

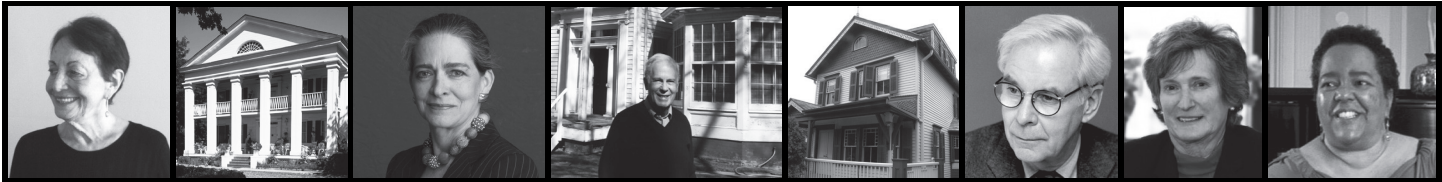
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new york
preservation
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project

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NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012

Welcome to the sixteenth 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.



New Oral History Projects Launched!

The Archive Project Embarks Upon Ambitious Array of Interviews with Preservation Leaders

The New York Preservation Archive Project is thrilled to announce the launch of our newest oral history initiative, *Leading the Movement: Interviews with Preservationist Leaders in New York's Civic Sector*. The goal of this project is to record oral histories with 15 key leaders in the preservation civic sector, capturing their unique experiences and perspectives on how preservation in New York City has evolved over the course of their careers. Participants include architects, professors, authors, lawyers, community activists, preservation professionals and funders, and other civic figures from every borough. Paired with our ongoing oral history project with the former chairs of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, these new oral histories will capture information and attitudes from within the preservation "infrastructure" and from outside influences, crafting a nuanced portrait of the field and a comprehensive account of the first 47 years of the city's Landmarks Law. The Archive Project's hope is that future historians, preservationists, urbanists, and others interested in the history of New York City will avail themselves of the personal accounts of these remarkable preservation leaders. *Leading the Movement: Interviews with Preservationist Leaders in New York's Civic Sector* is made possible through funding

from the Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation.

For the first time in our organization's history, the Archive Project is teaming up with New York University's Museum Studies Program to produce a series of oral histories focused on the preservation narratives of selected house museums managed by the Historic House Trust (HHT). Students enrolled in the NYU course "Historic Spaces, Cultural Landscapes, and the Politics of Preservation" will collaborate with HHT and the Archive Project to conduct oral histories with a variety of figures who have been involved with the preservation of five properties throughout New York City. These properties include the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum in Brooklyn, the Lewis H. Latimer House in Queens, Staten Island's Seguire Mansion, the Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum in Upper Manhattan, and the Bronx's Van Cortlandt House Museum. Located across the five boroughs, these sites collectively tell the story of New York City's evolution. From a humble Dutch colonial farmhouse to a pre-Revolutionary War country retreat, and a grand Staten Island estate to the modest home of an African-American inventor, these houses chronicle a wide

range of cultural, historical, and architectural aspects of the city. Each individual house has a distinctive preservation history and a unique set of people who ensured its survival, whether they were concerned citizens, directors of civic organizations, or descendants of the houses' original inhabitants. Through this new oral history project, many of these figures will now be able to share their stories for the first time.

Continuing for the fourth year is the Archive Project's successful collaboration with Pratt Institute's Historic Preservation program. As in previous years, the Archive Project develops a theme for a group of interviews and each student enrolled in the program's "Public History" course is assigned a preservation figure who fits within that theme. This year we have set our sights on preservation advocacy on the Upper East Side and East Harlem. With the recent anniversaries of neighborhood groups such as CIVITAS and Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, it seems a fitting time to look back at the undocumented stories of individuals associated with preserving this architecturally rich corner of the city. The Archive Project is eager to capture these stories, and expose a new group of students to the power of oral histories. ■



Mayor Wagner signs the New York City Landmarks Law. Courtesy of Margot Gayle Photo Archive

Chairman's Column:

Believe It or Not, It's Time to Start Planning for the 50th!

By *Anthony C. Wood, Founder & Chair*

It seems like it was only yesterday that we were celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the passage of New York City's Landmarks Law. With the law's Golden Anniversary not occurring until 2015, you might think that there was time for a break before beginning to plan for this truly special opportunity to focus New York's attention on its beloved—yet at times, taken for granted—Landmarks Law. You would, however, be wrong.

The types of activities and projects needed to meaningfully commemorate the law's Golden Anniversary require planning, organization, funding, and time. Now is the time for preservationists and preservation organizations to decide how they will commemorate this landmark event. The good news is you still have time—just not as much as you thought you had!

Why is this anniversary so important? Preservation is such an established part of life in New York City that the general public largely assumes that any site of historical, cultural, or architectural importance will be, or already has been, protected. However, as preservationists are too frequently reminded, preservation requires constant vigilance and an engaged public. There is no graver threat to preservation than the apathy of New Yorkers.

If New Yorkers continue to take preservation for granted, the anti-preservation forces will gain traction in their ongoing efforts to undermine New York City's ability to manage change through our Landmarks Law. Make no mistake, there are still powerful forces who would welcome the demise of preservation. Last year alone witnessed at least one prominent book, Edward Glaeser's *Triumph of the City*, and one attention-getting exhibit, "Cronocaos" by Rem Koolhaas, that unapologetically attacked

preservation. Both received extensive media attention.

The 50th Anniversary of the Landmarks Law creates an opportunity to reach out to all New York and remind them why the citizens of this city began the fight for the passage of the law over 50 years ago, and why dozens of neighborhoods are still clamoring to be added to the city's roster of historic districts. The anniversary provides a chance to educate New Yorkers on preservation's role as a tool to advance the livability of our city, by furthering its economic health, promoting its environmental sustainability, and securing its sense of place. The Golden Anniversary gives us a chance to broaden the ranks of preservation while also reinvigorating a now very "middle-aged" preservation movement.

Celebrating preservation's inspiring and instructive history is one way to engage a new generation of New Yorkers in preservation. New Yorkers need to understand what has been accomplished over the last 50 years and what it will take to sustain and advance that success. Preservation's place in New York needs to be made manifest. Every landmark in New York City should be made obvious to passersby. Is it time to bring back banners and identify every individually designated landmark in our city? Do we need Christo to wrap them? How can today's exciting new assortment of technologies be used to help New Yorkers see and appreciate the history and architecture they experience, and often take for granted, in their daily lives?

Historic districts are increasingly coming under attack by free-market ideologues and the real estate lobby. Isn't the 50th anniversary of the law the ideal time to showcase the city's 105-plus historic districts and 16 district extensions?

Each one represents a vibrant neighborhood full of citizens who (despite their occasional frustrations with the Landmarks Preservation Commission) are fervent supporters of historic districts. What would your neighborhood be like without its landmark designation? At least one opponent of historic districts has called for the de-designation of some existing districts. What about organizing and promoting special walking tours in every district during the 50th year celebration? How about 105-plus "historic district" block-parties to celebrate New York's most distinctive neighborhoods? Should every building in every district get a landmark decal for its front door window?

Why doesn't every neighborhood seeking historic district status somehow visually mark itself? In a 1980 public art piece "Nieuw Amsterdam Shoreline," the artist Eric Arctander painted a simple blue line down the middle of the streets of lower Manhattan demarking the original shoreline of Manhattan. What 2015 art project can dramatically highlight New York City's unprotected historic neighborhoods? And/or our existing districts?

Cultural institutions can do their part as well. What better focal point for the Golden Anniversary than an exhibition exploring the first 50 years of the Landmarks Law and its role in shaping the future of New York over the next half century? Exciting news on this front comes from the Museum of the City of New York, which is planning such an exhibition. This can be the centerpiece of a multitude of special programs and activities hosted by organizations all across the city, educating New Yorkers about the importance of preservation in their lives.

The 50th Anniversary is also the perfect time to publish biographies and monographs on

some of New York's great preservationists. On a recent trip to Charleston, South Carolina, I learned of the book *Preserving Charleston's Past, Shaping Its Future: The Life and Times of Susan Pringle Frost*, the figure who spearheaded the historic preservation movement in that city. Hot off the presses is *Remaking American Places: The Vision of Carl Feiss, Architect, Planner, Preservationist*, a book on another great preservation figure. Where are the books on New York City's great preservation figures? Why no book on Margot Gayle or Halina Rosenthal or Ruth Wittenberg? There is still enough time between now and 2015 for such works to be researched, written, and published.

And what of the history of preservation organizations? The Historic Districts Council just turned 40, Preservation Alumni turned 30, and Landmark West! just celebrated its 25th. Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts turns 30 this year. The passage of time only makes it harder to write organizational histories, so what better excuse to devote the time and energy to capturing the history of your preservation organization than the law's Golden Anniversary? Without the law would your organization even exist?

Isn't it time that great preservation battles of the last 50 years be written up as case histories? Most of these David vs. Goliath efforts remain undocumented. One exception is the battle for the City and Suburban Homes York Avenue Estate. That battle is captured in the model publication: *The Fight for City and Suburban Homes: A Model for Successful Community Action*. Other preservation efforts, both successful and unsuccessful, should be documented to educate and inspire new generations of preservation activists. Use this anniversary to document your preservation battles!

The 50th Anniversary of the Landmarks Law challenges and invites all of us to preserve, document, and celebrate the history of preservation in New York City. In its modest way, the New York Preservation Archive Project seeks to do that every day. However, only if all of us embrace this effort will our city's preservation Golden Anniversary become a transformative springboard for the movement's future. You have just enough time to dream up your anniversary project, design it, incorporate it in your work plans, fundraise, and utilize it to advance your work and the cause of preservation in New York City.

As of this April 19th, 2012 (the 47th anniversary of the law) there were only 1,095 days until the Landmarks Law's 50th Anniversary—but who's counting? ■

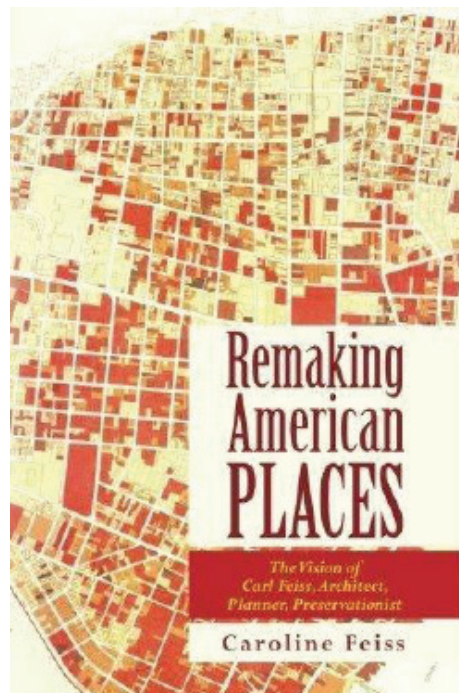
Saluting Feiss & Clark

Two New Additions to the Literature of Preservation History

One of the goals of the Archive Project has been to assist others as they seek to tell preservation's story. That was the motivation behind the creation of the Archive Project's website and its online database and the driving force behind its efforts to make it easier for researchers to find and access preservation papers. Two wonderful additions to the literature of preservation's history show that indeed the Archive Project is playing its intended role!

Congratulations are due to Caroline Feiss for her recently published book, *Remaking American Places: The Vision of Carl Feiss, Architect, Planner, Preservationist*, and to Carol Clark for her upcoming article on Albert Bard and the origins of historic preservation in New York State in the *Widener Law Review*. Both authors utilized the resources of the Archive Project to assist them in their work.

Carl Feiss, Caroline Feiss' father, was a legendary urban planner who was a national and international leader in housing, planning, and historic preservation, with a career that spanned six decades. In the early 1940s, years before Feiss drafted and helped persuade Congress to pass the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, he was involved with the Municipal Art Society in a nascent effort to prepare a list of New York City's historic and architecturally important



Cover of *Remaking American Places*, Courtesy of Caroline Feiss and CreateSpace



Carol Clark; Courtesy of Columbia University

buildings. In the battle with Robert Moses over the fate of Castle Clinton, Feiss advanced the idea of adaptively reusing Castle Clinton as a museum for "marine commerce and harbor relics." Using extensive correspondence and oral histories, Caroline Feiss, herself a land use planner, has written an engaging biography of this important preservationist and planner.

Carol Clark, in her article, helps further our understanding of the critical role Albert Bard played in advancing legal thinking on historic preservation and aesthetic regulation. Bard, the long-time New York City civic activist whose decades of advocacy and inquiry led him to draft and secure the passage in 1956 of the Bard Act in Albany (the legal foundation of New York City's Landmarks Law) was a nationally recognized expert on aesthetic regulation and historic preservation. Clark's article, based extensively on material in Bard's papers, demonstrates the importance of preserving such collections and making them more easily accessible to scholars.

Preservation needs more scholarly efforts like these by Feiss and Clark. The field is indebted to them both for their work. The Archive Project continues to build its resources with the hope of being able to assist and encourage other authors to explore, research, and share further chapters in preservation's rich and continually unfolding story. ■

If you are interested in publications such as these, please visit the "Library" page on our website (www.nypap.org). There you can find selected research papers, monographs, and theses on a variety of topics relating to preservation history.

When Salvage Tells a Story

Friends of Terra Cotta Follows Archival Trail to Locate Missing Pieces of Demolished Church

By Elizabeth Rohn Jeffe, Vice-Chair

Proof positive that salvage can reveal the story of what was lost and what was saved after the destruction of an important edifice lies in the detective work of Susan Tunick, president of Friends of Terra Cotta, who created an archival trail to trace the fate of the vestiges of Madison Square Presbyterian Church (MSPC). Designed by Stanford White to replace an earlier Gothic church on 24th Street at the corner of Madison Avenue, the lovely house of worship was dedicated in 1906. Just 13 years later, however, MSPC

was demolished, its lot destined for an annex to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Tower, a neighbor on Madison Avenue. But all was not lost. Although a brief preservation battle supported by the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, founded by early preservationist Andrew Haswell Green, failed to save the church, various interested parties did recover a wide variety of salvage items.

MSPC, a strikingly beautiful Palladian

structure, was especially significant in its era for its extensive use of colored, glazed terra cotta on its façade. Few buildings were using this decorative element on their exteriors, and MSPC was the most imposing edifice to do so. Given these facts, terra cotta scholar Tunick wanted to locate actual examples of the terra cotta units so that their appearance could be accurately assessed. As Tunick observed in a recent interview, “It’s one thing to read a description of glaze color, and another to view it. Period publications considered the colors to be discreet, not garish. But we wanted to see for ourselves what that actually meant.”

Knowing that some elements from the Madison Square Presbyterian Church had been salvaged at the time of demolition, Tunick made it her business for 30 years to track down their whereabouts. She was aided in the past decade by two colleagues: art historian Nina Gray, and journalist and Friends of Terra Cotta member Eve M. Kahn. (The latter wrote an article on the subject in the December 2, 2011 *New York Times* entitled, “Madison Square Church Survives in Fragments.”) Tunick’s assiduous research encompassed a variety of archival sources ranging from the *25th Annual Report of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society* (1920) and various period *New York Times* articles, to the March 1921 *Ohio State Engineer* and a letter in the archives of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

As a result of her long quest, Tunick was able to discover various salvage elements of the lost church in far-flung and at times quite surprising locations. Six granite column shafts were saved by architect Donn Barber who incorporated them, along with other salvage materials including terra cotta from the upper and lower cornices, into his Hartford Times building in Hartford, Connecticut. This structure is still standing, providing a view of the church’s terra cotta elements. Another architect, “Dutch” Gugler, saved a Corinthian capital that



Madison Square Presbyterian Church; Courtesy of the *Cyclopedia of Architecture, Carpentry, and Building*, Vol. 5



The Hartford Times Building;
Courtesy of Kwaree Blog

eventually found a home outside Brown Hall of the School of Architecture at Ohio State University. The stained glass windows from the church, designed by MSPC congregant Louis Comfort Tiffany, now adorn the Saint Francis of Assisi Chapel at the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa in Riverside, California.

Still other salvage pieces have been found closer to home. The Brooklyn Museum of Art owns the main entryway of the church that was once installed in the museum and later dismantled. Its whereabouts were then unknown until the museum reorganized its storage; now the museum is considering exhibiting the entryway again at a future date. According to Eve M. Kahn, in the *New York Times* article cited above, a hearth at Box Hill, Stanford White's St. James, Long Island, home, contains some pieces of the church's decorative elements. This information surfaced through an email from architect Samuel White, a grandson of Stanford White. Last, but not least, numerous salvage items found homes in the First Presbyterian Church on West 12th Street following the merger of the two congregations when MSPC was demolished.



Column capital at Ohio State University;
Courtesy of Lorrie McAllister

These articles include a large exterior cross, a lectern, a hammered iron lighting fixture, a communion table, two wooden pews, and a Tiffany wall clock.

Unfortunately, not all of the salvage story relating to MSPC has a happy ending. The Metropolitan Museum of Art had at one time installed the 44-foot long pediment of the church, adorned with polychrome terra cotta, and two terra cotta medallions on the back wall of the museum's library. When it was torn down during renovations in the 1960s and replaced with a new and larger library, the pediment and medallions were destroyed. Also, fragments of cornices



Entryway as it was installed in the Brooklyn Museum of Art; Courtesy of the Brooklyn Museum of Art

and other elements that were donated to Columbia University's School of Architecture are now missing.

In addition to providing important information to many audiences—art and architectural historians and preservationists among them—Tunick and her research team have also bolstered the mission of the Archive Project by demonstrating how important archival trails are to the telling of the preservation story. In this instance, critical information about still extant elements from Madison Square Presbyterian Church has been unearthed, making it possible for anyone interested in visiting the various sites to experience what

remains of the church's beauty firsthand. Susan Tunick and the Friends of Terra Cotta serve as role models by demonstrating how to track the resting places of the parts of a once magnificent building, and saving for posterity one chapter in the ongoing New York City preservation saga. ■

Much of the material in this article is taken from the Friends of Terra Cotta newsletter of December, 2011. Additional background comes from an interview with Susan Tunick, supplementary research, and the New York Times article cited. For Friends of Terra Cotta publication and membership information, please visit www.preserve.org/fotc.



Charles Henry Parkhurst, 1892;
Photograph by Napoleon Sarony

"The Parkhurst Church"

Sometimes referred to as "the Parkhurst Church," Madison Square Presbyterian Church was famous not only for its beauty but for its well-known and often controversial pastor. The Reverend Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst graces the pages of both newspapers and history books as a famous "Social Gospel" crusader and dedicated foe of Tammany Hall. At one time the president of the Society to Prevent Crime, Parkhurst used his pulpit to speak out against corrupt officials. Parkhurst served the MSPC congregation as its pastor from 1881, preaching in both the first and second churches on the site.

NYPAP Events

Our Public Programs Continue to Celebrate, Educate & Inspire

Over 100 supporters of the Archive Project filled the Manhattan Penthouse on December 14th for the annual **Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit**, marking what would have been preservationist Albert Bard's 145th birthday. As the audience enjoyed their breakfast high above New York City, Ward Miller, executive director of the Richard Nickel Committee & Archive, transported attendees to the Chicago of architectural genius Louis Sullivan and preservation martyr Richard Nickel. Miller discussed the oeuvre of Nickel, a photographer and preservationist who lost his life in his quest to document and protect Sullivan's Chicago buildings as they were quickly disappearing in the wake of mid-twentieth-century



Guests at the 2012 Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit; Courtesy of Tatum Taylor

urban renewal. When a stairwell collapsed on Nickel in the Chicago Stock Exchange building, killing him at the age of 43, he had yet to complete his monumental catalogue documenting the entirety of Sullivan's work. Fortunately, Ward Miller and the Richard Nickel Committee & Archive took on the unfinished project, and Miller described with great enthusiasm the series of challenges and joys which culminated in the highly-anticipated publication of *The Complete Architecture of Adler & Sullivan* in 2010. The fascinating story of Richard Nickel and the completion, after almost 60 years, of his unfinished tome inspired appreciation for the dedication of these figures and for the value of archives in reconstructing the lives and work of both Nickel and Sullivan. The Archive Project thanks everyone who helped to make this year's Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit a success. Proceeds from this event help to fund the Archive Project's operations.

Last year marked the **fiftieth anniversary of Jane Jacobs' first book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities***. The New York Preservation Archive Project joined the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation to co-sponsor an event celebrating Jacobs' groundbreaking publication. On October 4 at Hudson Park Branch Library, Anthony C. Wood, founder and chair of the Archive Project, led a conversation with Jason Epstein, the book's original editor. Mr. Epstein shared his personal experiences in working with Jane Jacobs and his reflections on the book, still considered an essential urbanist reference after half a century. Epstein's fascinating reminiscences of Jacobs, whom he called a "kindred spirit," shed light on why there continues to be sustained interest in her work. Epstein suggested that Jacobs' inquisitiveness, independence, and exuberance enlivened her writings on the dynamics of civilization and remarked that it is both noteworthy and inevitable that her masterpiece has survived for fifty years. In a superb recollection, Epstein chronicles in the introduction to the 50th Anniversary edition of *Death and Life* the reaction to the book's publication by the figure who would eventually become Jacobs' ideological enemy:

"When Robert Moses received a copy of *Death and Life* from Bennett Cerf, the publisher of Random House, he replied, 'Dear Bennett: I am returning the book that you sent me. Aside from the fact that it is intemperate it is also libelous... Sell this junk to someone else. Cordially, Robert Moses.'"



Anthony M. Tung will not be reappointed to the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Landmarks Commission Member Losing Post

By DAVID W. NYER

Anthony M. Tung, an outspoken member of New York City's Landmarks Preservation Commission for more than seven years, will not be reappointed because he submitted an objection to *The New York Times*, the panel's chairman said yesterday.

The chairman, Gwé A. Norman, said he "very reluctantly" decided not to recommend the reappointment — which he had endorsed less than a month ago — because he said that Commission member Tung could cause confusion as to who the official spokesperson was by that action.

Mayor Koch said he would not reappoint Mr. Tung. Mr. Tung submitted an article, which also named the philosophical reasons for opposing development plans at Bryant Park, on the evening of Jan. 8. The next day, believing that his action had been "ill-considered," Mr. Tung asked The Times to withdraw the piece, before it could be considered by the editors of the *Op-Ed* page. Before he withdrew the piece, Mr. Tung told Mr. Norman he had submitted it.

In a public hearing earlier that week, Mr. Tung had composed a motion — adopted unanimously by the commission — saying that the panel would consider "whenever possible" use new structures on the upper

On March 8th, the Archive Project joined forces with the Historic Districts Council (HDC) and the Neighborhood Preservation Center (NPC) to host a discussion with former Landmarks Preservation Commissioner Anthony Tung on the 25th Anniversary of the divisive **Battle for Bryant Park**. Jeffrey Kroessler—author, professor, and HDC board member—gave a brief introduction, explaining how a January 8, 1987 *New York Times* article launched the controversy. The article reported that "a four-year-old plan to build a restaurant behind the New York Public Library has been dealt a surprising setback, with the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission [LPC] warning that it would consider 'absolutely untenable' any structure that would make it difficult to view the library's west facade." The author of this warning by the LPC was Commissioner Anthony Tung. Five days later, on a Sunday, a *New York Times* editorial called for the replacement of every member of the commission. By Monday, Anthony Tung had been fired, but it took eighteen turbulent months for Mayor Koch to finally unseat him, every step of the process documented by the press. Twenty-five years later, Anthony Tung joined Kroessler and Anthony C. Wood to re-examine the battle that sent energizing currents through the entire preservation community. The animated discussion examined—through press coverage, personal reminiscences, and a question-and-answer session—how this episode reflected the inner workings of the LPC and its relations with the city as a whole. It was an evocative look at a key moment in preservation history that has significant implications for the field today. Video highlights from the evening are available on our website and a full-length video can be obtained by contacting our office. ■

terrace of Bryant Park that would obscure views of the New York Public Library. A plan to build a restaurant at that location has been advanced by the Koch administration, and the panel's vote, although only advisory in effect, was greeted by a storm of protest inside and outside City Hall.

Of Mr. Tung's subsequent article on the subject, Mr. Norman said he had not read it but that its contents were not at issue. "It is a case of nothing over that when the commission does issue a statement," he said, "that it comes from an official spokesman only."

Other members said an article by one of the non-voting commission members might lead a reader to think, "This is the way the chairman has chosen to get his point across." He said Mr. Tung's public pronouncements had been an issue in the past, causing confusion about the commission's positions.

Mr. Tung acknowledged that he spoke out frankly and frequently against major development projects that would alter or destroy landmarks, even when the projects would contribute to the city's economic well-being.

"Commissioner," Mr. Tung said, "when you go to something, you're sitting in a group of people who have continued to serve of the Board of Estimate. There is precedent. Nobody talks about it and it is done through the absence of discussion that the power exists."

Mr. Tung also said the binding of reappointment — something he received from the commission — was prompted by more than the newspaper article. "I suggested to the chairman," he said, "that I didn't find it credible that in balancing eight years of public service, he would suddenly lose a month and have to be reappointed in an action that I didn't take — because I retracted the piece."

Mr. Tung, who is 86 years old, lives in St. George on Staten Island. He was involved in architecture at Cooper Union and as a design and management consultant.

He was appointed to the commission in 1979 to fill a vacancy and reappointed in 1983. In 1985, he was reappointed to a three-year term in the reorganized Landmarks Commission traditionally continue to serve after their terms expire until reappointed or replaced. Except for the chairman, the landmarks commissioners are unpaid.

New to the Archive

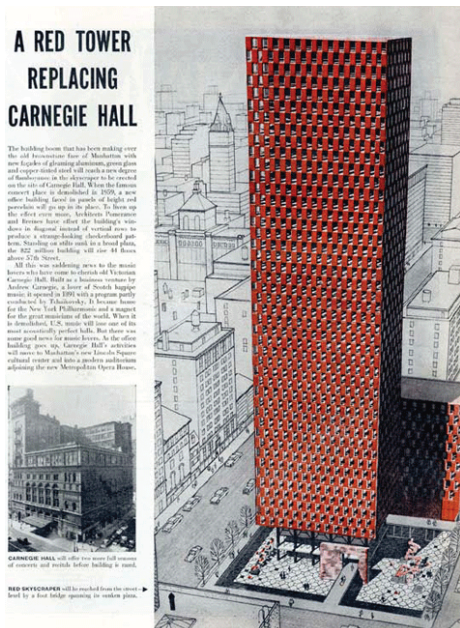
Isaac Stern Tapes and Edgar Tafel Collection Archived and Available to Public

In 1943, violinist Isaac Stern (1920-2001) made his Carnegie Hall debut. The great acoustics of the 1891 space did justice to the magnificent talent that would soon make Stern internationally celebrated. Yet just sixteen years later, Stern feared he would never perform at Carnegie Hall again; despite the building's history and reputation, it faced near-certain demolition. Mayor Robert Wagner and master builder Robert Moses planned to develop a new arts complex at Lincoln Center that they felt would render Carnegie Hall unnecessary. Developers even planned at one point to replace the famed hall with a bright red office tower (shown below).

Isaac Stern, inspired by his series of Carnegie Hall performances in December 1959, made



Violinist Isaac Stern and pianist Eugene Istomin, Carnegie Hall, 1976; Courtesy of Yale Joel Estate



Page from the September 9, 1957 *Life Magazine*, with a rendering of the 44-story red porcelain panellled tower that might have replaced Carnegie Hall; Courtesy of Life Magazine

it a personal mission to save the building. He convinced philanthropist Jacob Kaplan to fund the preservation effort, and Kaplan eventually pledged \$100,000 to the cause. Kaplan's only stipulation was that Stern himself lead the campaign to convince the City of New York to purchase Carnegie Hall. Indeed, Stern vigorously rallied support among musicians, philanthropists, civic leaders, and the public, gathering thousands of signatures on a petition in support of preserving the hall. Through the Citizens' Committee to Save Carnegie Hall, Stern ultimately convinced Mayor Wagner that Carnegie Hall could serve as a national center for educating young artists. The New York City Board of Estimate approved the purchase of the building for \$5 million in June 1960. Stern was elected the first president of the Carnegie Hall Corporation—a position which he held until his death in 2001—and played a central role in the building's 1986 restoration and the celebration of its centennial in 1991. The main concert hall was named the Isaac Stern Auditorium in 1997, honoring Stern for what the *New York Times* called "his long love affair with that hall."

Thanks to The J. M. Kaplan Fund, the audio recording of a 1986 interview between Roberta Brandes Gratz and Isaac Stern about the Carnegie Hall preservation campaign is now available upon request to the public for personal, research, or educational purposes. Among other interesting insights, Stern recalls in this interview the first meeting of the Committee, discusses tensions with Lincoln Center developers, and expresses his view of the significance of Carnegie Hall. Contact the Archive Project at 212-988-8379 for access to this recording.

Soon, students and researchers will have access to the extensive archive of a local architect with significant historical connections and quite a history of his own. Edgar Tafel (1912-2011) served a nine-year apprenticeship with Frank Lloyd Wright and was the last surviving member of the original Taliesin Fellowship. Working with Wright in his studio, Tafel assisted with such iconic projects as Fallingwater and the Johnson Wax Building. Later, despite a sometimes-tense relationship with his mentor, Tafel became a historian of Wright's work, publishing two books on the

architect, assisting with restoration projects on Wright buildings, and helping salvage two Wright interiors from the Francis W. Little House before its demolition in 1971. Tafel also led a successful architectural firm in New York, designing 80 houses, 35 religious buildings, and three college campuses over the course of his career, and helped shape Greenwich Village, where he lived and worked for over 40 years. In the Village, he is perhaps best known for his visionary design for the First Presbyterian Church's Mellin Macnab Building on West 12th Street and Fifth Avenue. He was also a member of the committee to redesign Washington Square Park in 1970, the result of which was much loved by neighborhood residents (the park was recently redesigned and many features of



Tafel, standing middle, with Wright, seated, at Taliesin, 1938; Courtesy of Associated Press

the 1970 plan were changed). Edgar Tafel died in his East 11th Street home at the age of 98.

In January 2012, a year to the day after Tafel's death, The Edgar A. Tafel Living Trust announced that it would donate his archives and research files—as well as \$100,000 to help fund their processing, preservation, and presentation—to the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University. Collected from his home and architectural office, the archive includes information on Frank Lloyd Wright, Tafel's personal drawings, manuscripts, and correspondence, as well as photographs of his designs. After a year of processing, the materials will be available for faculty and student use in 2013. The *Columbia Daily Spectator* quoted Avery's Director Carole Ann Fabian as saying, "Tafel had a desire that his assets be given to support architectural education and scholarship." Thanks to the power of archives, the architect's desire will be fulfilled. ■

Celebrating Our Stewardship Society

Members of the Archive Project's Major Donor Society Honored with a Series of Exclusive Tours



Century Association, Vernon Howe Bailey, 1934;
Courtesy of The Century Association
Archives Foundation

The Archive Project is delighted to continue its series of special events honoring the Stewardship Society, which consists of our most devoted benefactors who annually contribute \$500 or more in general support to our organization.

Last October, members of the Stewardship Society visited the **Century Association Archives Foundation**, located atop the landmark-designated McKim, Mead & White clubhouse of the Century Association. The Foundation was established in 1997 to preserve, organize, and administer the historical records of this important New York arts and letters club, founded in 1847. Many Century members have played prominent roles in preservation and architecture in the City. Archivist Russell Flinchum, Ph.D., gave an introduction to the collection, followed by an intimate viewing of a selection of the Foundation's treasures from the history of preservation and architecture. One such treasure (shown above) is an original pen-and-ink drawing of the Century Association clubhouse executed by Vernon Howe Bailey in 1934. Bailey was an American artist renowned for his streetscapes of early-twentieth-century New York City. Dr. Flinchum then invited the Stewards to visit the archives office, where rows of compact shelving hold irreplaceable

documents and artifacts from the club's rich past. A lively reception followed in the Platt Library, where Stewards enjoyed cocktails amid walls lined with rare books devoted to the history of architecture and design, formerly in the collection of renowned architect and landscape designer Charles A. Platt, author of the influential *Italian Gardens* (1894).

Just this spring the Stewardship Society took a private tour of the **Seventh Regiment Army Archives Collection** led by Kirsten Reoch, Senior Project Director and Historian at the Park Avenue Armory. The Seventh Regiment Armory Archives Collection, not usually open to the public, represents the bulk of the extant records of the Seventh Regiment, a New York Militia unit formed in 1806. These institutional records were found scattered throughout the Armory when the not-for-profit organization Park Avenue Armory took over the building's management from the State of New York in 2006. Much of the material was found heaped in boxes or stacked in loose piles on shelves, tables, or the floor. Often it was heavily soiled, mixed with debris, and exhibited evidence of mold and infestation. The collection was gathered from various rooms throughout the building and is now consolidated in a temporary archives room established for the purpose of safeguarding



Kirsten Reoch guides members of the Stewardship Society through the Seventh Regiment Army Archives Collection; Courtesy of Tatum Taylor

the materials during the Armory's capital renovation. Now, the collection has undergone basic archival protection and the records have been preliminarily sorted. The collection consists of 336 linear feet of organizational records, personal papers, photographs, scrapbooks, and visual and printed materials. These items chronicle the unit's administration, military engagements, and social activities and reveal the place of the regiment within the civic and cultural life of New York City. The tour focused on how archival documents and historic photos helped to develop the Armory's exceptional preservation philosophy and guide the building's interior restoration. Before viewing the archives room, the tour wound through the landmark-designated Armory interiors to view both ongoing preservation projects and those projects that have been recently completed. The tour adjourned with a lovely reception in the restored Company D Room, the elaborate woodwork of which is complimented by a new bronze chandelier designed by Herzog & De Meuron.

Our next Stewardship Society event will be held on the evening of Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at the Central Park West **apartment of Betsy Barlow Rogers**. Ms. Rogers will host an informal cocktail party and private viewing of her personal collection of books, prints and other materials related to the history and preservation of landscape design. It is sure to be an evening to remember! ■

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



The Seventh Regiment Armory, 1877;
Courtesy of Park Avenue Armory

Collecting Institutions

A Guide to NYC Institutions that Collect Preservation Materials

The New York Preservation Archive Project is not itself an archive, although it has intervened to find safe repositories when papers are in urgent need of rescue. We see ourselves not as a collecting institution but more as an adoption agency of sorts: our goal is to help people find homes for their papers. We partner with collecting institutions to help secure a future for records of New York City's preservation past. Then, we help students and researchers navigate the archival world and find information, encouraging the ongoing use of these collections. The following are some of the local institutions that are interested in receiving and sharing the stories of New York City's preservation history.

New York Public Library (NYPL)

The New York Public Library's Manuscripts and Archives Division holds a multitude of collections that reflect the breadth of the city's built heritage. Personal records include those of well-known figures like Berenice Abbott, Albert S. Bard, Alexander Jackson Davis, Robert Moses, Whitney North Seymour, I.N. Phelps Stokes, Richard Upjohn, and Calvert Vaux, as well as lesser-known city surveyors and civil engineers. The library also holds records and research files for sites such as the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage and the World Trade Center; companies like the Artkraft Strauss Sign Corporation (one of New York City's preeminent sign designers and manufacturers), the Edward F. Caldwell Lighting Company, and the Tenement House Building Company; and committees and campaigns including the Association of Village Homeowners, the Village Neighborhood Committee, the Village Committee for the Jefferson

Market Area, and the New York Public Interest Research Group Straphangers Campaign. Additional records of interest to preservationists include those related to the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Civic Affairs Forum, the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, and the 1934 Historic American Buildings Survey. NYPL has provided the Archive Project with a more extensive list of collections related to New York architecture, city planning, and historic preservation; please contact us or NYPL for more information.



New-York Historical Society Reading Room;
Courtesy of New-York Historical Society

New-York Historical Society (N-YHS)

The New-York Historical Society has a growing collection of materials relating to the work of twentieth century preservationists throughout New York City. Specifically, the collection reflects the preservation and journalistic work of Margot Gayle and the activism of Shirley Hayes in Greenwich Village and Washington Square, as well the recently accessed papers of Morningside Heights preservation advocate Carolyn Kent. The papers of preservationists and their organizations complement N-YHS's extensive architectural collections. For more information, please visit the library website at <http://www.nyhistory.org/library>.

Avery Library, Columbia University

In addition to architects' archives, Avery Library at Columbia University is interested in the papers of researchers, preservationists, and architects who study or preserve historic buildings. These collections may include research files, photographic documentation, or professional papers and writings about historic preservation. Particular attention is given to New York City. Collections

NYPAP News

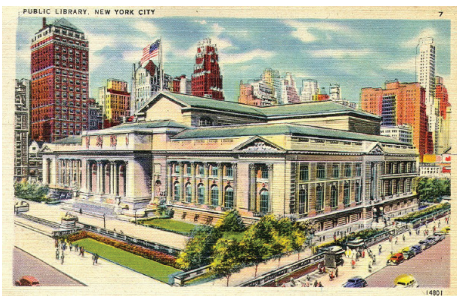
The Archive Project would like to welcome our newest board member, Daniel J. Allen. Mr. Allen is a principal at Cutsogeorge Tooman & Allen Architects, a firm with a strong portfolio of preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation projects, and is vice president of the Historic Districts Council. A longtime supporter of our organization, Dan personifies both experience and enthusiasm.

Work is nearing completion on our oral history series, *Leading the Commission: Interviews with the Former Chairs of the LPC*. The bulk of the project has been accomplished—five of the six former chairs have had their stories recorded—and interviews are currently underway with the last subject.

Due to the Archive Project's efforts, the papers of the late preservationist Carolyn Cassady

Kent have been successfully donated to the New-York Historical Society. Kent was a tireless advocate for the historic architecture of Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville, and Morningside Heights. Kent's papers, which include legal documents, slides, diagrams, and correspondence on significant preservation battles, will soon be available to researchers.

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



Postcard of the New York Public Library, 1955;
Courtesy of New York Public Library

New Archival Initiative

Outreach, Education & Technical Assistance

The Archive Project is thrilled to announce a \$10,000 grant from the Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation for an Archival Outreach, Education and Technical Assistance Initiative.

This grant will allow us to offer a series of public education workshops geared towards educating not-for-profit preservation organizations on the importance of their records. Using the professional knowledge of archival experts, this outreach will give the preservation community basic training on how to appropriately care for their records. Ultimately the Archive Project hopes to secure additional funding that would allow the initiative to provide technical assistance—and perhaps even mini-grants—to help preservation groups begin to advance the stewardship of their important records.

With this initiative specifically targeted to the preservation community, the Archive Project hopes to instill a lasting archival mindset in the New York City preservation civic sector. Many thanks to the Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation for this very generous grant. Stay tuned for more news about these workshops in the fall!



Avery Hall; Courtesy of Columbia University

already in the Avery Library include files on architects (Selma Rattner on James Renwick; William Alex on Calvert Vaux), research files on New York City buildings and their history (Alan Burnham and Henry Hope Reed), and files by preservation architects (Giorgio Cavaglieri). For information regarding the Drawings and Archives at the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, please send an email to avery-drawings@libraries.cul.columbia.edu.

The Museum of the City of New York

The Museum's online Collections Portal (<http://collections.mcny.org>) features historic architectural photography from the Wurts Brothers; Samuel H. Gottscho and the Gottscho-Schleisner firm; Berenice Abbott's Changing New York series, created under the Federal Arts Project; and a selection of photographs commissioned by the architectural firm of McKim, Meade & White. Additionally, via the online collections portal, the Museum has made available nearly 15,000 images from its "Street Archive," a collection of iconic New York City landmarks, buildings, and street scenes. The Museum's Collections Portal also features prints documenting architecture from the earliest days of the city's existence, a collection of design drawings produced



Museum of the City of New York, 1934, Gottscho-Schleisner Collection (34.443.01); Courtesy of Museum of the City of New York.

for the Planning Board of the 1939 New York World's Fair, and an extensive postcard collection depicting locations throughout the five boroughs. These, as well as several smaller collections, are accessed frequently by representatives of landmarks commissions, preservationists, architects working on restorations, and individual researchers. The Museum is continuing to make more collections available online that document the landscape of New York City, such as the photos of Irving Underhill and additional selections from the Wurts Brothers.



gvshp

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP)

Exhibiting the archival approach that the Archive Project advocates, GVSHP found homes for holdings they felt might fit better elsewhere, including deaccessioning materials to the NYPL and the N-YHS. GVSHP is not actively collecting but will accept items for its image collection that fit within its mission to preserve the architectural heritage and cultural history of Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo.

At NYPAP, we are always interested in finding new institutions that share our passions. If you represent or are aware of a collecting institution that we should know about, please contact Matthew Coody at mcoody@nypap.org or 212-988-8379. ■

Special thanks to the following for providing the Archive Project with information on these collections: William Stingone, Assistant Director for Archives and Manuscripts at the NYPL; Maurita Baldock, Curator of Manuscripts at the N-YHS; Janet Parks, Curator of Drawings & Archives at Avery Library; Lindsay Turley, Manuscript and Reference Archivist at the Museum of the City of New York; and Sheryl Woodruff, Senior Director of Operations at GVSHP.



The preservation community mourned the loss of three longtime members this spring. Share your memories of these figures online at the Memory Collection Project: www.nypap.org/content/memory-collection-project

Georgia Delano founded the Friends of St. Mark's in 1975, which became the Citizens to Save St. Mark's, and raised restoration funds after a 1979 fire at the church. This organization became the St. Mark's Historic Landmark Fund, and Delano served as its president and as a trustee. The Landmark Fund went on to create the Neighborhood Preservation Center, of which Delano was on the Advisory Committee. The Fund continues Delano's commitment to preserving the historic St. Mark's site.

Huyler Held was a founding member of the Preservation League of New York, where he served as both a trustee and a Trustee Council member. He also lent support to a number of other cultural and preservation institutions, serving on the boards of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities, the Nature Conservancy of New York State, the New York Botanical Garden, St. James' Church, NYS Archives Partnership Trust, and Friends of Upper East Side Historic Districts.

Robert Miles Parker founded the Save Our Heritage Organization in 1969, sparking San Diego's modern preservation movement. After moving to New York City in the mid-1980s, he illustrated the cityscape, his pen-and-ink drawings becoming familiar images in many preservation efforts, publications, and exhibitions. Through his art, Parker captured images of buildings all over the city, extensively documenting such neighborhoods as Manhattan's Upper West Side and the theatre district. His art promoted these areas' preservation by helping engage, educate, and motivate the public. He published some of these drawings in his 1988 book, *Upper West Side: New York*, and others were exhibited at the Museum of the City of New York in 2006. The *New York Times* said of his work, "His appreciation of the intricacies of his subjects brings spirit to brick and mortar."

The New York Preservation Archive Project 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 thanks the following supporters for their generous contributions in 2011:

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Françoise Bollack & Thomas G. Killian
Helen Chin
Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel
Kent Diebolt
Frances & David Eberhart
Stephen Facey
Andrea H. Fahnestock & George A. Hambrecht
Elizabeth R. & Robert A. Jeffe
Shirley Ferguson Jenks
Arlette L. Laurent
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Marilynn Wood & John A. Hill
Kate Wood & David Sprouls
Sheryl Woodruff
John Yeagley
Linda Yowell

The New York Preservation Archive Project is a not-for-profit organization, and we depend 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) or securely online via PayPal on our website (www.nypap.org).

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