ann Arisman
John Bacon
Penelope Bateau
Kate Bostock Shefferman
Elizabeth Ely
Cassie Glover
Justine Leguizamo
Ruth McCoy
Vals Osborne
Andrew S. Paul
Cynthia Penney
Robert Rogers
Jonathan Russo
Allan G. Sperling
Judith Stonehill
Fred Wistow
F. Anthony Zunino III

Advisors
Kent Barwick
Joan K. Davidson
Christopher Forbes
Margaret Halsey Gardiner
Elizabeth Gilmore
Carol Greitzer
Tony Hiss
Martin Hutner
James Stewart Polshek
Elinor Ratner
Henry Hope Reed
Martica Savin Fitch
Anne-Marie Sumner
Calvin Trillin
Jean-Claude van Itallie
George Vellonakis
Vicki Weiner
Anthony C. Wood

October 18, 2011

Hon. Robert C. Tierney
Chair, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: 43 MacDougal Street, Charlton-King-Vandam Historic District

Dear Chair Tierney,

I write to you regarding the unoccupied 1846 townhouse at 43 MacDougal Street, located within the Charlton-King-Vandam Historic District. In its abandoned state, this building has posed a health and safety threat for years, and has continued to deteriorate from vandalism, exposure to the elements, and lack of basic maintenance. We have worked to see this landmark restored before neglect allows too much of its historic integrity to be compromised.

Today, the building continues to deteriorate. The rear façade is settling, threatening the building's stability. Problems related to graffiti and rodents persist, and homeless people continue to take refuge under the sidewalk shed.

News of the sale of the building on September 2nd, 2011, however, presents an opportunity. According to our research, the purchaser owns dozens of buildings throughout the city and has extensive experience as a contractor and landlord. In light of this, I urge the LPC to work with the new owner quickly and efficiently to halt the deterioration and restore the building. I hope the LPC will establish contact with the new owner as quickly as possible in order to begin this long overdue process.

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter, and we look forward to hearing back from you or your staff.

Sincerely,

Andrew Berman
Executive Director