



August 30, 2012

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

Re: 186 Spring Street

Dear Mr. Tierney,

I wrote on July 23rd in support of the effort by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, other lesbian and gay organizations and community leaders, and elected officials to prevent the demolition of 186 Spring Street.

I write again to urge you to reconsider the staff response to this issue. Given the new information that was provided about the early lesbian and gay community organizing efforts that took place in that building, I would have hoped the staff and the Commission would see this place as an important historical site for one of the late twentieth century's major social justice movements.

Lesbian and gay New Yorkers gave the world a movement. Especially in those early days, planning and organizing – the nuts and bolts grunt work to forge a movement and create the organizations that would keep it alive and bring about social change – started where people lived. Organizations were born in lofts and living rooms. Not unlike stops on the Underground Railroad, the places where gay men and lesbians met to foment change were often modest and out of the public eye – an advantage in a world that was hostile and dangerous.

In fact there is something marvelous about the fact that 186 Spring Street is not a relic resplendent with period details. Its condition poignantly reflects why it could become an organizing hub for a marginalized community.

I urge you to save 186 Spring Street.

Sincerely yours,

Glenda Testone
Executive Director

Copies to:
Mary Beth Betts, LPC
Hon. Tom Duane
Hon. Deborah Glick

Hon. Christine Quinn
Hon. Rosie Mendez
Hon. Daniel Dromm
Hon. Jimmy Van Bramer

Greenwich Village Society for
Historic Preservation
Historic Districts Council