



February 14, 2018

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission  
1 Centre Street  
New York, NY 10012

RE: Individual Landmark Designation for 206 Bowery

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

We urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to recalendar 206 Bowery for consideration for individual landmark designation. We believe that the building is eminently worthy of designation, and an increasingly rare piece of New York's history which is unlikely to survive without designation.

We disagree with the Commission's claim of "uncertain stakeholder support" for designation of 206 Bowery in light of the **525 letters of support for landmark designation** sent to the LPC, **the resolution in support from Community Board #2, Manhattan**, the **letter of support from Council Member Chin**, **support from multiple preservation organizations**, and a request from a longtime resident of the building. The Landmarks Law does not require owner consent for designation.

As to the claim of "alterations to the building" making it ineligible for designation, it is in the same state as in 2010 when it was considered significant enough to calendar by the Commission. 206 Bowery still retains the very characteristics of the Federal style identified by the former Director of Research as necessary to qualify for landmark designation. It retains its original 2 ½ story height, 3-bay width, and peaked gambrel roof with paired dormers. In addition, the one-foot thick walls are laid in Flemish bond over a stone foundation.

Unusually narrow at less than 17 feet wide, this house has always had a commercial ground story, with the family of the commercial tenant originally residing upstairs. As the city moved further up from its original downtown center, 206 Bowery was part of the first development of this section of the Bowery.

This ca. 1825 building is an increasingly rare surviving federal-style structure with a rich history connected to New York's earliest days, and an irreplaceable resource for the Bowery, New York City's oldest thoroughfare, listed on the National Registers of Historic Places. This deserving building should not go down in history as a victim of the arbitrary and artificially imposed deadlines of Local Law 76 of 2016. It is time to permanently protect this survivor through designation.

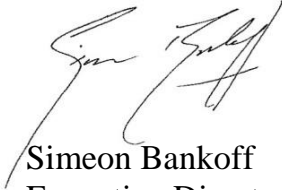
Sincerely,



Mitchell Grubler  
Chair  
Bowery Alliance of Neighbors  
Landmarks Committee



Andrew Berman  
Executive Director  
Greenwich Village Society for  
Historic Preservation



Simeon Bankoff  
Executive Director  
Historic Districts Council



Richard Moses  
President  
Lower East Side Preservation Initiative

cc: Kate Lemos McHale