



NEWSLETTER

FALL 2013

Welcome to the nineteenth edition of the newsletter of the New York Preservation Archive Project. The mission of the New York Preservation Archive Project is to protect and raise awareness of the narratives of historic preservation in New York. Through public programs, outreach, celebration, and the creation of public access to information, the Archive Project hopes to bring these stories to light.



Join Us for the 10th Annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit

Tickets are now available for the Tenth Annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit on December 10th!

Fifty years ago, in 1963, the demolition of New York City's Pennsylvania Station began. This monumental loss came as a shock to many and is regarded as a major galvanizing influence on preservation advocacy and policy in the United States. To commemorate this anniversary, join the Archive Project in a special benefit celebration of what would have been Albert S. Bard's 147th birthday. Michael Rossi, an independent documentary film and non-fiction television producer, will be the featured speaker. Rossi is currently producing a film about the construction of Pennsylvania Station for the award-winning PBS series *American Experience*. While researching this documentary, Rossi has delved into extensive archives on the doomed terminal, and he will discuss the significance of archives in the process of creating historical documentary films. Introducing Rossi will be Lorraine B. Diehl, author of *The Late, Great Pennsylvania Station*.

Rossi has spent the last 13 years producing, directing, shooting, and editing national programs for public television. In 2012, Rossi received an Emmy Award for his work as coordinating producer of the PBS children's engineering series, *Design Squad Nation*. His production credits for *American Experience* include *Building the Alaska Highway*, *The Gold Rush*, and *We Shall Remain*, a five-part television series and multimedia project on Native American history. Rossi has also contributed to PBS's *Frontline*, including a thirty-minute documentary entitled *The Silence*.

A graduate of the B.A./M.A. program in U.S. history at Boston College, Rossi began his career at PBS in the educational programming department at WGBH Boston. In addition to work in public television, his company, Rossi Films, has completed a variety of production work on documentaries, feature films, television shows, music videos, and commercials. Rossi's documentary on Pennsylvania Station is expected to air on PBS in 2014. ■

Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit 2013

December 10, 2013

8:15 a.m.: Breakfast

8:30-10:00 a.m.: Program

Manhattan Penthouse

80 Fifth Avenue, at 14th Street
New York City

Tickets:

Benefit Committee Tickets: \$250

Benefit Tickets: \$125

Student Tickets: \$65

To purchase tickets, or if you have any questions about the event, please visit our website at www.nypap.org or contact Matthew Coody at the Archive Project office:
mcoody@nypap.org
or 212-988-8379.

Your support of our annual benefit will enable the Archive Project to continue its efforts to record and document the history of the preservation movement in New York City. We are very excited about this upcoming event and sincerely hope you will join us on December 10th!



its supporters and its finances is a real gift to historians. From this simple financial document we learn that as of the date of its preparation, Philip Johnson Associates, Frances H. Jones, and Alfred A. Knopf were AGBANY's largest donors, each at \$100.

And what about preservation ephemera? Who doesn't have preservation memorabilia kicking around the house? How many "Save [fill in the blank] buttons" are in your collection? Do you still have preservation campaign T-shirts, posters, hats, you name it? In some future exhibition, the history of preservation can be brought alive by these items as well as by the brick you salvaged from that landmark we lost, the piece of decorative molding you snatched from that gutted interior, or a salvaged piece of terra cotta you retrieved from the dumpster.

The Archive Project has been working with preservationists to both capture their memories and preserve their papers and preservation ephemera. However, to paraphrase a line from an old R&B song, "So many preservationists, so little time." The only way to truly capture the inspiring and instructive history of preservation efforts in New York is for you to unleash the archivist within. Become your own archivist.

Thanks to the technology that has engulfed our lives, it is easier than ever to become your own archivist. You can begin by capturing some of your choice insider preservation recollections using the voice memo feature on your phone. You can now easily scan your most important preservation papers and give them a new digital life. Preservation organizations, even if all volunteer, can now document their current advocacy efforts with a click of the camera built into their phones. On that iPad, keep notes and observations of the meetings and events you attend.

To capture the history preservationists are making every day, preservationists merely need to be conscious of the fact they are making history. The preservation history you make today can only inspire and instruct new generations of preservationists if it is documented for the future. Here at NYPAP we are doing our best, but to truly capture the old and new chapters in preservation's evolving story, it really is up to you! Activate your inner archivist and go to work! ■



Past LPC Chair Gene Norman speaks at the Albert S. Bard Cultural Medallion Dedication Ceremony; Courtesy of Charles Starks

NYPAP Events

Our Public Programs Continue to Celebrate, Educate & Inspire

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the demolition of New York City's Pennsylvania Station, a loss that became an influential force in the passage of the City's Landmarks Law. In fact, most historians cite this watershed moment as the beginning of the modern preservation movement in the City. But numerous actions to advance some form of landmarks protection predate this famous episode. Last spring the Archive Project and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation co-sponsored a panel entitled **Preservation before the Demolition of Penn Station**. Early efforts to protect buildings and neighborhoods were discussed and analyzed by experts in the field, including Franny Eberhart, trustee of the Historic Districts Council, vice-chair of the Historic House Trust, and president of FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts; Jon Ritter, professor of urbanism and architecture at NYU; and Anthony C. Wood, founder and chair of the Archive Project. The panel focused on how early struggles—including such examples as the unsuccessful battle in 1948 to save Greenwich Village's Genius Row, several row houses on Washington Square South that housed notable writers, artists, and musicians—differed from later initiatives in the post-Pennsylvania Station era. Discussion concluded with a debate on the lessons preservationists have learned from the demolition of the iconic train station, prompting a reflection on how these

lessons can be used to guide contemporary preservation struggles.

On September 23rd the Archive Project teamed up with the Historic Landmarks Preservation Center to host a **dedication ceremony for the Albert S. Bard cultural medallion** at the Broad Exchange Building, a New York City Landmark where Bard maintained an office for over 60 years. The medallion, part of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Center's Cultural Medallion Program, celebrates the work of Bard, whose advocacy of governmental aesthetic regulation was instrumental in preserving our City's history. He is most noted for the passage of the Bard Act, the piece of legislation that enabled the creation of the New York City Landmarks Law in 1965. Speakers at the ceremony included former



Bard Medallion; Courtesy of the Archive Project

Stewardship Society

Our annual series of special events for our Stewardship Society continues! This fall the Society visited the Carnegie Hall Archives. Museum director and archivist Gino Francesconi discussed this fascinating collection of materials that tell the story of the musicians, politicians, and world figures who have appeared at the premiere concert venue since its opening in 1891. The archives consist of thousands of concert programs, posters and fliers, musical manuscripts and autographs, administrative files, and architectural drawings, as well as materials related to the successful effort to save Carnegie Hall from demolition in the early 1960s. After the guided tour, a reception was held where guests mingled over wine and hors d'oeuvres.

The Stewardship Society is the Archive Project's devoted group of benefactors who regularly meet for special tours at institutional archives and private collections throughout New York City. The Stewardship Society is made up of those donors who annually contribute \$500 or more in general support in addition to attending the annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit. Since its launch in 2011, the Society has held private viewings of archival treasures at the Century Association Archives Foundation, the Seventh Regiment Armory Archives Collection, the apartment of Betsy Barlow Rogers, and the Museum of the City of New York. The Archive Project is pleased to offer such inimitable experiences to our most generous supporters! Those joining our Stewardship Society will receive invitations to future events.

We hope that you will consider becoming a Steward of the New York Preservation Archive Project and thus a steward of the history of New York City's preservation movement. To join the Society, please contact Matthew Coody at mcoody@nypap.org or 212-988-8379.

Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairs Beverly Moss Spatt, Gene Norman, Kent Barwick, and Laurie Beckelman, as well as Archive Project founder and chair and Bard historian, Anthony C. Wood. After the medallion unveiling, a reception was held inside the Broad Exchange Building, where attendees were regaled with stories of the civic activist's accomplishments. The Archive Project is proud to be involved in the creation and installation of this plaque for Albert S. Bard, one of the latest cultural medallions to be installed in the City to commemorate individuals or occurrences which have made significant contributions



Billboards at Fifth Avenue, 89th & 90th Streets; from the *Report of the Mayor's Billboard Advertising Commission of the City of New York, 1913*

to New York City's rich cultural heritage. The Archive Project gives special thanks to Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel, creator of the Cultural Medallion Program, board member Daniel J. Allen for spearheading the effort, LCOR, the owner of 25 Broad Street, and Bobby Van's Steak House for catering the lovely reception.

In 1913, the first step was taken in New York City to advance the then radical concept that a city could regulate aesthetics on the grounds of "public beauty." This notion took the form of a constitutional amendment proposed for New York State by the Mayor's Billboard Advertising Commission of the City of New York. This early amendment, attributed to Albert S. Bard, was the first known iteration of what would become in 1956 the legislation that gave cities across New York State the authority to protect individual landmark buildings and historic districts. Despite the potentially broader scope of that authority, New York City still lacks the ability to protect such aesthetic

values as scenic and historic views of the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State Building, or the Statue of Liberty, as well as distinctive neighborhoods unlikely to be protected through landmark designation.

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the *Report of the Mayor's Billboard Advertising Commission of the City of New York*, on November 4th the New York Preservation Archive Project hosted **From Signs to Scenic Vistas: Aesthetic Regulation's Unfinished Agenda**. This panel program examined the origins of aesthetic regulation in New York State, delving into present

day situations where policy has fallen short in protecting historic and scenic views, and exploring potential tools to solve these shortcomings. Before a robust discussion and question-and-answer session with a panel of experts, Anthony C. Wood, author of *Preserving New York: Winning the Right to Protect a City's Landmarks*,

began by explaining the legacy of the 1913 proposed amendment. Panelists included Ronald Lee Fleming, chair of Scenic America, Matthew Goebel, author of *Aesthetics, Community Character, and the Law*, and Carol Clark, adjunct associate professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. The evening was planned with the help of panel moderator Seri Worden, architectural historian and cultural heritage consultant. Many thanks to the event co-sponsors, Scenic America, Historic Districts Council, the Neighborhood Preservation Center, the Historic Landmarks Preservation Center, the NYC Landmarks50 Alliance, and the Historic House Trust of New York City. ■

The Archive Project enjoys sponsoring exciting collaborations that celebrate the history of preservation and record the stories of those involved in the field. If you know of a preservation story that should be captured, please consider contacting us to co-host an event such as those described here that will educate other preservationists and inspire similar projects.

New to Archives

New York City Council Documents, Design Commission Film Reels, & Department of Parks & Recreation Annual Reports!

Researchers of past preservation struggles involving the New York City Council can now consult a major resource of archival information via the Internet. In May, the La Guardia and Wagner Archives of La Guardia Community College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new Legislative Archive, which includes a vast array of City Council documents from 1955 to 2005. The archive contains 2,500 boxes of correspondence, adopted and proposed legislation, transcripts of meetings at which legislation and landmark designations were discussed, and other miscellaneous background materials. These documents provide the context to council decision making on matters affecting landmarks. Nearly one million of these documents have been digitally scanned and may be viewed on the archive's website at www.laguardiawagnerarchive.lagcc.cuny.edu.

An example of the contents within this valuable online archive is an extensive paper trail of notes, correspondence, and draft legislation documenting the proposed amendment to the City's Landmarks Law

in 1973, which would allow the designation of interior and scenic landmarks. These documents reveal the support for this amendment from various quarters around the City and the research and rationale behind their support. A rare dissenting voice was the Real Estate Board of New York, which sent an objection letter. This specific collection also includes marked-up copies of draft legislation, lists of speakers from meetings, and miscellaneous articles related to interior and scenic landmark preservation that had been submitted to the City Council. The amendment was passed and the LPC has since designated over 100 interior and scenic landmarks in all five boroughs.

The New York City Design Commission (formerly the Art Commission) is in the process of placing some of its archival collections online. The first to be made available is a series of films prepared by the sculptor Karl Gruppe, who worked for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation from 1934 to 1937. Gruppe's

films document the poor condition of many monuments located within City parks and plazas, and the repair and restoration activities that took place during the 1930s. Among the monuments carefully documented in the films are the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument at Grand Army Plaza, the Maine Monument at Columbus Circle, and the Carl Schurz Memorial overlooking Morningside Park. The next Design Commission archive to be put online will be the Frank Cousins photography collection. Cousins was hired by the Art Commission in 1913 to document approximately 50 buildings that the commission feared were in danger of demolition. This effort, one of the first examples of official interest in documenting historic architecture, was spurred by the outcry over the loss of St. John's Chapel, demolished when Varick Street was widened.

The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation has created a digital archive of annual reports and meeting minutes that date back to the mid-19th century, all of which is now available on the agency's website. The online collection includes annual reports from 1870 through 1930, reports on Central Park dating back to the time of its construction in the 1850s, minutes of parks commissioners' meetings from 1859 to 1930, and press releases from 1934 to 1970. The annual reports reveal many details of land acquisition, capital investment, park usage, and maintenance activities during these years. Many reports also contain historic photos and historical summaries of individual parks. Department activities outside park boundaries are also documented, such as the planting of street trees. Covering both large parks like Central Park and Prospect Park, and smaller neighborhood parks and playgrounds, the information in this collection is useful to anyone seeking to document the history of parks in the City. To view the collection, visit www.nycgovparks.org/news/reports/archive. ■



Still from a Karl Gruppe film reel documenting the removal of patina from the Washington Irving Memorial in Prospect Park; Courtesy of the New York City Design Commission

Archival Assistance Fund

Grantees Announced in Special Round of Archival Funding

By Elizabeth Rohn Jeffe, Vice-Chair

This past August, the Archive Project announced a set of grants from its Archival Assistance Fund, established to help historic preservation-related not-for-profit organizations identify and maintain their archival resources and organizational documents. This funding program is another example of new outreach initiatives on the part of the Archive Project to provide practical assistance to the preservation community. Last year, the Archive Project launched its Archival Outreach, Education and Technical Assistance Initiative, providing New York City history organizations with workshops offering professional expertise on how to save their collections.

The response to the Archival Assistance Fund project was heartening: a number of well-known organizations with significant preservation-related histories and important collections applied for grants, demonstrating that there is definitely a need for this kind of funding and that the preservation community recognizes that the Archive Project is there to help. After evaluating the various applications carefully, NYPAP provided funding to five institutions for a total disbursement of \$10,000. Three of the recipients are historic house museums—Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum in Washington Heights, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in the Bronx, and Merchant's House Museum in Greenwich Village. The remaining two grantees are neighborhood preservation and education organizations—FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. Each organization cited special needs for archival assistance, ranging from climate control equipment and basic preservation material to digitization projects and the re-housing of collections. (For a list of the specific projects being funded, please see sidebar on facing page.)



Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum;
Courtesy of A. Saavedra

Given the Archive Project's mission to safeguard and share the story of preservation in New York, each organization was required in its application to state how its archival collections are significant to the history of historic preservation. The varied responses reveal that despite their unique missions and the diversity of their archival holdings, every recipient institution boasts a record of activism in preservation and a demonstrated commitment to safeguarding the story of those preservation efforts.

Located in the Washington Heights neighborhood, the **Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum** can point to its efforts to document the history of the Jumel Terrace National Historic District surrounding the mansion, which was built in 1765 and served as George Washington's headquarters during the Revolutionary War's Battle of Harlem Heights in the fall of 1776. The historic district, known for its gracious wood and brick row houses as well as apartment buildings dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, showcases the Queen Anne and Romanesque styles. Appreciating the importance of this residential component of the story of New York, Morris-Jumel archivists created a significant photographic record of Washington Heights and also recorded interviews with longtime residents in order to capture the area's history through first person recollections.

The very existence of **Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum** in the Bronx testifies to the dedication of a New York City preservation group that fought to rescue the c. 1840 Greek Revival Bartow mansion from what would be an eventually fatal state of deterioration. The International Garden Club (IGC), today the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, saved the home, now the only remaining example of many similar estates

that once graced the Pelham Bay area in the 19th century. In 1914, IGC hired the noted architectural firm of Delano & Aldrich to restore the Bartow mansion and create a formal sunken garden, and many years later, in 1993, the original carriage house was also restored. The Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is a National and New York City Landmark, and its archives relating to this major preservation victory constitute an inspiring and instructive chapter in New York preservation history.

The **Merchant's House Museum** on East Fourth Street, just off Washington Square, educates the public about the life of the Tredwells, a prosperous merchant family, and their four Irish servants who lived in the house from 1835-1865. The house is the only family residence in New York to have survived virtually intact from the 19th century, complete with its original furnishings and personal possessions of the Tredwells. Two



Archivist Christine Williams with IGC collection
at Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum;
Courtesy of Margaret Highland



Demolition of Washington Square South between MacDougal Alley and Sullivan Street, 1950; Courtesy of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, New York Bound Collection

Bearing witness to the long-established commitment of Greenwich Village preservation efforts, the **Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation** (GVSHP) has worked since 1980 to safeguard the architectural heritage and cultural history of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo through research, education, and advocacy. GVSHP holds in its archival collection a wide range of materials that reflect the role of the Village as an icon in the local and national preservation movements. GVSHP's image

collection, just one part of its archival holdings, consists of 300 photographs, prints, slides, and negatives, chronicling the preservation struggles of the Village. This visual trove is complemented by GVSHP's oral history series, in which community members document their preservation efforts for the Village, and a collection of preservation-related manuscripts featuring leading researchers in the field. All are of critical importance to the preservation community.

Of course, the five organizations receiving archival assistance funding from the Archive Project house treasures beyond the materials directly associated with preservation. Indeed, reading through the organizations' mission statements and descriptions of their holdings provides a mini-lesson in New York history—the variety, depth, and uniqueness of their collections remind us of the importance of the materials that can be found in discrete New York locations, and how important these collections are as valuable sources of information for scholars and activists alike. In total, the organizations safeguard diverse items covering 350 years of New York history. Holdings range from letters, maps, newspapers, photographs, manuscripts, recordings, ledgers, scrapbooks, invitations, and mementoes, to furniture, paintings, decorative objects, books, textiles, and clothing. All of the Fund recipients have noted that they either wish to increase public access to their archival collections, digitally and/or physically, or intend to make their collections available to researchers in the near future, furthering the Archive Project's

mission to make archival materials available for research and educational purposes.

The Archival Assistance Fund has been most satisfying for the Archive Project as it engenders interaction with organizations seeking to improve the condition and organization of their archival collections. Helping to make this possible, even on a modest scale, makes this effort a “win/win” for all concerned. ■

Grantees

MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION MUSEUM

Project: Purchase of new air conditioners and humidity-monitoring devices for the museum's archival storage areas. The museum's archive comprises over 350 years of New York City and American history, as recorded in letters, maps, newspapers, photographs, manuscripts, audio recordings, and administrative records.

BARTOW-PELL MANSION MUSEUM

Project: Inventory, organize, preserve, and enhance public access to the archives of the International Garden Club. These archives document how a group of early preservationists and horticultural enthusiasts successfully transformed this significant, yet threatened, site into an historic house museum.

MERCHANT'S HOUSE MUSEUM

Project: Re-house the archives of George Chapman and Joseph Roberto, the Museum's first two stewards. The archives offer unique primary resources for preservation history, containing extensive documentation of the transition from family residence to historic house museum and various restoration campaigns. Funding also covers the creation of a finding aid.

FRIENDS

Project: Inventory, create finding aids, and establish policy and procedures for building a digital collection from the archives of Halina Rosenthal and Anne Millard, the organization's first two presidents. The varied collection includes organizational documents, slides, photographs, paraphernalia, flyers, and written correspondence related to the past 30 years of preservation advocacy on the Upper East Side.

GVSHP

Project: Provide online access to the organization's archival image collection, which illustrates some of the many important grassroots preservation struggles of the neighborhood. This grant funds the uploading of photographs and catalogue information into a dedicated software system and integrated website.

individuals who were essential to the creation and restoration of the Museum, founder George Chapman, and architect Joseph Roberto, respectively, left extensive archival materials that tell the story of Chapman's transformation of the house to a museum in the 1930s and Roberto's major restoration in the 1960s and 1970s. Architecturally, these records provide essential information about alterations made to the building over 50 years, thus helping ensure historical accuracy for current and future restoration work. They also provide an unparalleled primary resource on New York City's preservation history and practice, and the development and organization of historic house museums in the early 20th century.

The lifeblood of **FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts** (FRIENDS), founded in 1982, is active participation in public debates that affect the historic and cultural resources of the Upper East Side and the City as a whole. With a mission of acting as vocal advocates for the architectural legacy, livability, and sense of place of the Upper East Side, FRIENDS possesses archival records documenting important chapters in New York City preservation history. Whether testifying at Landmarks Preservation Commission hearings or fighting for the designation of new Upper East Side landmarks, this activist organization has produced a valuable compendium of past and ongoing preservation battles and victories; these records relating to public education and outreach activities are of great interest to researchers, historians, and activists.

NYPAP News

The Archive Project would like to welcome its newest board members, Bradley J. Vogel, Anthony W. Robins, and Kent Diebolt.

Before joining Clifford Chance as associate attorney, Bradley J. Vogel was the Ed Majkrzak Historic Preservation Fellow with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As fellow, he worked with legislative bodies, not-for-profit organizations, and the media to tackle preservation issues in New Orleans as the city recovered from Hurricane Katrina. Vogel's legal expertise and passion for preservation will make him an indispensable addition to the board.

Through his walking tours, lectures, seminars, courses, and award-winning publications, Anthony W. Robins has been working for years to bring New York City's historic architecture to life. After two decades on the staff of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, Robins is currently co-owner and director of historic preservation services at Thompson & Columbus, Inc. Robins brings a love of the City's history and architecture to the board of directors of the Archive Project.

Responding to a need for highly specialized architectural inspections in extreme locations, Kent Diebolt founded Vertical Access in 1992, pioneering the use of industrial rope access in the United States. Vertical Access has since worked on hundreds of structures, historically significant buildings, and landmarks throughout the United States such as Independence Hall in Philadelphia and the Chrysler Building in New York City. Through his work, various lectures, courses, and publications on surveying, documentation, and accessibility, Diebolt brings a unique perspective to the board.

NYC Landmarks50 Alliance

Planning the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Landmarks Law

In the spring 2013 newsletter, the Archive Project reported on the exciting launch of the NYC Landmarks50 Alliance. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Landmarks Law in 2015, over the next two years this group of organizations and institutions will work to broaden appreciation of and commitment to New York City's landmarks through a series of events and projects throughout the five boroughs. The Archive Project is a founding member and financial supporter of the NYC Landmarks50 Alliance. Other members include the Friends of the High Line, the Museum of Modern Art, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, the Park Avenue Armory, Pratt Institute, and many more. To view a full list of members, and to learn more about projects, visit www.nyclandmarks50.org.

Each member of the NYC Landmarks50 Alliance is planning a special project that will commemorate the upcoming anniversary, and many of these plans are already underway. In spring 2015, the New York School of Interior Design (NYSID) will open the first-ever exhibition to focus exclusively on New York City's designated landmark interiors. With guest curator Hugh Hardy, leading American architect, the show will offer an appraisal of the City's progress in preserving its significant interiors since the 1973 amendments to the 1965 Landmarks Law enabling the protection of interiors. In its East 69th Street gallery space, NYSID will focus on a select group of the City's 114 landmark interiors—representing theaters, lobbies, banks, and retail and civic spaces in the five boroughs—to trigger discussion about what and where these often unknown spaces are, how they are preserved and adapted for continued use, and which as-yet-protected interiors should be prioritized

for future designation. The exhibition will represent the first effort to highlight the unique significance of interiors as part of the built environment since 1979, when the American Society of Interior Designers launched a Significant Interiors Survey under the leadership of then-Landmarks Preservation Commissioner R. Michael Brown, FASID.

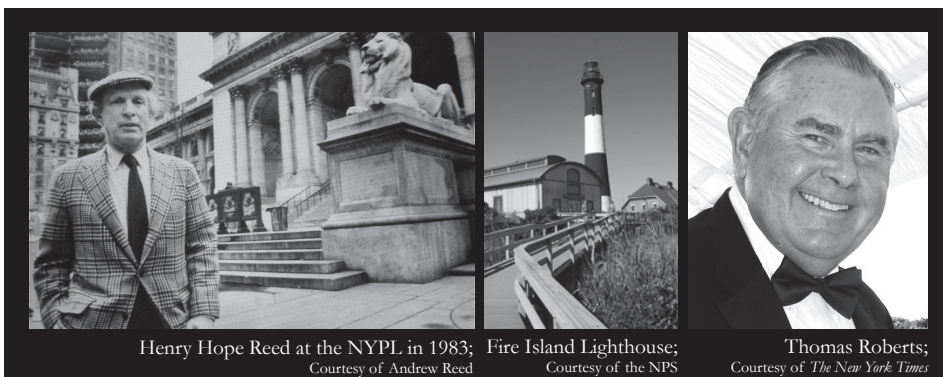
The Asian American Arts Alliance will be among those organizations bringing a slightly different perspective to the

commemorative projects of Landmarks50. As an arts service organization that supports individual artists and small arts groups in all disciplines in the five boroughs, the Alliance plans to highlight the vibrant cultural and architectural contributions that Asian Americans have made—and continue to make—in New York City. To begin, 31 of their members—at least one for every year of the organization's existence—will be featured on the Alliance website in a "Proust Questionnaire," showcasing their work and their perspectives in brief responses to

such questions as, "Who are your heroes in real life?" and "What is your idea of perfect happiness?" A final question will challenge artists to reflect on the City's built environment, and which structures and physical spaces particularly resonate with their experiences as artists and as people of color in New York.

Various projects are currently in planning phases, and the NYC Landmarks50 Alliance welcomes innovative ideas from individuals and organizations throughout the five boroughs. To get involved, share ideas, and volunteer your time, please email landmarks50@nyclandmarks50.org. ■





In Memoriam

The preservation community recently mourned the loss of two longtime members. Please share your memories of these figures online at the Memory Collection Project: www.nypap.org/content/memory-collection-project.

Through more than a half century of writing and activism, **Henry Hope Reed** was dedicated to raising public awareness of the classical tradition embodied in New York City's built heritage and promoting the revival of classical design. Reed was outspoken in the media with his fervent opposition to post-WWII Modernist architecture and helped galvanize the historic preservation movement with a 1955 exhibition on New York City's classical architecture co-sponsored by the Municipal Art Society (MAS). He then developed MAS's well-known program of walking tours to encourage wider public interest in preservation, leading the first such tour himself in April 1956. Reed considered the walking tour to be the key method of introducing historic preservation to the general public, and by the 1960s he had developed tours in historic neighborhoods throughout the City. In 1966, Reed was named the first curator of Central Park by Parks Commissioner Thomas P. F. Hoving. In this role, Reed co-authored a historical guidebook to the park and decried commercial intrusions not in keeping with Central Park's original design. In 1968 Reed helped to found the not-for-profit organization Classical America, the mission of which was to reprint texts on classical art and design, as well as to publish new works on the classical tradition in art and architecture. In 2002, Classical America merged with the Institute of Classical Architecture to form what is now known as the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art. Reed continued to work with the organization and write on architecture and preservation until his death this year at age 97.

Thomas Roberts, a successful New York City banker, maintained a lifelong passion for nautical history inspired by his childhood on the south shore of Long Island. Roberts channeled this enthusiasm into an inspirational movement to restore and maintain the historic Fire Island Lighthouse. Built in 1858 on the western end of the barrier island, the 170-foot-tall black-and-white-striped lighthouse was in service until 1974. An important landmark for transatlantic ships coming into New York Harbor, the Fire Island Light, as it is called, was many immigrants' first glimpse of America. To prevent demolition of the decommissioned structure, Roberts founded the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society in 1982. In its first four years, the society raised \$1.2 million through broad community support, helping to fund repairs to the lighthouse, the conversion of the lighthouse-keeper's cottage into a visitors' center, and the relighting of the historic beacon. In 1986, Roberts himself triumphantly pulled the switch that relit the lighthouse in a ceremony witnessed by thousands, including hundreds of spectators watching from boats. With Roberts' continuing leadership, an agreement was reached with the National Park Service in 1996 that allowed the society to take over operations of the lighthouse as a maritime museum. This agreement became the model for provisions in the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 and inspired many lighthouse preservation campaigns across the country. The Fire Island Lighthouse remains open to the public, and draws 200,000 visitors a year. Roberts passed away at the age of 75 on June 17, 2013.

ABOUT NYPAP

The New York Preservation Archive Project (NYPAP) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to documenting, preserving, and celebrating the history of historic preservation in New York City. Recognizing the instructive and inspirational importance of this history to the continued health, success, and growth of preservation in our city, NYPAP hopes to bring these stories to light through public programs, oral histories, and the creation of public access to information. NYPAP is devoted to celebrating neglected narratives of New York historic preservation, as well as the canon, using the archives that hold these stories.

NYPAP would like to thank the New York Community Trust's Windie Knowe Fund, the Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation, the Winston Foundation, and the J. M. Kaplan Fund for their generous grants. The work at NYPAP could not be accomplished without their—and your—financial support.

NYPAP depends on contributions to continue our work. We hope you will consider making a donation to support the documentation and celebration of the history of preservation in New York City. Donations can be made in the form of checks mailed to our office (174 East 80th Street, New York, NY 10075), securely online via PayPal on our website (www.nypap.org), or by credit card over the phone at 212-988-8379.

As always, NYPAP welcomes any thoughts, comments, and suggestions from our supporters. Please feel free to contact Matthew Coody at mcoody@nypap.org or 212-988-8379.

The Archive Project thanks the following supporters for their generous contributions in 2012:

Stewardship Society

Lisa Ackerman
Daniel J. Allen
Anthony Badalamenti
Helen Chin
Joan K. Davidson
Susan De Vries
Stephen Facey
Andrea H. Fahnestock & George A. Hambrecht
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Shirley Ferguson Jenks
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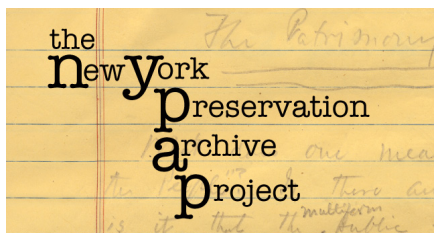
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YOUR FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER HAS ARRIVED!

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