



232 East 11th Street  
New York, NY 10008  
212 886 8742

[vicsocny.org](http://vicsocny.org)

March 19, 2019

Dear LPC Chair and Commissioners:

The New York-Metro Chapter of the Victorian Society in America enthusiastically supports landmark designation for the First Hungarian Reformed Church (346 East 69th Street, aka 346-348 East 69th Street), a stuccoed structure built in 1916.

It ranks as a masterful early proto-modernist design by the Hungarian-born architect Emery Roth, who would go on to fame for designing countless residential, hotel and office towers including the LPC-protected Eldorado and Beresford apartment buildings. Hardly any other religious buildings by Roth have survived, and virtually no other structures in New York bear the First Hungarian Reformed Church's mixture of austere geometric ornament, imported from early-20<sup>th</sup>-century avant-garde designers in Central Europe, and sloped and domed roofs based on Hungarian vernacular traditions.

The First Hungarian Reformed Church, which soars 80 feet over neighboring rowhouses, is also an extremely rare example of a Manhattan house of worship in continuous use by the original congregation, who built it soon after their arrival in America.

The Victorian Society encourages the Commission to preserve this testament to an immigrant group's embrace of innovative design and their staying power in New York, and a talented immigrant architect's adaptations of his homeland's experiments and precedents to a Manhattan side street.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt protection of this landmark.

Sincerely,  
*Eve M. Kahn*  
Board Member