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Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Carroll:

As the New York City Council representative for Manhattan's District 3, I write in support of the Village Preservation's efforts to seek landmark protection for 60, 66, 68, 72, 74, 78 and 80 Fifth Avenue in New York City.

These buildings represent a significant and underrepresented slice of New York and American history, especially as it relates to the African American and LGBTQ civil rights movements, the peace movement, international human rights initiatives and the arts. Without landmark designation, all remain without protection and are vulnerable to demolition.

Last year, I was pleased to learn of the designation of 70 Fifth Avenue. Constructed in 1912 in the Beaux Arts style, this building is the former headquarters of the NAACP, Crisis Magazine and an array of progressive and civil rights organizations.

Along with 70 Fifth Avenue, the elaborately detailed Renaissance Revival style building at 80 Fifth Avenue was home to organizations that led American efforts to stop the Armenian Genocide, spearheaded the women's peace movement and organized labor's fight to end Jim Crow and discrimination against immigrants and others in mid-20th Century America. Most notably, from 1973 to 1985, this historic building also housed the original headquarters of the country's first national gay organization, the National Gay Task Force (currently the National LGBTQ Task Force).

The other buildings along this strip of Fifth Avenue in District 3 have been home to countless artists, publishers, and organizations, and significantly add to the social and cultural significance of the area south of Union Square:

- 64-66 Fifth Avenue, a striking Romanesque Revival structure, housed the Fifth Avenue Playhouse, one of the country's first art movie houses, and the studios of dance pioneer Martha Graham;
- 68 Fifth Avenue, built in a patrician Greek Revival design by William W. Thompson in 1840, staged the great Chinese American modernist artist Yun Gee's exhibition to raise funds for the Music Box Canteen in 1943;
- 72 Fifth Avenue, designed by Adolph E. Nast, was the home of several notable left-wing political magazines like *The Nation*;
- 74 Fifth Avenue housed Adelphi Hall, a center for left-wing political causes often investigated by the House for Un-American Activities Committee, was frequented by the likes of Paul Robeson.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to designate these building as soon as possible for their architectural significance, place in African American, LGBTQ and immigrant civil rights movements, place in the arts movement, and place in New York and American history.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for the Landmark Preservation Commission's ongoing commitment to preserving our city's history.

Sincerely,



ERIK BOTTCHER
Council Member