



**Greenwich Village
Society for Historic Preservation**

232 East 11th Street
New York, New York 10003
(212) 475-9585
fax: (212) 475-9582
www.gvshp.org



E V C C
East Village Community Coalition
143 Ave B, simplex, NY, NY 10009
p: 212.979.2344 f: 212.979.2129
www.evccnyc.org

August 13, 2010

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Urgent Request for Evaluation for 328 and 326 East 4th Street,
Manhattan**

Dear Chair Tierney:

Thank you for your prompt reply to our RFE for 326 & 328 East 4th Street. Considering these buildings face imminent danger, we appreciate that the Commission undertook an expedited review to assess their eligibility for landmark designation.

However, we question your assertion that the buildings do not warrant designation because some of their significant features have been lost or replaced. On the contrary, these buildings are extraordinary for their level of intactness, and have managed to retain most of their original details to a degree that is rare for Greek Revival structures not only in the East Village but anywhere in the city. As the Commission knows, it is extremely uncommon to find wooden cornices, masonry stoops and ironwork as intact as they exist in this case. The molded stone sills and lintels on No. 328 have all remained remarkably intact and are especially rare.

Thus while we are pleased that the Commission is actively pursuing the designation of other Greek Revival rowhouses in the neighborhood, this does not take away from the merit of these two houses and their worthiness of designation. We are unaware which buildings you are pursuing, but if they are the Greek Revival houses identified in the East Village/Lower East Side Rezoning EIS, while we consider them all to be worthy of designation, none of them retain the level of intactness of Nos. 326 & 328 East 4th Street.

Few Greek Revival structures exist as far east as these two buildings, which are rare survivors from the era when successful merchants built houses adjacent to the East River when it was the heart of New York City's working waterfront. In light of their extraordinary level of intactness and the dearth of landmarks in the far East Village that represent this significant era in the history of New York, we urge the Commission to reconsider its assertion that the buildings are ineligible for designation and to calendar them before they are lost forever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Berman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Berman
Executive Director
Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Cavanaugh", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kurt Cavanaugh
Managing Director
East Village Community Coalition

Cc: Councilmember Rosie Mendez
Mary Beth Betts, Director of Research, LPC
Municipal Art Society
NY Landmarks Conservancy
Historic Districts Council