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SPRING 2010

Welcome to the twelfth 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.

Chairman's Column: It's Your Memory. It's Our History. It's Worth Saving.

by Anthony C. Wood

Winston Churchill is credited with the observation "History is written by the victors." Whether it be the victors or the vanquished, history is less likely to be written if the documents and memories needed to tell the story have been lost. That's why the New York Preservation Archive Project does what it does: preserve, document, and celebrate the history of preservation in New York City.

How likely is it that the story of your preservation organization, your designation campaign, your battle to save a threatened site, or your revitalization of a historic place is going to make it into some future account of NYC preservation history? Will new residents in your neighborhood appreciate your hard-won historic district designation, or will they take it for granted, thereby jeopardizing the future of the district? (As we know, vigilance is the price of preservation.) Will the lessons you learned in successfully saving a landmarked site go with you to the grave, or will they be available to instruct a new generation of preservationists? Shouldn't future generations be able to benefit from our successes and failures?

As we enter the forty-fifth anniversary year of the passage of our landmarks law (April 19, 2010 to April 18, 2011), the Archive Project is making it easier than ever for you to capture your preservation story. This spring we are

unveiling Landmarks45.org, a website devoted to this anniversary. Landmarks45.org will serve as a community meeting place for the preservation community and gather media from across the web in one location. It also has two elements specifically designed to let you begin to preserve your preservation memories.

First, you can share your pictures and documents, participate in conversations, and tell your own preservation stories. In June of 1978, were you on the Landmark Express to Washington, D.C. for the arguments in front of the Supreme Court in the Penn Central Case? Tell us what it was like. Were you at the August 1981 demolition of the famous Biltmore Hotel? Did you take pictures? Post them online.

The second way to get your preservation history "on record" is to help us construct a chronology of preservation events since the passage of the law. Go to our interactive, wiki-style chronology where you can log in the date, place, and details of an event in preservation's history that you feel should be captured for the record. This is the chance to record both personal and organizational accomplishments. If your organization was founded post-1965, make sure its birthday is on the timeline. Did you produce an important preservation publication like "End of the Road for Ladies' Mile?" Add its publica-

tion date to the chronology. What about red-letter days in your efforts to preserve a particular place? This is not the time to hide your light under a bushel basket.

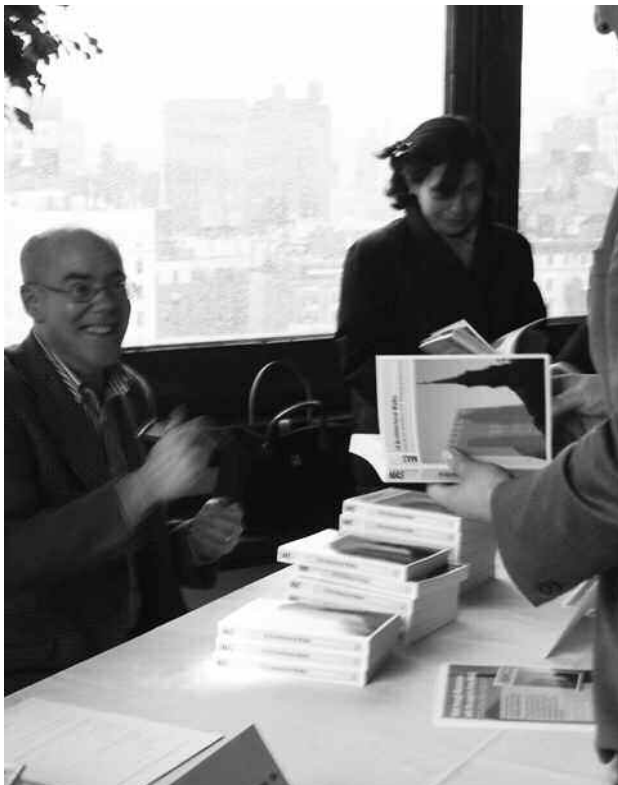
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An example of the kind of photograph to be shared on Landmarks45.org, this image features Brendan Gill (New York Landmarks Conservancy), Felicia Dryden (New York Landmarks Conservancy), and Anthony C. Wood (Municipal Art Society) on a visit to the New York Architectural Terra Cotta Office in Queens. c. 1981-1983. Photograph courtesy of Anthony C. Wood.

Morrone Speaks at Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit

The Archive Project's sixth annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit was held on December 9, 2009. Guests braved the rain and wind to join us at the Manhattan Penthouse for breakfast, coffee, and the insights of architectural historian Francis Morrone, whose new book, *Ten Architectural Walks in Manhattan*, was just published by W.W. Norton. The ever gracious Otis Pratt Pearsall delivered the introduction. Mr. Morrone's fascinating and entertaining lecture explored the impact of the walking tour as a preservation tool and prompted an equally interesting question-and-answer session. Guests also enjoyed the view from the seventeenth floor of the Manhattan Penthouse.



Francis Morrone signs copies of Ten Architectural Walks in Manhattan after the Bard Breakfast. Photograph by Hannah Brehm.

Preservation History Database Update

The Archive Project's online database of preservation history continues to grow. We've recently published new entries on Carnegie Hall, Adolph Placzek, Elliot Willensky, and the Charleston Historic District in South Carolina. We've also been working to revise, refine, and update some of our previously published records.

The goal of the NYPAP Preservation History Database is to provide an overview of a place, person, organization, or law that has influenced preservation in New York City, and then direct researchers to archival and primary source resources. If you have a suggestion for a topic that should be included in the database or know of any interesting archival holdings, please contact NYPAP Administrator Laura Pedersen at lpedersen@nypap.org.

Many thanks to all who attended and supported NYPAP at this great event. Special recognition goes to those donors on the 10th Anniversary Committee and the Benefit Committee:

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Chairman's Column (continued from page 1)

In the great span of history, 45 years doesn't seem like much, yet it doesn't take long for people to forget. Not long ago I mentioned the name of Halina Rosenthal to a young preservationist and received a blank stare. How can we expect newcomers to the field to know of, benefit from, or be inspired by preservation's own heroes and heroines if that legacy has not been documented or preserved? If that history isn't captured now, it is at risk of being lost forever. If you don't help us preserve it, who will?

Remember: "It's your memory. It's our history. It's worth saving."

Visit LANDMARKS45.ORG in early April to learn about upcoming events, share your stories and photographs, contribute to a "People's History of Preservation," and connect with other preservationists celebrating our landmarks law.

If you'd like assistance in using the website or digitizing your papers or photographs, please contact the NYPAP Administrator at 212-988-8379 or lpedersen@nypap.org.

Margot Gayle's Papers Donated to the New-York Historical Society

We are delighted to announce that NYPAP's small but significant Margot Gayle preservation collection has been donated to the New-York Historical Society and will become part of their permanent collection.

As we reported in our Spring 2009 newsletter, NYPAP, along with representatives from the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Pratt Institute, was called to Margot Gayle's apartment in October 2008 to assist in preserving and transporting some of Margot's documents. Since then, we've stored this correspondence and photographs in our small office while creating an inventory of the materials, which consists of correspondence and almost 1,000 photographs of New York and other cities. NYPAP has also worked to develop a searchable online database of Margot Gayle's photographs, which will launch later this spring at nypap.org/gayle.

We are thrilled to pass along these files to the knowledgeable archivists at the New-York Historical Society, where they will be safely housed and made available to researchers. In fact, the NYHS already holds a group of papers relating to Margot's later advocacy; the papers donated by NYPAP, which focus on her preservation work before 1970, will complement this collection. Researchers wishing to view the Margot Gayle archive should contact the Society at 212-873-3400 or nyhistory.org.



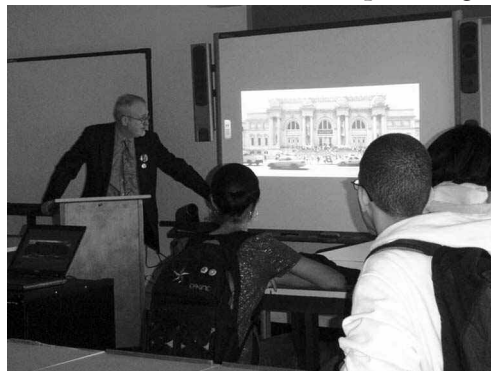
One of over nine hundred photographs taken by Margot Gayle that will soon be available on nypap.org. This view of the Brooklyn Bridge is dated January 19, 1968.

Preservation Education with the Archive Project

Part of NYPAP's mission is to inspire preservationists to celebrate the history of the preservation movement. But we also aim to educate the general public on the importance of historic preservation in shaping our communities and cities. By working with local schools and universities, NYPAP helps spread the message of preservation and historical scholarship to students and educators from different academic disciplines and backgrounds.

In December 2009, NYPAP founder and Chair Anthony C. Wood visited the Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, to deliver a guest lecture on preservation history to a group of enthusiastic students. WHSAD is dedicated to preparing students for university study with a focus on architecture and engineering.

This spring, NYPAP is also working with the Pratt Institute's graduate program in Historic Preservation to conduct oral history interviews with key figures in New York City preservation history. Students in the Public History class taught by Jeanne Houck will interview a diverse group of preservationists on specific topics. The students learn how to prepare for and conduct oral histories while assisting NYPAP in its mission of documenting New York's preservation movement. This partnership is a continuation of a successful program that began in the fall of 2007 and has since captured the memories of a dozen preservationists.



Tony Wood speaks to students at WHSAD in Brooklyn. Photograph by Amy Freitag.

This year's interviewees include: Oliver Allen (TriBeCa), Herbert Broderick (the Upper West Side), Mosette Broderick (the Villard Houses and the Coogan Building), Dr. Lawrence Cohn (Central Park West), Carole de Saram (TriBeCa), Edward Kirkland (the West Chelsea Historic District), and Joseph Rosenberg (Brooklyn Heights). Interview transcripts will be available online at nypap.org/oralhistories.

The Archive Project's internship program also continues to help undergraduate and graduate students explore the cultural, legal, and professional legacy of the historic preservation movement. Four students are participating during the Spring 2010 semester: Lucas Berman, a junior studying at New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized Study; Caroline Corley, a sophomore American Studies major at Columbia University; Inna Guzenfeld, a graduate student in the Pratt Institute's Historic Preservation program; and Ann Hackett, a senior Art History major at New York University.

Finally, we are thrilled to announce that former NYPAP intern Marlee Busching has been accepted to New York University's new graduate program in Historical and Sustainable Architecture. We wish her the best of luck in her emerging preservation career!

The Archive Project thanks the following supporters for their generous contributions in 2009:

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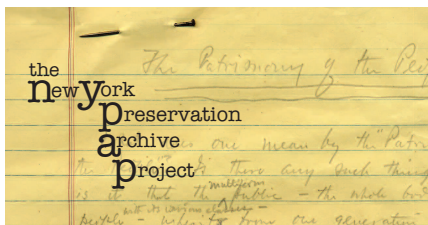
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The New York Preservation Archive Project is a not-for-profit organization, and we depend on contributions to continue our work. We hope you'll consider making a donation to support the documentation and celebration of the history of preservation in New York City.



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