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project

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NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013

Welcome to the eighteenth 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.



Celebrating Decades of Preservation!

NYC Landmarks Law, the NY Landmarks Conservancy, and the Preservation League of NYS Celebrate Anniversaries

On April 19, 2015, the New York City Landmarks Law will turn 50! When Mayor Robert Wagner signed the Landmarks Law in 1965 (*shown above, photo by Margot Gayle*), New York began working under a legal framework to protect its important architectural, historical, and cultural heritage, and a new era of historic preservation began. The 50th anniversary of the Landmarks Law is an opportunity to remind New Yorkers and the wider world that the law preserves more than bricks and mortar and that our memories and experiences are connected to our physical surroundings.

To commemorate this historic milestone, Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel—writer, activist, preservationist, and television interviewer and producer—has guided the formation and launch of the NYC Landmarks50 Advisory Committee. Over the next two years, this committee will work to broaden appreciation of and commitment

to New York City’s landmarks through a series of events held throughout the five boroughs. “There is hardly a neighborhood, or a New Yorker, not touched by New York City’s preservation movement, which so reflects the great diversity of our City. We are committed to developing future preservationists who will take responsibility for protecting our history, and the continuity of the New York Cityscape,” said Committee Chair Diamonstein-Spielvogel. “The Landmarks50 Advisory Committee is an all-voluntary effort that brings together committed individuals and institutions from the public and private sectors to inform and engage the public about the importance of historic preservation, which has ensured that the iconic landmarks of New York continue to be maintained and celebrated throughout the world.”

The New York Preservation Archive Project is a founding member and financial

supporter of the NYC Landmarks50 Advisory Committee. Other committee members include the Central Park Conservancy, the Municipal Art Society, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Historic Districts Council, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Apollo Theater, Jujamcyn Theatres, the Rockwell Group, the Rubin Museum of Art, Sotheby’s, and many more. To get involved, share ideas, and volunteer your time, email landmarks50@nylandmarks50.org.

While anticipation builds for the 50th anniversary of the Landmarks Law, two vital preservation advocacy organizations are celebrating their 40th anniversaries *this* year: the Preservation League of New York State and the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The activism, fundraising, and technical work of these organizations have been critical in saving countless historic

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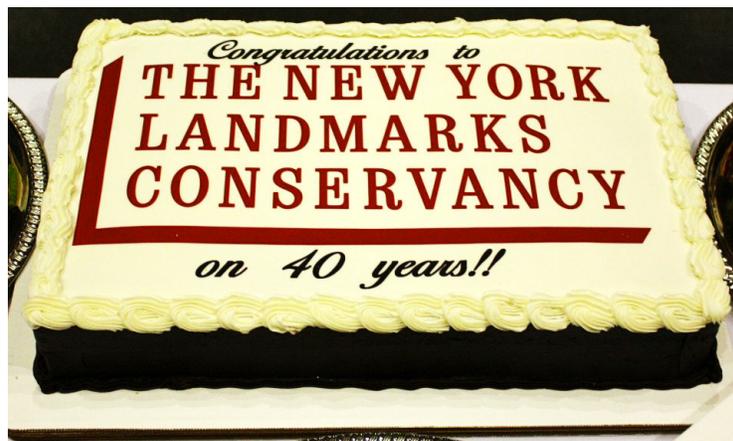
buildings and districts, thereby helping to sustain the economy, environment, and scenic beauty of communities in the five boroughs and throughout the entire state.

These anniversaries come amid a flurry of other landmarks-related birthdays in recent years, including the 25th anniversary of Landmark West! in 2010, the 40th anniversary of the Historic Districts Council in 2011, and the 30th anniversary of

FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts last year. These anniversaries are a reminder that many institutions of the preservation movement have reached middle age. It is time to take stock, examine where the movement has been, how it can continue to grow and prosper in the future, and how we can educate a new generation of New Yorkers about the importance of preservation.

The Preservation League of New York State (PLNYS) was incorporated in 1974 in response to a meeting of like-minded preservationists from across the state in Rensselaerville, New York, in June 1973. This gathering agreed that a statewide organization was needed to provide a unified voice to advocate for historic preservation, offer technical assistance, and promote preservation ethics and practices. For the past four decades, PLNYS has provided assistance and grants to help build the capacity of local groups throughout the state; it has educated New Yorkers on historic preservation through workshops, seminars, and presentations; and it has advanced public policy at state, local, and national levels. Furthermore, it was instrumental in passing the State Historic Preservation Act in 1980. In recent years, assistance from PLNYS has built support for new historic districts in Manhattan. And since 1999, the “Seven to Save” program, which gives endangered properties increased visibility and triggers enhanced technical, legal, grant, and media services from PLNYS, helped preserve the state’s most endangered historic structures and neighborhoods.

For its 40th anniversary, PLNYS is increasing



This cake was part of the celebration of NYLC's 40th anniversary this year; Photo by Steve Fisher

its visibility and advocacy work to engage and energize its constituents and become more action-oriented. The organization is redesigning its website and has begun an “action alerts” email list to notify supporters of urgent state and federal issues. PLNYS is also planning a series of “Partnerships in Preservation” events around the state to highlight the work that the organization does in cooperation with local groups, and will also be planning special events and tours to mark the anniversary.

Today, money-driven arguments are often used to justify relegating preservation to the back burner, but a challenging economic environment is nothing that preservationists haven’t faced before. The New York Landmarks Conservancy (NYLC) was founded in 1973 in a City wracked by a fiscal crisis, yet the organization immediately got to work saving treasured landmarks that give New York its unique sense of place and attract tourism and investment. Thanks to the foresight, creativity, and perseverance of NYLC and preservation advocates, the Customs House on Bowling Green, the Fraunces Tavern block, Pier A, Astor Row, and countless other landmarks were saved from demolition. These buildings now contribute to the social and economic life of the city in tangible and intangible ways that would be impossible to replicate.

Today, the Conservancy continues its work with a range of targeted grant, loan, and technical assistance programs that have contributed more than \$40 million to help maintain and restore historic properties. This in turn has helped trigger a total of \$1 billion of funding for restoration projects.

The Sacred Sites program which celebrated its own 25th anniversary in 2011, is one of the nation’s only programs to provide landmark-designated religious properties with financial and technical assistance (and the only such statewide program). The NYLC’s Historic Properties Fund, which turned 30 in 2012, is one of the nation’s largest private revolving-loan funds for historic preservation. After Hurricane Sandy struck, the organization offered \$164,000 in assistance to

landmark-designated buildings damaged by the storm. Previously, after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Conservancy teamed up with the Preservation League of New York State and other organizations to save threatened properties in Lower Manhattan.

On January 24th—officially declared New York Landmarks Conservancy Day by Mayor Michael Bloomberg—the NYLC kicked off its 40th anniversary year with a reception at the Customs House on Bowling Green, one of the first buildings the Conservancy helped to save. The organization’s 40th anniversary gala will be held on November 14th, and a range of talks, tours, and special events will be held to celebrate New York’s architectural legacy throughout the year.

The stories of the Preservation League of New York State and the New York Landmarks Conservancy are a reminder that governmental agencies, while necessary, are not sufficient to preserve landmarks; a strong civic sector of preservationists helps hold politicians’ feet to the fire, coordinate preservation advocacy, and provide resources for preservation projects. Political and financial support for preservation is never guaranteed. In the years to come, public support for preservation must be sustained; landmarks that have already been designated must be repaired, restored, and maintained; and many deserving places await landmark designation and appropriate reuse. Anniversaries, be they an organization’s or a law’s, are an opportunity to both celebrate the past and reflect on the work that remains to be done to secure New York’s heritage in the next few decades and beyond. ■



Chairman's Column: Beware False Prophets!

By *Anthony C. Wood, Founder & Chair*

Don't you love those television talk shows where a public figure is confronted with an old video clip revealing a falsehood or a failed prediction? It is difficult to deny something when it is on the record and "in your face." Now is the time for preservationists to start using the record to expose the false prophets who have been recycling the same failed arguments against preservation since the Landmarks Law was passed almost 50 years ago. With the proper documents in hand, retrieved from well-organized and preserved archives, preservationists can reveal those false prophets for what they are.

As a case in point, let us turn to the record of the Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY) when it comes to prophecies about preservation. The year: 1965. Mayor Wagner has just signed the Landmarks Law. John R. O'Donoghue, the executive secretary of the owners division of REBNY is quoted in *The New York Times*, warning that the new law will "seriously impede the modern expansion and progress of the city." Yet, New York's Landmarks Law is approaching its 50th anniversary and New York's "modern expansion and progress" continues unabated. REBNY was wrong in 1965.

The year: 1986. REBNY is battling against the proposed Ladies' Mile Historic District (*shown in photo above*). Steven Spinola, REBNY's president declares in a September 16th letter to the editor of *The New York Times*: "Landmark restrictions on this commercial area will have a chilling effect on the renovations and adaptations of long-vacant buildings, which have helped transform the area into a vibrant retail and commercial district." If for the last 27 years Ladies' Mile has been suffering from

a "chilling effect," then New York has a long line of neighborhoods wishing to go into such a deep freeze! REBNY was wrong again in 1986.

The year: 1988. It is January 12th and Steven Spinola is at it again. REBNY now has its guns focused on the proposed Central Park West Historic District: "I'm sure it will come as no surprise when I say the Board opposes the creation of the proposed Central Park West Historic District. We are often criticized for our unwillingness to accept historic districts. And it's true, that in the past we have opposed, rather than supported, most districts. Our opposition really began with the Upper East Side Historic District, and has continued to the other large districts such as Ladies' Mile and this one. And our opposition will continue, as long as we believe that historic districts are proposed as development control mechanisms." As their own testimony reveals, REBNY's opposition to historic districts is not based on reality, just ideology. And, as promised, REBNY has continued to dogmatically oppose historic districts.

The year: 2012. REBNY launches a new initiative to oppose preservation: the Responsible Landmarks Coalition. The doom and gloom that REBNY predicted for New York's historic districts have never come to pass. REBNY's forecasts have been revealed to be mere opinion. Despite being consistently wrong since 1965, REBNY persists, and worse, REBNY is still taken seriously by the press. REBNY's positions have been reflected in anti-preservation editorials and columns in the *New York Post*, *Crain's New York Business*, and the *New York Observer*, with more certainly to come. As recently as March 31st, *The Wall Street Journal*

printed an article giving press attention to REBNY's new anti-landmark coalition.

Would REBNY's views receive so much ink if their record of failed predictions were better known? Clearly their status as a false prophet has not received the attention it deserves. How does one know when a prophet is not to be believed? Check the record. Where does one find the record? In archives. That, of course, is where the work of the Archive Project comes into play. In addition to documenting preservation's history (through oral histories) and preserving it (by finding proper homes for preservation papers and materials), we are now reaching out to preservation organizations around the city to help them appreciate, preserve, and utilize their own archives. One such utilization of archival material is to expose false prophets who undermine preservation and ultimately, the welfare of our City.

Preserving and documenting preservation's history is not an antiquarian exercise; it is a vital activity for those living and working in the present. In one very real sense, archival work is stealth advocacy. Knowing the past can help shape present and future debates. The preservation movement needs to document and preserve its history in order to have the facts at its finger tips. Our story is a powerful one but to be told convincingly, it must be documented, preserved, and known.

Don't lose your powerful archival ammunition through neglect, or let it sit languishing on the shelf or in your files. Today, more than ever, preservation needs all the firepower it can muster. There is power in your history. It is in your archives. Find it. Use it. ■

Archival Disasters: Prevention & Response

By Elizabeth Rohn Jeffe, Vice-Chair

Superstorm Sandy struck New York with great ferocity in late October 2012 and wrought havoc on the City. The most damaging aspect of the hurricane was its devastating storm surge on October 29th that flooded streets, subway lines, tunnels, and roadways, and caused a massive loss of electrical power across the five boroughs. Many New Yorkers saw their homes destroyed; many businesses and organizations were dramatically affected. In addition to the tragic loss of 45 lives in New York City alone, Sandy left billions of dollars of property damage in her wake, and efforts to rebuild have been slow and difficult. All of us at the Archive Project extend our profound sympathies to those who suffered personal loss from this horrific storm.

While the storm's damage to archival records in New York and elsewhere by no means approximates the human toll exacted by Sandy, the hurricane and its damage do provide a painful reminder to archivists to evaluate the "best practices" for protecting collections from the ravages of any disaster, natural or manmade, large or small. In a recent outreach email to the Archivists Round Table, the Archive Project asked members to weigh in on how to prevent disasters in archives and what to do if a disaster should strike. The responses were both immediate and comprehensive.

Peter Brothers, of SPECS BROS., LLC, a lab that performs disaster recovery, shared a comprehensive list of key things to keep in mind to safeguard archives when catastrophe strikes. On a basic level, he suggests the following:

- Do not store materials on the floor or place valuable materials below ground level. (Fellow Round Table respondent Gregory Jackson, Archivist of Glencairn Museum in Pennsylvania, echoed this observation with, "Let's just start with a basic step. Nothing on the floor.")
- Close doors, protect windows, and cover materials in spaces vulnerable to storm damage.
- If you can copy your materials, do so, and keep the copies in geographically separated locations. Also keep an offsite record of your holdings and their locations within your archive. (In the midst of a disaster, onsite records may

not be accessible, and computers may not be functioning.)

- Maintain your collection materials in good condition; well-preserved materials often withstand the effects of a disaster better than materials that are already in a compromised condition.

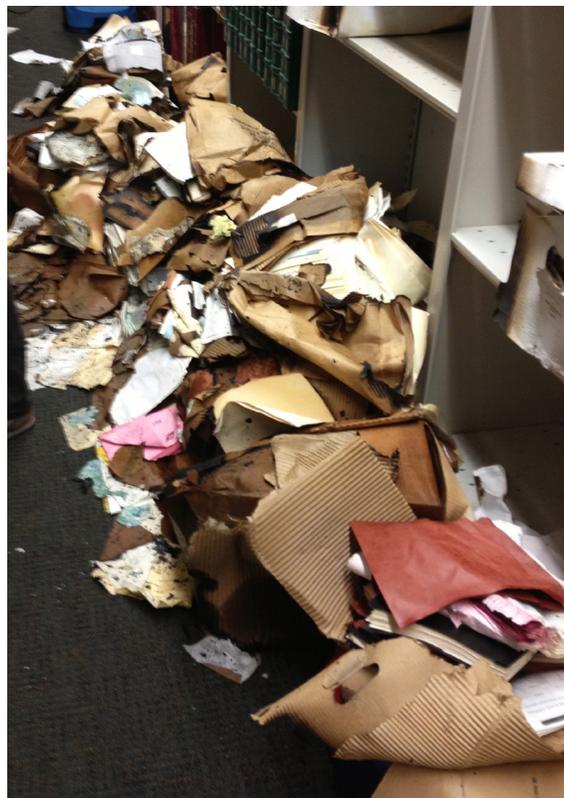
Brothers also observes that archives should have an emergency plan in place, but that it should be a simple first response plan to engender critical initial responses—overly detailed plans can cause delays. More complicated activities can be implemented later. Emergency response numbers should be posted, and materials such as mops, gloves, buckets, and tarpaulins should be on hand. At least two individuals should be named to act in the case of a calamity: as Peter observes from firsthand experience, "in over 50% of the disasters we have seen at archives, the individual authorized to act was unavailable at the time of the disaster." And these designated people should be empowered to move forward. Leaving disaster response to staff members who have no authority to act can result in an ineffectual response.

Additionally, Brothers cautions archivists to remember that first reactions to disasters require ready money, so plan ahead. Respondents need to have access to funds for initial recovery of archival materials. These funds need not be the amount required for the entire recovery but should be on hand for critical first response items. As Peter puts it, "Waiting for insurance payments, government support, or fundraisers before initial damage control can cause massive additional damage."

Another respondent who offered many useful tips is Beth Russell, an archivist at the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This archive comprises primarily manuscripts, photographs, negatives, and

glass plates, with a few audio-visual items. The collection is not artifact-driven. Beth provided the Archive Project with a phone interview on April 11th; the text here combines both her email information and the content of that interview.

Beth related her personal experience with a small fire and zoned sprinkler release that took place on October 26, 2012, just three days before Sandy's storm surge in New York. The fire caused little damage, but the water led to fairly extensive damage. The cause of the fire has officially been declared undetermined, but the sprinkler release set in motion a disaster response that is instructive. The event took place during the day when Beth and two other staff members were in the archives. Although patrons had visited previously, there were no guests in the archives at the time of the fire. When the lights first went out in the reading room, and then elsewhere, and smoke could be seen in the stacks, Beth knew she had a problem. She called 911 and then the building



Example of Paige boxes removed from sprinkler zone; Courtesy of the Michigan Technological University Archives

manager. Fortunately, in Beth's words, the firefighters were "very cognizant of the area they were entering and did not come in with hoses blasting"

According to Beth, having a disaster plan in place was critical in managing the situation. About five years ago, Beth's colleague, Julie Blair, attended a Midwest Archives Conference dealing with this topic and used the information gained there to create a disaster plan for the Michigan Technological University and Copper Country Historical Collections.

(For those interested in history, the copper rush in this part of the country predated the 1848 gold rush in California by several years, hence the dual name for the archives.) Beth admires the great deal of work that it took to prioritize the contents of the collection—but the effort paid off when responders "knew what to pull first." The plan also provided contact information for local vendors in the Upper Peninsula who arrived within five hours to transport wet material and provide freezer storage. Almost 800 boxes went into storage, first in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and then to a treatment facility in Philadelphia. Combined with the large volume of materials related to Sandy that are also in line for treatment in the Philadelphia facility, there is a backlog of 5,000 boxes waiting to be processed, delaying the return of material to Michigan Tech.

Also critical to the response were volunteers. Although they were not signed up in advance of a potential crisis, according to Beth, the "high profile" of the archives in the community enlisted immediate support from many sources. Beth emailed several professors in the Social Sciences Department at the University and some student organizations. The local paper spread the word as well, and in the end, the archives actually had to turn away some people wishing to help. (This speaks volumes on how an archive can develop and utilize local support.)

In spite of all that happened, Beth and her team quickly began to set things aright. By the week before Thanksgiving, patrons had limited access to the archives again, although the stacks were covered in plastic. By this April, the stacks were cleared, new tile floors were installed, ceiling tiles were replaced,



Volunteers help on the day of the fire; Courtesy of the Michigan Technological University Archives

returned materials were being processed, and visiting days went from three days to five, albeit with abbreviated hours. The first shipment of stored boxes returned in February, and the next shipment is expected in mid-April. Beth also credits an "amazing disaster response firm" which helped enormously by addressing the rehabilitation of both the archive's physical space and the damaged collections.

Although those involved in the response and recovery effected what seems to be an exemplary disaster case study, Beth does think she learned a few lessons from the experience: "We should have taken an inventory of material as it left the building, because some reboxed materials stayed while others left." The archives also needed to have more disaster supplies on hand, such as flashlights and tarps. Additionally, Beth will be adding a "command post" to facilitate communication while recovery is ongoing. And in a final insight, Beth cannot say enough about the importance of using the proper conservation materials in an archive, observing that "the money spent on high quality archival boxes and folders was money well spent." In fact, "even folders [inside damaged boxes] that looked horrible contained materials that were in good condition."

Yet another person to answer the Archive Project's online query, Bonnie Weddle, the Coordinator of Electronic Records for the New York State Archives, weighed in with advice vis-à-vis building management and the disposal of flood-damaged archival materials. Bonnie suggests that, if possible, archivists reach out in advance of a disaster to building management to emphasize the importance of irreplaceable archival

collections and explain that even badly damaged materials can be salvaged. This effort may well avert what Bonnie describes as the "depressing frequency with which building management dispose(s) of flood-damaged archival records without consulting the records' creators/custodians."

Several of the respondents included helpful websites, listed in the sidebar below. The Archive Project encourages all those with archival materials to visit these sites and consider the valuable information provided by those answering our query to the Archivists Round Table. Disasters come in many forms and are always a threat to archival collections; the Archive Project hopes that Sandy and its attendant destruction will spur all of us in preservation to be both forewarned and forearmed. We wish to express our sincere thanks to the professionals who so generously took the time to share their expertise with us. ■

Online Resources

Preparing for the Worst: Managing Records Disasters from The New York State Archives: www.archives.nysed.gov/a/records/mr_pub82.shtml

Disaster Assistance Web Page from The New York State Archives: www.archives.nysed.gov/a/records/mr_disaster.shtml

Emergency Resource Guide from the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts: www.ccaha.org/services/philadelphia-stewardship-resource-center/preservation-resources

Emergency Management from the Northeast Document Conservation Center: www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/overview

Emergency Resources from Heritage Preservation: www.heritagepreservation.org/free/Index.html

NYPAP Events

Our Public Programs Continue to Celebrate, Educate & Inspire

Over 100 ardent supporters of the Archive Project gathered at the Manhattan Penthouse last December to celebrate the ninth annual **Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit**. Hosted in honor of Albert S. Bard's birthday (last year would have been his 146th), this benefit lecture has become the "unofficial holiday party" of the New York City preservation field. Much of Bard's professional life was dedicated to finding a way to protect the aesthetic values of special places. He drafted the New York State authorizing legislation for the Landmarks Law (known as the Bard Act) and was a leading national advocate for City Beautiful concerns ranging from billboard control to zoning.

Ed McMahon, the featured speaker at the benefit, follows in Bard's tradition by nationally advancing the case for the protection of the character of place. McMahon spent 14 years as vice president and director of land use planning for the Conservation Fund, where he helped protect more than five million acres of land. He is also the co-founder and former president of Scenic America, and is the author or co-author of 15 books and over 200 articles on such topics as better models

for development, connecting landscape and communities, and preserving character of place.

In his compelling benefit lecture entitled *The Power and Profit of Place: The Economics of Aesthetics*, McMahon addressed the economic advantages of community distinctiveness. Around the world, he said, cities are seeking the formula for economic success in a rapidly changing marketplace. McMahon argues that a critical but often overlooked part of this formula is community distinctiveness. According to McMahon in his article *The Place Making Dividend*, community distinctiveness, also termed "sense of place," is a "unique collection of qualities and characteristics—visual, cultural, social, and environmental—that provide meaning to a location." Sense of place helps us differentiate one location from another, and it is what makes these locations worth caring about.

However, as McMahon illustrated in his slideshow, these distinctive qualities are quickly vanishing in the United States. Building materials, architectural styles, advertising, and other characteristics have devolved from unique to uniform. As a place

becomes more standardized fewer people care about it, and there is less incentive for tourism or economic development. But while change is inevitable, the degradation of a community's character and identity is not. McMahon gave the audience tips on how to create places that retain character while embracing change and providing appeal-driven economic prosperity, or a "place making dividend." This "place making dividend" means that people will stay longer, spend more money, and return more often to places that appeal to them. Historic preservation and ecological conservation ordinances understand and respect a location's natural context, and are therefore invaluable in nurturing a "place making dividend." But new, memorable communities can also be planned that create a special feeling of belonging and inspire stewardship by their residents. McMahon calls this "heart and soul planning," in which communities adapt to change while maintaining or enhancing the things they value most. Whether starting from scratch or incorporating existing fabric, community distinctiveness is instrumental in twenty-first century economic development and competitive advantage.

The Archive Project thanks Ed McMahon and the many supporters who helped to make this year's benefit a success. Proceeds from this event help to fund the Archive Project's operations.

Last October the Archive Project joined forces with the St. Mark's Historic Landmark Fund/Neighborhood Preservation Center to host a **Breakfast Talk with Architect Randy Wood**. This conversation explored the restoration of the historic Ernest Flag Rectory after a 1988 fire, and the influence this project had on the formation of the Neighborhood Preservation Center (NPC).

On March 28, 1988, an electrical fire caused extensive damage to the 1901 Ernest Flag Rectory of St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery. After the fire, under the auspices of the St. Mark's Historic Landmark Fund (SMHLF), the Preservation Youth Project (*see sidebar on facing page*) undertook the initial work to secure the envelope of the building, restore its windows, and engage a specialist to replace its copper mansard roof. The Edelman Partnership (now Edelman



Speaker Ed McMahon at the 2012 Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit; Courtesy of Charles Starks



Ernest Flagg Rectory; Courtesy of the Neighborhood Preservation Center

Sultan Knox Wood /Architects), for many years the architects for the church, effected the restoration, with Randy Wood acting as project manager during the construction phase of the work.

Randy Wood joined Felicia Mayro, director of SMHLF, in a conversation about this restoration. Also participating was Judith Edelman, who with her husband, architect Harold Edelman, co-founded Edelman Saltzman Architects in 1960, which became The Edelman Partnership in 1979. The discussion delved into the 11-year effort to complete this project. The restored historic Ernest Flagg Rectory opened as the NPC on November 1, 1999. Today the NPC continues its role as a resource center providing meeting rooms, office space, a resource referral service, and library to community organizations and preservation-related not-for-profits.

The Breakfast Talk with Randy Wood was audio-recorded as part of SMHLF/NPC's building history project, an ongoing effort to collect and present the history of the Ernest Flagg Rectory. Resources from this project, which began in 2011, can be accessed through the SMHLF's website (www.smhlf.org), including a *Bibliography of the Social History of the Rectory of St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery 1899-2012*, a video about the rectory, and a visual history of the building. The audio recording of this breakfast talk is available by contacting the Archive Project or SMHLF/NPC.

Last fall the Archive Project also co-

sponsored a conversation between Manhattan Borough Historian Michael Miscione and Archive Project founder and chair Anthony C. Wood entitled **The Historian as Activist: One Man's Struggle to Rescue a Forgotten Civic Hero from Disgrace and Obscurity.** Andrew Haswell Green, a nineteenth-century city planner, reformer, and historic preservationist—and the mastermind behind the 1898 consolidation of the five boroughs—easily qualifies as one of New

York City's most influential civic leaders. Yet until recently he has been largely forgotten, even by most local historians. A decade ago Michael Miscione, a television producer-turned-historical activist, set out on a one-man campaign to rescue Green from oblivion. In an engaging conversation with Anthony C. Wood, Miscione revealed how he first learned of Green, and described his tactics, successes, and failures in his campaign to honor this important historical figure. Miscione, who was appointed Manhattan Borough Historian in 2006 largely due to his work on Green, shared his advice with other would-be historical activists, hoping to inspire similar quests to rescue other unknown historical figures from obscurity. This conversation was presented as part of New York Archives Week in collaboration with the Manhattan Borough Historian's Office and the General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen of the City of New York.

To access an audio recording of the conversation, please contact the Archive Project. To learn more about Andrew Haswell Green, visit the Archive Project online database entry devoted to his work.

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.

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Preservation Youth Project Participants with Bust of Peter Stuyvesant on Grounds of St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery, 1975; Photo by Stephen Facey

Preservation Youth Project

The Preservation Youth Project (PYP), conceived of in 1969 as a summer program for marginalized Lower East Side youth, developed into a year-round program, the first of its kind. Through special preservation and arts-related projects, PYP integrated its young members with the congregation of St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery and instilled in the participants a sense of investment in the neighborhood. In addition to work on the rectory, the PYP was involved in the transformation of St. Mark's East and West Yards, completed in 1975; the repair of the church's steeple in 1975; the rebuilding of the church after a separate fire in 1978; and the Community Documentation Workshop in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Run out of the historic rectory, the Community Documentation Workshop sought to engage young people in documenting the lives and histories of neighborhood residents. Over the course of its activity, the PYP provided paid work and training for more than 150 young people from the Lower East Side and surrounding neighborhoods.

Stewardship Society

Faithful readers of this newsletter have already been introduced to the Stewardship Society, 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 consists 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, and the apartment of Betsy Barlow Rogers, who shared her collection of books, prints, and writings by such influential landscape designers as Giovanni Battista Piranesi and Frederick Law Olmsted.

Our annual series of special events continues this year, and the Archive Project has two exciting experiences that you will not want to miss! In May, the Society will visit the archives of the Museum of the City of New York, where its archivists will discuss their favorite selections from the Museum's extensive collection of historic photographs, maps, theatrical designs, manuscripts, and ephemera. A reception will be held before the tour, and afterwards the new exhibition, *A Beautiful Way to Go: Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery*, will be open after hours for our Stewards to visit.

Our next event will be held in October at the Carnegie Hall Archives, which recently relocated to an updated archival facility within the landmark-designated building. The Archive Project is pleased to offer such inimitable experiences to our most generous supporters! Those joining our Stewardship Society will receive invitations to these memorable 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.



"Past Leaders Look to the Future" Panel at the General Society of Mechanics & Tradesmen of the City of New York; Photo by Matthew Coody

In April the Archive Project hosted **Past Leaders Look to the Future: The Former Chairs of the Landmarks Preservation Commission Look to the Agency's Future**. During this enlightening panel discussion, four former Landmarks Preservation Commission Chairs—Beverly Moss Spatt, Kent Barwick, Laurie Beckelman, and Sherida Paulsen—explored the unique challenges they faced during their tenures and the responsibilities of the position. Most interestingly, these past Chairs discussed the leadership qualities that will be required of the successor of current Chair Robert B. Tierney to help the agency navigate the future of the Landmarks Law. The panel was moderated by Liz McEnaney, who is currently interviewing the former Chairs as part of a large-scale oral history initiative undertaken by the Archive Project and funded by the Robert A. & Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation. The event was an illuminating reflection upon administering nearly 50 years of the Landmarks Law and a look forward to the new Chair's role in shaping the future of preservation in New York City. A video recording of the panel can be found on the Archive Project's website.

The Archive Project thanks the Historic Districts Council, the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, the Fine Arts Federation, and the General Society for Mechanics & Tradesmen of the City of New York for co-sponsoring this program. This panel was part of NYC Landmarks50, the multi-year celebration of the 50th anniversary of New York City's Landmarks Law.

Please save the date for two exciting programs planned for fall 2013. On Monday, September 23rd at 3:45 p.m. the Archive Project and the Historic Landmarks Preservation Center will host an **unveiling ceremony for the Albert S. Bard cultural medallion** at

the building Bard maintained an office in for over 60 years (the landmark-designated Broad Exchange Building at 25 Broad Street). The medallion, part of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Center's Cultural Medallion Program, will celebrate the work of Bard, whose advocacy of governmental aesthetic regulation was instrumental in preserving our city's history. After the unveiling ceremony, a brief reception will be held inside 25 Broad Street.

In commemoration of the **100th anniversary of the Report of the Mayor's Billboard Advertising Commission of the City of New York**, the Archive Project is planning a panel discussion in the fall that will explore the past, present, and future of aesthetic regulation. In 1913, after investigations into the rampant proliferation of billboard advertising in the City, the Mayor's Billboard Advertising Commission of the City of New York, appointed by Mayor Gaynor, published a report that recommended amending the state constitution to give "unequivocal warrant to the legislature and the courts to regulate billboard advertising on the ground of public beauty."

The Commission's recommendation, drafted by Albert Bard, was the first iteration of what would become the Bard Act, the basis of New York City's Landmarks Law. The panel will delve into the evolution of aesthetic regulation over the past 100 years, and explore future tools with which aesthetics can be protected. Panel participants will include specialists from the fields of scenic conservation, historic district regulation, and the protection of "sense of place." ■

New to Archives

Municipal Archives Online Gallery, American View Books & Frank Lloyd Wright



An experimental exposure made on the Queensboro Bridge, 1910; Photograph by Eugene de Salignac; Courtesy of the New York City Municipal Archives

In 2012, the New York City Department of Records launched an online gallery of 870,000 photographs, maps, posters, motion pictures, and audio recordings culled from the New York City Municipal Archives. The bulk of the online collection consists of 800,000 tax photos taken of every property in the City in the early 1980s. Other highlights of the collection include over 8,000 photographs related to the City's waterfront; 1,300 photos of Works Progress Administration projects taken by local photographers during the Great Depression; over 2,000 photos of City infrastructure under construction (many by famed photographer Eugene de Salignac); 250 early photographs of City-owned properties taken by the Art Commission; and maps showing the street grids of the Commissioners' Plan of 1811 laid over the original subdivisions of farmsteads. These collections can now be viewed worldwide via the New York City Municipal Archives Online Gallery, dramatically expanding the accessibility of these historic materials to researchers, historians, preservationists, and other interested parties.

Columbia University's Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library recently received a "Hidden Collections" grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to support the cataloguing of its American View Books Collection. This collection comprises 4,800 printed books, photographic albums, and novelties that provide pictorial documentation of cities and towns throughout the United States. Together,

these items present an evolving illustrated history of the American built environment from the mid-nineteenth century to the late-twentieth century. The collection contains hundreds of thousands of images and accompanying texts that document buildings, streetscapes, monuments, and parklands, as well as local architectural styles, the evolution of industry and commerce, and the changes wrought by expanding transportation networks. With the assistance of the "Hidden Collections" grant, Avery Library will produce a cataloguing template that will enable researchers to locate material by named persons, dates, or locations, thereby considerably facilitating access to the collection's resources. Expanded access to this collection will benefit many researchers, including preservationists who are seeking historic photographs of specific locations and information about the evolution of urban areas or vernacular architecture.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation announced last year that its vast archives of models, drawings, photographs, manuscripts, correspondence, and other documents of Wright, the eminent American architect, have been jointly acquired by Columbia University and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). While the foundation will retain all copyright and intellectual rights to the materials, the physical collections are being transferred to Columbia and MoMA and will be available for consultation and research later this year. The institutions plan to use the archives as the basis for displays and special exhibitions and as resources for researchers, teaching, and publications.

The collections are immense, including some 23,000 architectural drawings and 44,000 photographs alone. Wright built a personal archive throughout his life, declining to donate portions of it to museums, libraries, or other institutions. Upon Wright's death in 1959, the works were gathered by his widow, Olgivanna Lloyd Wright, at Taliesin West, the Wrights' winter home in Scottsdale, Arizona. The archive has since been maintained by the staff of Taliesin West. MoMA and Columbia will henceforth share archival duties, with the

paper-based materials housed at Columbia's Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library and three-dimensional models kept at MoMA.

Wright's best known New York City work is his spiraling design for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, designated a City landmark in 1990. His other existing Manhattan work, the interior of the Hoffman Auto Showroom on Park Avenue at 55th Street, was recently demolished. Wright is also credited as the designer of the landmark-designated Cass House on Staten Island, an example of one of Wright's many attempts to design low-cost prefabricated housing. Interestingly, among the models included in the archive are ambitious unbuilt New York City projects, including a 1920s proposal for a complex of glass towers that would have enveloped St. Mark's Church In-the-Bowery.

The transfer of Wright's archives to New York institutions will provide convenient



Rendering of Falling Water; Courtesy of The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives

access to materials related to these projects, assisting in the conservation of Wright structures and designs in the region and beyond. Furthermore, with the loss of many Wright structures, these archives will impart important information on his designs that are no longer part of the built environment. Wright's personal archives join existing Wright collections at Columbia and MoMA as well as a fully-preserved Wright interior at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The transfer of the Wright archive establishes New York as an archival center for this major architect and also helps place Wright, sometimes regarded as a lone genius, within the broader stream of twentieth century art and architecture. ■



Lenore Norman at a hearing at City Hall in 1984;
Photo by Neal Boenzi/*The New York Times*



Ada Louise Huxtable, ca. 1960s;
Photo by Garth Huxtable



Richard Anderson on the SS Columbia;
Courtesy of the SS Columbia Project



Anne Millard; Courtesy of FRIENDS
of the Upper East Side Historic Districts

In Memoriam

The preservation community recently mourned the loss of four longtime members.

Please share your memories of these figures online at the Memory Collection Project: www.nypap.org/content/memory-collection-project.

Executive director of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) for a decade, **Lenore Norman** is remembered as an important figure in the growth and professionalization of the agency. She steered the LPC through the years when the Landmarks Law was being challenged by the *Penn Central Transportation Co. v. New York City* Supreme Court case (which was ultimately decided in favor of the constitutionality of the law in 1978), and managed a dramatic expansion of the agency's workload after the 1980s real estate boom. Born in Manhattan's Washington Heights, Norman became involved in preservation while studying urban planning at Pratt Institute in the early 1970s. Beverly Moss Spatt, the Chair of the LPC in the mid-1970s, brought Norman on board at the agency in 1974 and shortly thereafter named her executive director. Norman oversaw the first comprehensive survey to identify structures and districts worthy of preservation and also established programs to salvage archaeological artifacts from construction sites. After leaving the Landmarks Preservation Commission she served as director of intergovernmental affairs at the Department of Buildings; in retirement she co-chaired the Preservation Committee of Community Board 7 on the Upper West Side. Lenore Norman died in December 2012 at the age of 83.

Ada Louise Huxtable, one of the most prominent architecture critics, virtually invented the field of architectural journalism

in the early 1960s. She wrote for *The New York Times* until 1982, when she left to accept a MacArthur Fellowship. She later became the architecture critic at *The Wall Street Journal*. Huxtable aimed her critical eye and sharp wit not merely at the details of individual buildings, but at their relationship to the cityscape and society at large. This perspective led her to frequently write about preservation issues in her columns, beginning in the early 1960s when she argued the merits of preservation in numerous editorials as the New York City Landmarks Law was being debated. In 1966, she mourned the demolition of Penn Station in an elegiac column titled "A Vision of Rome Dies." Her last published column, "Undertaking Its Destruction," featured in *The Wall Street Journal* on December 3, 2012, denounces a proposal to alter the New York Public Library's landmark-designated main building at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. Huxtable died at 91 in January 2013.

When he was 10 years old, **Richard Anderson** volunteered at the then-nascent South Street Seaport Museum, where he developed a lifelong desire to rescue the decaying ships of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Although Anderson went on to establish a successful career in banking and the arts, his great passion for historic vessels led him to embark on a tireless effort to restore the *SS Columbia*. One of two remaining excursion steamships from the turn of the twentieth century, the

SS Columbia is a National Historic Landmark, currently unused and deteriorating at dock in Detroit, Michigan. Anderson established the not-for-profit *SS Columbia Project*, which purchased the ship in 2006 and has since been raising funds to restore the vessel and relocate it to New York City. The project aims to reinstate the ship for excursions on the Hudson River, so as to serve as an educational and cultural resource for the City and the Hudson Valley. Unfortunately, Anderson passed away in January 2013 at the age of 50, before his project came to fruition. The *SS Columbia Project* vows to continue its mission to restore the ship and bring her to New York in honor of Richard Anderson.

A founding director of FRIENDS of the Upper East Side Historic Districts, and its president for over 20 years, **Anne Millard** was the spirited leader of one of New York City's strongest neighborhood preservation not-for-profits. Taking the torch from FRIENDS' first president, Halina Rosenthal, Millard continued efforts to preserve the architectural legacy, livability, and sense of place of the neighborhood she called home. Her warmth and cheerful disposition made her an effective advocate. An ardent preservationist, she was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Preservation League of New York State and a member of the Board of Directors of the Park Avenue Armory. Millard, age 78, passed away on April 14, 2013. ■

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.

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New Guide & Grant!

Since last fall the Archive Project has hosted two interactive workshops to educate local preservation not-for-profits on the importance of their organizational records, including assistance in the identification and management of their archival resources. Participants were offered the opportunity to speak with archival professionals about specific needs and learn the basics of proper records management. They were also able to network with similarly-sized groups from across the five boroughs, learning how other groups have begun to implement the archival process.

These sessions were stimulating and enlightening, and raised issues that led to the creation of an **Archival Resources Guide**. This guide delves into such issues as the development and maintenance of an archive, general collection care, digital preservation, and sources of funding. This guide will soon be made available on the Archive Project website.

Now the Archive Project is excited to announce the next step in our Outreach, Education & Technical Assistance Initiative. Due to the generosity of the Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation and the Windie Knowe Fund, the Archive Project has established a re-granting program entitled the **Archival Assistance Fund**. This fund will assist not-for-profit preservation-related organizations in identifying and maintaining their archival resources and organizational documents. Grants may be used to help support such projects as hiring an archival consultant, creating an archival policy, performing a survey of archival collections, increasing public accessibility to collections, collection digitization, or purchasing archival supplies and materials. With this fund specifically targeted to the preservation community, the Archive Project hopes to instill a lasting archival mindset in the New York City preservation civic sector.

Stay tuned for updates on this grant program, including information on how to apply. For more details please contact Matthew Coody at mcoody@nypap.org or 212-988-8379.

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), 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.