



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North New York NY 10007 TEL: 212-669-7700 FAX: 212-669-7960
www.nyc.gov/landmarks



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2007
No. 07-7

CONTACT: Lisi de Bourbon
212-669-7938

COMMISSION DESIGNATES THREE FAR WEST VILLAGE BUILDINGS AS NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS

Two Greek Revival Style Residences and a Renaissance Revival Style Hotel That Catered Mostly to Sailors Considered Remnants of Neighborhood's Rich Maritime and Economic Heritage

The Landmarks Preservation Commission today granted landmark status to a Renaissance Revival style hotel and two Greek Revival style row houses in the far western section of Manhattan's Greenwich Village. All three structures are closely associated with the once-thriving maritime and commercial sectors on the Hudson River waterfront during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The newly designated landmarks, which were built in the 19th century, include: the Keller Hotel at 150 Barrow St., 354 W. 11th Street and 159 Charles Street.

"All three buildings are landmarks not only for their original architectural detail, but for the story they tell of New York's rich maritime and commercial history," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "Many of the piers and buildings in the Far West Village that once supported these sectors no longer exist, and the Commission's action today will ensure that these three historical treasures remain a part of the community for generations to come."

Keller Hotel, 150 Barrow St.



The six-story, largely intact structure is located on the southeast corner of Barrow and West streets. It was constructed by William Farrell, a prominent coal merchant, between 1897 and 1898 to the design of Julius Munckwitz, former supervising architect and superintendent of the City's parks system. It was called the Knickerbocker Hotel until about 1910, when the name was changed to the New Hotel Keller. The name changed to the Keller Abington Hotel around 1929. In 1993, it became known as the Keller Hotel. Only four other turn-of-the-century Hudson River waterfront hotels, constructed to house the throngs of travelers and sailors that descended along its piers, remain in Greenwich Village: the Great Eastern Hotel, the Holland Hotel, the American Seamen's Friend Society Sailor's Home and Institute and the Strand Hotel.

In 1980, the Keller became a single-room occupancy hotel. The building is currently vacant, and undergoing a conversion to residential use on the upper floor. The building's storefronts have

More

been occupied by a succession of tenants, including several taverns, a pool hall and a catering business.

354 West 11th Street House

Built c. 1841-42, apparently for a carver and “composition ornament” manufacturer named William B. Fash, this house is one of the best surviving examples of the Greek Revival style row houses that were constructed in the 1830s and 1840s along the Hudson River waterfront in the Far West Village.



Greek Revival style row houses gained popularity during the second quarter of the 19th century, and featured three-bay front facades, brick cladding and ironwork. The three-story row house features red brickwork, wrought ironwork and an entrance with pilasters, sidelights, entablature and transom.

An attorney bought the house in 1843 during a foreclosure auction, and leased it out to various tenants, many of whom were local merchants. It was purchased in 1866 by a German-born grocer, Friedrich Knubel, whose son became the first president of the United Lutheran Church in America.

159 Charles Street House

The Greek Revival style house, at 159 Charles Street was built around 1838 for Henry J. Wyckoff, a prominent tea and wine merchant. It’s the only surviving residence of nine built on the former site of Newgate State Prison, also known as the “State Prison at Greenwich,” the first penitentiary in New York State. The prison was located on four acres extending between Christopher and Perry streets and Washington Street and the Hudson, and closed in 1828 after a commission recommended closing it and erecting a new prison farther north on the Hudson at Sing Sing.



Wyckoff was active in New York City government, and served as a fire warden, election inspector, street assessor, tax assessor and a member of the Common Council, the precursor to today’s City Council. He first leased the building to a merchant who operated a lumber business, and later tenants included a feed store owner, a druggist, a dock master and a schooner captain. Beadleston & Woerz brewery acquired the building in

the 1880s to house its workers, and used it during 1930s and 1940s for its corporate offices. The building was later purchased by a moving company, which sold it to the Terminal Leasing Company. The building has been in residential use since 1964, when the company sold it.

159 Charles Street is a three-story, three-bay brick house with brownstone detailing. The building’s most notable feature is the handsome entry incorporating a stone surround with

More

pilasters and a heavy entablature, tall wood pilasters framing a paneled doorway, sidelights, transom bar and toplights.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission is the largest municipal preservation agency in the United States. Created in 1965, the Commission is dedicated to preserving New York City's architectural, historical and cultural treasures and protects more than 23,000 buildings in all five boroughs, including 1,155 individual landmarks, 107 interior landmarks, nine scenic landmarks and 85 historic districts.

-30-

More