

TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE FIRST GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH (CONGREGATION TIFERTH ISRAEL TOWN AND VILLAGE SYNAGOGUE) IN MANHATTAN.

January 13, 2015

Good morning Council Members. My name is Jenny Fernández, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the First German Baptist Church (later Congregation Tifereth Israel Town and Village Synagogue) in Manhattan.

On March 25, 2014, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the First German Baptist Church (later Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church of St. Volodymyr/ later Congregation Tifereth Israel Town and Village Synagogue). There were 11 speakers in favor of designation, including representatives of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, Congregation Kehila Kedosha Janina, the Historic Districts Council, the Lower East Side Preservation Initiative, and the East Village Community Coalition. There were eight speakers in opposition to designation including the president and rabbi of the Town and Village Synagogue and five members of the congregation. Several members of the congregation testified in opposition to the designation, including the president and chairman of the board of the synagogue, and requested that if the designation were to go forward, that the rear addition, known as the "back building," be excluded from the designation. At the hearing, Chair Tierney read into the record a letter from State Senator Brad Hoylman and Council Member Rosie Mendez supporting the designation excluding the rear building. The Commission also received a letter from New York State Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh asking the Commission to designate only the original front of the building. The commission received hundreds of letters and emails in support of designation and 45 letters and emails in opposition to the designation. On October 28, 2014, the Commission voted to designate the house a New York City individual landmark.

The First German Baptist Church, located at 334 East 14th Street, is a significant reminder of the evolving character of the Lower East Side and an excellent example of the Rundbogenstil style of architecture. The church was erected in 1866-69 at the northern boundary of Kleindeutschland, the thriving mid-19th-century German community. The German Baptist church emphasized the affirmation of German cultural identity and had roots in the Pietist theological movement, which favored basilican church designs with simple forms and chaste ornament.

The First German Baptist Church was a vital social and spiritual center for its largely poor and immigrant congregation and an important center and training ground for the German Baptist Church in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1926 the First German Baptist Church sold its building to the newly formed Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church of St. Volodymyr. In 1962, the Church of St. Volodymyr sold the building to Congregation Tifereth Israel - Town and Village Synagogue. Tifereth Israel – Town and Village Synagogue has earned a reputation for social activism, egalitarianism, and inclusiveness, and has played an important role in the social framework of the East Village. The building survives today as a largely intact and fine example of Rundbogenstil architecture and as a significant reminder of the rich cultural and social history of the Lower East Side.

The Commission urges you to affirm the designation.

TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE DOERING-BOHACK HOUSE IN BROOKLYN.

January 13, 2015

Good morning Council Members. My name is Jenny Fernández, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Doering-Bohack House in Brooklyn.

On June 25, 2013 the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of 1090 Greene Avenue, heard as the De Coudres-Bohack House. There were four speakers in favor of designation, including a representative of Council Member Diana Reyna, and representatives of the Historic Districts Council, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and the Victorian Society of New York. There were no speakers in opposition to the designation. On August 25, 2014 the Commission received a letter in support of the designation from Council Member Antonio Reynoso. Another hearing was held on October 29, 2013, the house renamed the Doering-Bohack House, with no additional speakers testifying at that hearing. On September 30, 2014, the Commission voted to designate the house a New York City individual landmark.

Built around 1887 and moved to this site in 1902, the Doering-Bohack House is a rare surviving example of an ornate vernacular frame house style popular in Bushwick in the 1880s and 1890s and designed by prominent Brooklyn architect Theobald Engelhardt. The house was commissioned by Frederick and Rosa T. Doering and, in 1902, acquired by Henry C. Bohack, a German immigrant and the founder of the H.C. Bohack & Co. grocery store chain. Today, the house remains remarkably intact and is a significant example of Bushwick's architectural heritage and history.

The Commission urges you to affirm the designation.

TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE MILLS HOTEL NO. 3 IN MANHATTAN.

January 13, 2015

Good morning Council Members. My name is Jenny Fernández, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Mills Hotel No. 3 in Manhattan.

On October 26, 2010, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Mills Hotel No. 3. Three witnesses spoke in favor of the designation, including representatives of Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried, the Historic Districts Council, and the Victorian Society of New York. A representative of the owner testified in opposition to the designation. On October 14, 2010, the Full Board of Manhattan Community Board 5 adopted a resolution in support of the designation. On October 28, 2014 the Commission received a letter from Scott J. Avram, Senior Vice President of 485 Seventh Avenue Associates LLC, the contract vendee of the Mills Hotel Building, in support of the designation. On October 28, 2014, the Commission voted to designate the house a New York City individual landmark.

Described by the New York Times as the "world's biggest hotel" and the "finest for the use of men of limited means," this 16-story neo-Renaissance building, built in 1906-07, was the third and largest of the three model residential hotels for single working men built by Darius Ogden Mills at the turn of the 20th century. Mills was a banker and philanthropist particularly concerned with the problems of housing the urban poor. In 1896 he commissioned Ernest Flagg, a young architect who had revolutionized thinking about low-cost urban housing, to build the Mills House No. 1 at 160 Bleecker Street and the Mills House No. 2 at Chrystie and Rivington Streets (demolished). In 1905, spurred by the success of his two earlier hotels and wanting a hotel in a thriving Midtown location convenient to public transportation, Mills commissioned the construction of the Mills Hotel No. 3.

The Mills family retained ownership of this hotel until 1954 and the building remained a low cost hotel until the early 1980s. At that time, it became the Fashion Avenue Atrium and was remodeled for use as offices and show rooms. Its facades remain largely intact and the building retains its historical and architectural significance as a reminder of the Housing Reform Movement and the Progressive Era.

The Commission urges you to affirm the designation.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: Jan 13, 2015

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jacqueline Berkowitz

Address: 300 East 33rd Street, #2M
New York NY 10016

I represent: Town + Village Synagogue

Address: 334 East 14 Street New York NY 10003

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

Mills Had No 3

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

Date: 1/13/15

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 1 Cortez Street

I represent: UPC

Address: S/A/A

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms