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Dear Chair Carroll,

The Landmarks Preservation Commission should consider real historic district protections for Greenwich Village and the East Village below Union Square; the current proposal for landmarking just seven buildings is woefully inadequate.

The report recently released by Village Preservation and written by renowned architectural historian and former Landmarks Preservation Commission Deputy Director of Research and Director of Survey Tony Robins demonstrates what GVSHP and thousands of New Yorkers have been saying for a long time: Greenwich Village and the East Village below Union Square are historically significant neighborhoods endangered by increasing development pressure, and warrant expanded landmark and historic district protections.

Many rich currents in New York and American history converge in this area, but are being lost every day to insensitive new development. From its oldest buildings dating to the early 19th century to its status as the center of the art world in the post-World War II era, this section of Greenwich Village and the East Village contain invaluable and irreplaceable architecture and cultural heritage which warrant recognition and protection by the City.

Fifty years after the designation of the Greenwich Village Historic District, it's time for the Landmarks Preservation Commission to finish the job. Not only these neighborhoods but the whole city benefits from the wealth of historic, cultural, and architectural resources to be found in this area, recognized by historians and preservationists across the city, as well as average New Yorkers. Please follow the recommendations of the report, and act now to protect this area before more worthy landmarks are lost.

As with the long-delayed Madison Square North Historic District extension, important buildings in Greenwich Village and East Village are being demolished – no longer just threatened.

Thank you for your prompt consideration and action to preserve our built heritage.

David Mulkins

George Calderaro

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Co-Chairs, Preservation Committee, Victorian Society NY-Metro Chapter