

DATE

Hon. Robert Tierney
Chair, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Centre Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10007
VIA EMAIL: comments@lpc.nyc.gov
VIA FAX: 212-669-7960

Dear Chair Tierney:

I urge the Commission to designate an expanded Upper East Side Historic District to celebrate and protect the significant architecture of Lexington Avenue and the adjacent picturesque side streets. Lexington Avenue, one of New York City's great "main streets", is such an important artery on the Upper East Side, yet much of it is not included in the existing historic district. As proposed by Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, the expansion includes two areas. The first extends from East 60th Street to East 65th Street and the second area includes the south side of East 72nd Street to the north side of East 75th Street, with buildings in both areas located between Park and Third Avenues.

Like other parts of the Upper East Side Historic District, the buildings in the expansion are of a high quality with many architectural highlights including low-rise 19th century rowhouses, stately apartment houses and charming stable buildings. Bustling commercial storefronts along Lexington Avenue unite the residential areas and contribute to the neighborhood's livability, sense of place and welcoming appeal. Surrounded by large towers on Third Avenue and further south on Lexington Avenue, this historic enclave of shop fronts and low scale residential buildings has a sense of place and character vanishing all too quickly in New York City.

Thanks to Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts' efforts, the Expanded Upper East Side Historic District was listed in 2006 on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places. This was a significant milestone in the recognition of the architecture and history of the neighborhood, but as you know, this will **not** protect buildings from demolition or damaging alterations. It is only through designation at the local level by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission that you can assure that the architecture and scale of the neighborhood will be protected and preserved.

Sadly, significant losses have recently occurred in the expansion area including the demolition of a rowhouse on East 61st Street, the illegal removal of an intact stoop on an 1871 Neo-Grec brownstone and the proposed demolition of the Swedish Methodist Church at 148 East 62nd Street. Before further losses, I urge you to designate this quintessential New York City neighborhood to encourage appropriate development while maintaining the low scale, sense of place and historic architecture of an expanded Upper East Side Historic District.

Sincerely,

Name and Address

DATE

Mayor Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007
VIA FAX: 212/788-8123
VIA e-mail, [CLICK HERE](#)

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

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