

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE THE CITY
COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES ON
THE DESIGNATION OF MANHATTAN HOUSE, MANHATTAN
January 22, 2008**

Good morning Councilmembers. My name is Diane Jackier, Director of External Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of Manhattan House in Manhattan.

On April 10, 2007, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation. Thirteen people spoke in favor including Council Member Daniel Garodnick, State Senator Liz Krueger, and representatives of State Assembly Member Jonathan Bing, Docomomo US/New York Tri-State, the Historic Districts Council, Friends of the Upper East Side, the Landmarks Conservancy, the Modern Architecture Working Group, the Municipal Arts Society, as well as several tenants in the building. There were no speakers in opposition. The Commission also received numerous letters in support of designation. On October 30, 2007, the Commission designated Manhattan House a New York City landmark.

Manhattan House, an Upper East Side apartment and retail complex, was constructed between 1947 and 1951. Commissioned by the New York Life Insurance Company, it occupies an entire city block, bounded by East 65th Street and East 66th Street, from Second to Third Avenue. Designed by Mayer & Whittlesey, and Skidmore Owings & Merrill, this modern-style apartment house is impressive for its impressive size, plan, massing and color. Considered by many as the first white brick apartment building, it was also notable for being one of the first multiple dwellings in New York City to attempt "an indoor-outdoor synthesis" through the integration of large windows and deep projecting balconies, as well as landscaped driveways and a block-long rear garden. The building generated considerable media attention and received an award from the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1952.

Famous residents have included Benny Goodman, Grace Kelly, designer Florence Knoll and Skidmore Owings & Merrill architect, Gordon Bunshaft. Although many other white brick buildings have been constructed to imitate Manhattan House, none of them have matched its aesthetic standards. It remains to this day, one of the most distinguished examples of housing built in New York City since the Second World War.

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 DESIGNATIONS OF 511 AND 513 GRAND STREET, MANHATTAN
January 22, 2008**

Good morning Councilmembers. My name is Diane Jackier, Director of External Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designations of 511 and 513 Grand Street in Manhattan.

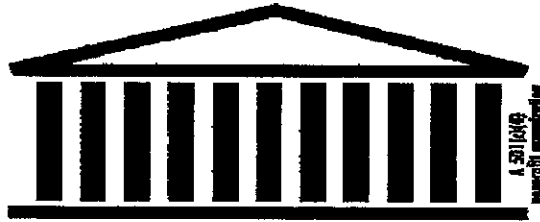
On July 24, 2007, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designations. Four people spoke in favor of 511 Grand Street, including representatives of the Society for the Architecture of the City, the Historic Districts Council, and the Landmarks Conservancy. Testimony in support from historian Joyce Mendelsohn was read into the record. Six people spoke in favor of 513 Grand Street, including the owners, and representatives of the Society for the Architecture of the City, the Historic Districts Council, and the Landmarks Conservancy. Testimony in support from historian Joyce Mendelsohn was also read into the record. No one spoke in opposition to designation. In addition, the Commission received a letter of support from Council Member Alan Gerson. On October 30, 2007, the Commission designated the buildings New York City landmarks.

Built ca. 1827-28 as an investment property by James Lent and Henry Barclay, the rowhouses at 511 and 513 Grand Street are remarkable surviving examples of the Federal-style house in Manhattan. The buildings retain their original 2 ½ story height, peaked roof and pedimented dormers. Located on Grand Street, a busy thoroughfare, these buildings have had a succession of tenants since the 1840s. Their survival is significant to the understanding of the development of this neighborhood.

The Commission urges you to affirm the designations.

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**STATEMENT OF ROBERT FURMAN IN FAVOR OF THE
 PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE VOELKER-ORTH
 HOUSE AS AN INDIVIDUAL NEW YORK CITY LANDMARK
 CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS
 PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES,
 JANUARY 22, 2008**

Chairwoman Lappin and members of the Committee, my name is Robert Furman and I am testifying as Chairman of the Four Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance Corporation in favor of the designation of the Voelker-Orth Bird Sanctuary and Museum at 49-19 38th Avenue in Flushing, Queens as an individual New York City Landmark.

First, I would like to thank the Chairman Robert B. Tierney of the Landmarks Preservation Commission for designating the house and Councilmember John Liu for supporting the designation—this is an important step towards redressing the shortage of designated landmarks in Queens.

The house is the oldest suburban-style house in Flushing, dating from 1891 when the construction of new Long Island Railroad lines facilitated commutation and led to the conversion of the area from country to suburb. The variety of materials, colors, textures, and angles used in the houses construction was a way of showing the wealth and success of the owner. The streets of Flushing had many such houses at the time, but very few of them remain today. Because the house was lived in by members of the same family for nearly 100 years, the house has survived in excellent condition.

The house's current use as a museum has served to preserve it for future generations. Of particular note are the grounds which are a rare Victorian garden which is, in fact, worked with Nineteenth Century methods and thus serves as a unique educational tool for children and adults alike.

The Voelker-Orth House is a rare and beautiful survivor of New York City's countrified suburban past and richly deserves this designation.

Thank you very much.

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE THE CITY
COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING AND MARITIME USES ON
THE DESIGNATION OF THE EBERHARD FABER PENCIL COMPANY HISTORIC
DISTRICT, BROOKLYN
January 22, 2008**

Good morning Councilmembers. My name is Diane Jackier, Director of External Affairs at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Eberhard Faber Pencil Company Historic District in Brooklyn.

On July 24, 2007, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation. Five people spoke in favor, including representatives of the Municipal Arts Society, the Historic Districts Council, the Landmarks Conservancy, the Waterfront Preservation Alliance of Greenpoint and Williamsburg, and the Roebling Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archaeology. One owner representative questioned the boundaries of the district. There were no speakers in opposition. The Commission also received letters and emails in support from City Councilmember David Yassky and the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America. On October 30, 2007, the Commission designated the area a New York City historic district.

The Eberhard Faber Pencil Factory Historic District occupies parts of two square blocks in Brooklyn's Greenpoint neighborhood, along Greenpoint Avenue, West Street and Kent Street. Originally the A. W. Faber Company, the Eberhard Faber Pencil Company was founded by Eberhard Faber (1822-1879) in 1861. Following a disastrous fire at the Manhattan plant in 1872, Faber moved the factory to Brooklyn, where it remained until 1956. The company is credited with bringing German lead pencil-making techniques to the United States and Faber grew to become one of Brooklyn's most important factories, employing hundreds of workers, most of which were women.

The earliest structures, located on West Street and extending the full block between Kent Street and Greenpoint Avenue, all date from the 1860s to the early 1880s. These buildings are decorated with stone lintels that display the company's logo, a feature that Faber trademarked for use on his pencils in 1861. Most of the buildings in the historic district date from the mid-1880s to the 1910s and were designed to complement the earlier structures, displaying elements of the German Renaissance Revival style, such as segmental lintels, carefully detailed brickwork, and corbels, as well as pedimented parapets that display Faber's star and diamond motif. The final building in the district was constructed in 1923-24. It is the complex's signature building and the largest structure in the historic district. Six stories tall, the upper

floor is embellished with stars and pencils, gigantic glazed terra cotta reliefs that proudly advertised the company's main product to pedestrians and passengers using the nearby ferry.

Not only did the company become a significant presence in Greenpoint, Eberhard Faber also turned into a nationally recognized brand name. Built over several decades, these buildings provide a concise history of the development of industrial architecture in Brooklyn, and still serve as a reminder of one company's rise to national prominence.

The Commission urges you to affirm the designation.