



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Anthony C. Wood, Chair
 Eric Allison, Vice-Chair
 Stephen Facey, Treasurer
 Lisa Ackerman, Secretary
 Michele H. Bogart
 Joseph M. Ciccone
 Susan De Vries
 Margaret Ferguson
 Amy Freitag
 Elizabeth R. Jeffe
 Shirley Ferguson Jenks
 Otis Pratt Pearsall
 Duane A. Watson

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

Welcome to the thirteenth 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.



Save the Date!

Join Us for the 7th Annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit

The Seventh Annual Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit will soon be upon us! As a fitting tribute to what would have been Albert S. Bard's 144th Birthday, we are celebrating with a talk by Roberta Brandes Gratz at the Manhattan Penthouse on December 1, 2010. Reflecting upon her decades-long friendship with the late Jane Jacobs, Gratz will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the research she completed for her recently published book, *The Battle for Gotham: New York in the Shadow of Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses*. Utilizing her own extensive body of work and the many interviews she conducted with the city's key thinkers, preservationists and planners, Gratz has created an intimate account of New York's urban transformation and an analysis of how other cities might learn from its rebirth.

Roberta Brandes Gratz is an award-winning journalist, urban critic, international lecturer, and author of three books on urban

development issues. A former reporter for the *New York Post*, Ms. Gratz has also written articles for the *Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Nation*, *Tikkun*, *Planning Magazine*, *Newsday*, the *Daily News*, and *Planning Commissioners Journal*. In addition to serving on various planning and preservation boards, Ms. Gratz was appointed to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission by Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2003.

Your support at our annual benefit will support NYPAP's efforts to record and document the history of the preservation movement in New York City. And this year your gift will have an even greater impact by helping us meet a one-to-one \$15,000 matching grant from the Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation. We are very excited about this upcoming event and sincerely hope you will join us on December 1st! ■

Bard Birthday Breakfast Benefit 2010

December 1, 2010
 8:30 am – 10:00 am

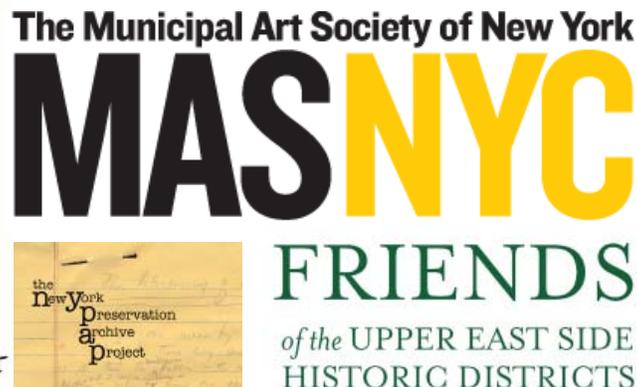
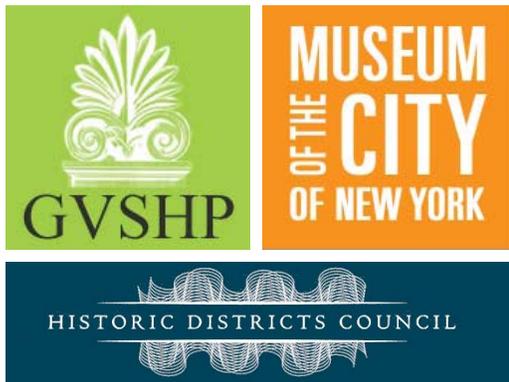
Manhattan Penthouse
 80 Fifth Avenue
 New York City

Tickets:

Benefit Committee Tickets: \$250
Benefit Tickets: \$125
Student Tickets: \$65

To purchase tickets or if you have any questions about the event, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew Coody at the NYPAP office:
 mcoody@nypap.org
 or
 212-988-8379.

Your support for NYPAP and its programs is greatly appreciated.



Chairman's Column: We're Not Alone!

Anthony C. Wood

Over ten years ago, when the New York Preservation Archive Project first started to beat its drum for the preservation, documentation, and celebration of the history of preservation activity in New York, we were very “out there.” With the exception of a few anniversary moments, it was not part of the culture of preservationists or of preservation organizations to devote resources or energy to capturing their own history. Preservation’s narrative was at best an underperforming asset, (not being used to help inform, educate or inspire the movement) and at worse a wasting asset (being lost with the passage of time). Certainly, no one was “sweating the asset.”

Fast forward to 2010. I’m happy to report we are no longer alone in our appreciation of preservation’s history. The culture of preservation is indeed changing. Others are seeing its importance: they are helping to document and preserve it and are using the preservation narrative to inspire and inform the movement. This is a movement that is beginning to value its own history. Though NYPAP cannot take credit for the exciting work that has begun to take place, we would like to think that our beating of that drum for the past decade has perhaps inspired some of the new energy being used to tell preservation’s story.

That story is now unfolding in some exciting ways, one of which is through the Web. Whether it is the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation’s web feature, “Remembering the Pioneers of Greenwich Village Preservation,” or Landmark West’s website with its special section documenting

its history of advocacy campaigns, preservation history is “going viral.” The latest entry is a wonderful new feature in the Municipal Art Society’s web updates, “From the Archive.” The September 8 edition featured a 1936 Christmas Eve letter from Robert Moses to then MAS president Electus D. Litchfield. Indeed, as part of its recent relocation, MAS brought in a professional to offer advice on the organization’s archives and that collection is now in the capable hands of Kathy O’Callaghan, Manager of the MAS Archives.

The importance of recording the preservation dimension of larger historic narratives is also being discovered. The Museum of the City of New York’s major exhibit, “America’s Mayor: John V. Lindsay and the Reinvention of New York,” not only addresses Lindsay’s preservation legacy but a related special program, “Lindsay’s Forgotten Preservation Legacy: Air Rights and the Strengthening of the Landmarks Law,” puts preservation’s history front and center.

Another example of the growing appreciation of preservation’s history - and the need to document and preserve it - is the opening on September 23rd of the Historic Preservation Law Archive at Pace University School of Law Library as the home of the collected papers of Dorothy Miner, a NYPAP Board member and supporter, and a seminal player in the last several decades of preservation in New York City (see story on page 3). Thanks to the assistance of Dorothy’s brothers, Richard and Robert Miner, as well as Nick Robinson, Dorothy’s teaching colleague at Pace, the Pace Law Library and Pace’s Environmental

Law Program, Dorothy’s invaluable papers now have a permanent home. Too often, as families, friends, or associates have had to deal with the possessions of a departed preservationist, the path of least resistance has been the one leading to the dumpster. The creation of the Historic Preservation Law Archive to preserve Dorothy’s papers is a model for how to save precious primary resources. May this effort inspire many imitators!

As a small organization, with a tiny treasury and the huge ambition of documenting, preserving and celebrating the history of preservation, NYPAP early on embraced the “Tom Sawyer” business model. We seek to inspire, cajole and in all ways possible, recruit others to “paint the fence” for us. Preservation’s history is a big fence belonging to us all and it will take all of our combined efforts to get it painted!

It is gratifying to see the culture of preservation beginning to evolve to include a greater recognition and appreciation of the value of preservation’s history. Creative efforts like those mentioned above are emerging. If you are aware of other such examples please let us know so that we can share them as models. If you are contemplating taking on a project – large or small – that involves the history of the preservation story, and you need some help or advice, we are here to assist you. We love to partner on programs and archival initiatives.

We’re no longer alone and it feels great! Come paint the fence with us! ■

New Archive Opens!

Historic Preservation Law Archive Honors the Memory of Dorothy Miner



Pace Law School, courtesy of Pace University

NYPAP is excited to announce the official opening of the Historic Preservation Law Archive at Pace Law School. Established by Richard and Robert Miner, in honor of their sister, Dorothy Marie Miner, the archive will house Dorothy's collected papers, a gift of the Miner Family to Pace University.

As a pillar of the preservation world, legal counsel to the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission for 20 years, and professor of preservation law at Columbia and Pace, Dorothy has left a trove of papers with unmatched insight into the inner legal workings of the New York landmarks law during its first 50 years. Perhaps what will prove most valuable to scholars of Dorothy's work is her unique approach to applying and advancing the landmarks law during her long tenure at the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Dorothy Miner's untimely death in 2008 saddened everyone who had the pleasure of working with her and learning from her. The many students she taught inevitably recall her extensive knowledge, dedication and tremendous generosity in sharing this knowledge of the field she loved so dearly. Although Dorothy is irreplaceable, the archiving of her papers at Pace Law School

will help future generations of scholars, lawyers and preservationists achieve some sense of the preservation powerhouse that was Dorothy Miner. NYPAP has a special affinity for Dorothy, one of our earliest and longest-serving board members. She shared intensely in our mission to preserve, document and celebrate the history of preservation, realizing that this is essential for preservation's *future*. While we all miss Dorothy dearly, this archive will help to keep her passion, knowledge and generosity alive for those who will follow in her footsteps.

Thanks go to Dorothy's brothers, Richard and Robert Miner, as well as Pace Law School, and especially to Professor Nicholas A. Robinson, Dorothy's colleague at Pace, for their instrumental roles in the preservation of Dorothy's papers and the creation of this archive for the education of generations to come. ■



Dorothy Miner at the 2005 NYPAP Bard Benefit; from the NYPAP Collections



In Memoriam:

Robert Kornfeld, Sr.

Historic District Pioneer Dies at 91

Robert J. Kornfeld, Sr., instrumental in creating the Riverdale Historic District, passed away in Inwood on August 23, 2010. Co-author of the book *Landmarks of the Bronx* and chairman of the Bronx Landmarks Task Force, Bob Kornfeld was passionate about preserving the Bronx, and in particular, Riverdale, the neighborhood he called home for 56 years. "He felt that Riverdale was so beautiful and that it shouldn't be changed. It meant so much to him that he was an important part of Riverdale," Celia Kornfeld, Bob's widow, told *The Riverdale Press* shortly after his death. In 1967, after watching for a decade as his idyllic Riverdale slowly become overwhelmed by apartment buildings and institutional development, Kornfeld began a personal quest to designate a portion of Riverdale as a historic district. Singlehandedly performing much of the research at various city archives, Bob would later distinctly recall the thrill of stumbling across treasure troves of information at these collections. After more than 20 years of hard work, Kornfeld convinced the Landmarks Preservation Commission of Riverdale's merits. The Riverdale Historic District was designated in 1990 for its "picturesque, physical interrelationship" of houses and because it is the "earliest known railroad suburb within New York City and as such is a rare surviving suburban development." The fact that Riverdale remains beautifully intact is Bob Kornfeld's great legacy to the city of New York. The Archive Project was lucky enough to work with Shannon Haltiwanger from Pratt Institute's Historic Preservation Program on an oral history with Bob in 2007. This is one of the only such oral histories to document his significant role in the preservation world. A full obituary can be found in the September 1, 2010 issue of *The Riverdale Press*. To share your memories of Mr. Kornfeld, please visit the Memory Collection Project on our website. ■

Recent Publications

Read Up on the Latest in Preservation Scholarly Work

NYPAP is excited to announce the publication of three fascinating works on the history of preservation in New York City. PDFs of these works, and others, can be found on the NYPAP website under the "Library" tab. Enjoy!

Marjorie Pearson has recently completed *New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (1962-1999): Paradigm for Changing Attitudes Towards Historic Preservation*, with the help of a Samuel H. Kress Mid-Career Grant Study and funding by the James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation. This comprehensive work describes and analyzes the history of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission while setting it within a larger national context. Beginning with the pre-1965 Advisory Commission, Pearson chronicles the establishment of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, its years of expansion, its subsequent period of siege, and finally, its coming of age in the last decade of the twentieth-century. Pearson uses her insider's experience as director of research at the LPC from 1978 to 1999 to describe these changes with a uniquely personal touch. Among the many issues analyzed, Pearson discusses the social and cultural issues that shaped the Commission, using the various chairmen as focal points. This work is an invaluable contribution to the history of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Another recent publication with a focus on the Landmarks Preservation Commission is Benjamin Baccash's *Enforcement and the New York City Landmarks Law: Past, Present, and Future*. Baccash completed his groundbreaking thesis while earning a Master of Science in Historic Preservation degree at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation. In his study, Baccash questions the efficacy of the LPC's enforcement of the New York City Landmarks Law. Although the law is generally regarded as one of the most powerful in the nation, Baccash argues that the law's power depends on the strongest possible enforcement at the LPC. Thoroughly detailed in the work is the

history and evolution of LPC enforcement, comparing this body's policies to other locales' preservation ordinances and, interestingly, federal environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act. Various case studies - such as the Lenox Hill Brownstones and the Windemere - are also discussed as real world examples of enforcement in action. Baccash concludes this comprehensive work with suggestions on how enforcement of the Landmarks Law may be improved for the future. NYPAP is proud to share this important resource with the preservation community.

Last but not least is Martin L. Schneider's *Battling for Brooklyn Heights*, a compelling eye-witness account of the passionate grassroots effort to protect one of the city's most architecturally beautiful neighborhoods - the area that would become New York City's first historic district. While highly specific to Brooklyn Heights, Schneider also ties the battle into the larger context of Brooklyn in the 1960s, addressing divisive issues like urban renewal, slum clearance and the need for middle-income housing. Also detailed are the rise of reform politics in Brooklyn, growing real estate pressures, the debate over providing quality public education, and the battles between those who used Brooklyn Heights as their campaign grounds. Even at present, with more than 100 historic districts in New York City, preservationists and passionate citizens inevitably face the same hurdles that challenged Schneider and his cohorts years ago in attempting to protect their favorite corners of the city. NYPAP's hope is that through Schneider's narrative, today's concerned activists may gain inspiration for their own battles, and in the end, achieve equal levels of success. We also hope that this story will provide motivation for those of you who have made - or are making - preservation history to capture your story on tape or in writing. ■

If you know of a recently completed publication that you think would interest NYPAP, please do not hesitate to contact our offices!



The Municipal Building, January 19, 1968; from the Margot Gayle Collection



Brooklyn Heights; from the Collections of NYPAP



Clay Lancaster escorting members of the Community Conservation and Improvement Council on an architectural tour of Brooklyn Heights, New York; photo by Carroll Cline, April 7, 1959.



Landmarks45 Blog & Website

Rendering of the proposed 15 Penn Plaza Building, courtesy of Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects

NYPAP's website continues to evolve! Please bear with us as we update and transfer all of our preservation resources to our new website. Also, Anthony C. Wood's Landmarks45 blog continues to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the New York City landmarks law with intriguing posts on the past 45 years of landmarking. Following here is an excerpt of a recent post that caused quite a stir:

"The recent controversy over 15 Penn Plaza, the Pelli Clarke Pelli planned addition to the NYC skyline, raises many interesting questions. One that has not been raised but should be of particular interest to us, is: "Why the preservation community was so silent for so long on an issue with such a clear impact on one of NYC's most iconic buildings and on the city's skyline?" It appears that it was only after the powerful (though sadly not powerful enough) owners of the Empire State Building reached out that the preservation community logged in. Correct me if I'm wrong on that. Why wasn't this a bigger issue for preservationists? Did people decide to keep their "powder dry" knowing of the Mayor's support for the project and the unlikelihood of having any impact on it? Or, was it that as a community we have been so locked into the limits of our existing set of preservation tools that a threat of this nature wasn't even perceived as a preservation issue? At

the moment it appears (and again jump in with a correction if you feel otherwise) that NYC does not have in place an effective mechanism to address the question of the preservation of iconic scenic views...Shouldn't New York have a less unwieldy mechanism than a last-minute "Hail Mary" pass at the City Council to address an issue as important as the future of the city's skyline? The New York Times in its editorial on the subject at least suggested some sort of "larger development plan for the entire area" was needed. Aren't historic scenic views and the shape of the skyline issues of aesthetics that should fall under the purview of some appropriate city agency? Do they currently have the status they need to given serious consideration?...Can the threat to the Empire State Building and the skyline lead to some new thinking about scenic views, the skyline, and a better way to manage changes to them? The owners of the Empire State Building proposed a 17 block "no go" zone around the building. Interestingly, in an early iteration, the draft of our landmarks law included a 400 foot protective zone around landmarks over which the Commission would have jurisdiction. Though understandably the efforts of the owners of the Empire State Building to preserve its iconic status may be seen as being self interested, the owners have done New York City the great favor of raising to public attention a much larger issue—the city's apparent lack of an appropriate forum in which such important issues

can be meaningfully addressed. Finding a better way to debate, manage, and regulate changes to NYC's historic view sheds, scenic views, and aspects of the skyline remains on the "to do" list for the civic community. It should be high on the list of preservationists. Does some existing agency need to step up to the plate and exercise authority they already have? Is new authority needed? Have we lost the ability earlier generations of civic leaders had to dream of improving the city's ability to shape its future? That ability led to the Landmarks Law and its strengthening. Is it time to dream again? Can we still dream? Let's hope so. If New York is going to have 15 Penn Plaza thrust into its skyline (which seems to be the case unless some unknown variable comes into play), it should at least go down in the history books as the building that led New York to invent a way to conserve its iconic scenic view sheds and world-famous skyline." ■

Please visit the NYPAP website at:

www.nypap.org

Please visit the Landmarks45 blog at:

www.landmarks45.org

NYPAP News

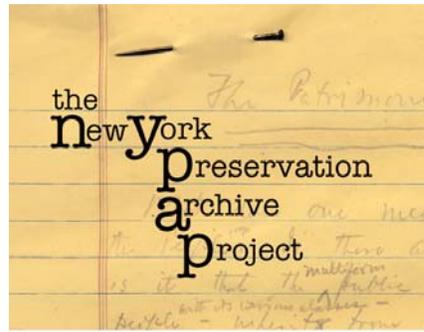
NYPAP is pleased to welcome Elizabeth R. Jeffe to the Board of Directors. Ms. Jeffe – a journalist, editor, and adjunct professor of writing at Marymount Manhattan College – has always maintained a deep interest in New York City history and was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She has already proven to be an invaluable asset to our organization.

Due to a new position as Campaign Associate at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, Laura Pedersen has stepped down as Administrator of NYPAP. A much deserved thanks for all the amazing work Laura did for the Archive Project, especially her untiring devotion to bringing NYPAP into the technological future with its new website. We wish her all the best for her future success.

NYPAP would like to welcome Matthew Coody as the new Administrator. Mr. Coody is a recent graduate of the Columbia University Historic Preservation program and is currently also working at Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts.

NYPAP is excited to announce that we are one huge step closer to launching a new oral history project that will prove to be an essential resource for anyone studying the history of New York City preservation. Stay tuned for further developments over the next few months.

NYPAP would like to thank the New York State Council on the Arts, the J. M. Kaplan Fund, the New York Community Trust's Windie Knowe Fund, and the Robert A. and Elizabeth R. Jeffe Foundation for their recent grants. Our work here at NYPAP could not be done without their generous contributions.



The New York Preservation Archive Project is a non-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 2009:

Institutions

New York State Council on the Arts
National Trust for Historic Preservation's John E. Streb
Fund for New York
J.M. Kaplan Fund

Individuals

Anonymous
Lisa Ackerman
Dr. Jeanne Adair
Daniel J. Allen
Eric W. Allison
Charlotte P. Armstrong
Hunter F. Armstrong
Jan C.K. Anderson
Elizabeth Ashby
Anthony Badalamenti
Melissa E. Baldock
Simeon Bankoff
George Beane
Fred & Claire Beckhardt
Barry Benape
William L. Bernhard
Anne D. Bernstein
Thomas J. Bess
Minor Bishop
Leo Blackman & Kenneth Monteiro
Frederick Bland
Louis Blumengarten
Agnes Bogart
Michele H. Bogart
Peg Breen
Brooklyn Heights Association
Neal A. Brown
Bonnie Burnham
George Calderaro
Jennifer Cappeto
Marvin A. Carlson
Carnegie Hill Neighbors
Helen Chin
Thomas S. Chittenden
Joseph M. Ciccone
Carol Clark
Robert Clark

Dr. Lawrence J. Cohn
Jane Cowan
Linda Cox
George A. Davidson
Joan K. Davidson
Suzanne Davis
Susan De Vries
Georgia Delano
Britt Densmore
Michael Devonshire
John Morris Dixon
Andrew S. Dolkart
Frances & David Eberhart
Stephanie Eisenberg
Gretchen Gayle Ellsworth
Mamie Eng
Richard Estes
Stephen Facey
Nicholas Falco
Monica Feltson
Margaret Ferguson
Wendy Feuer
Ken Fisher
Thomas M. Fontana
Janet Foster
Amy Freitag
Ann Walker Gaffney & Bronson
Binger
Barry H. Garfinkel
Carol Gayle
Richard A. George
Gerald Goldberg
Diana Goldstein
Vera Julia Gordon
Beatrice Gottlieb
Roberta Brandes Gratz
Susan Zises Green
Lisa Greenwald
Paul W. Gunther
David Paul Helpern, FAIA
May Ellen & Damon Hern
Cecilia Holzman
Gordon Hyatt
Anna B. Iacucci
Marion Jaye
Jan Hird Pokorny Associates
Shirley Ferguson Jenks
Pamela Jerome, AIA LEED AP

Susan Henshaw Jones
David I. Karabell
Melissa Elstein & Eric Katzman
Hilary Kitasci
Mary Knapp
Deborah M. & Peter Krulewicz
Judith M. LaBelle
Alexia Lalli
George S. Leibson
Brenda Levin
Mimi Levitt
James S.J. Liao
Barbara & Herbert Levy
Ken M. Lustbader
James R. MacDonald
Margaret M. Madden
Sanford Malter
David & Jeanne Martowski
Susan Mathisen
George McDaniel
Liz McEaney
Walter B. Melvin, Architect
Pauline Metcalf
George & Susan Meyer
Barbara Michaels
Hayley Mines
Edward T. Mohylowski
Nathaniel H. Morison III
Robert Motzkin
Richard J. Moylan
Christopher Neville
Nicholson & Galloway, Inc.
Caroline Niemczyk
Gene A. Norman
Frederick H. Osborn III
John Oddy
Jason Fisher
Everett Ortner
Kate Burns Ottavino
Melissa Pandolfi
Otis & Nancy Pearsall
Peter Pennoyer Architects
Richard Pieper
Platt Byard Dovell White Architects, LLP
James Stewart Polshek
Warrie Lynn Price
Nicholas Quennell

David Fitch Remington
Genie & Donald Rice
Aaron Rose
Annette Rosen
Joseph S. Rosenberg
Gary Scharfman
Christopher Schepis
Martin L. Schneider
Nancy E. Schuh
Deborah Schwartz
Lisa Semple
Whitney North Seymour, Jr., Esq.
Arlene & Bruce Simon
Richard Southwick
Thomas E. Spath
Kate Wood & David Sprouls
Susan W. Stachelberg
Robert A.M. Stern
Bruce P. Stevens
Howard L. Stevens
Meryl Stoller
John H. Stubbs
Joseph V. Svechak
Jean Tatge
Jack Taylor
Gary Tomei
Sophia L. Truslow
Helen S. Tucker
Susan Tunick
Anne H. Van Ingen
Alexander R. Veress
D'juro Villaran-Rokovich
Bethany Wall
Areta Swartz Warren
Duane A. Watson
Suzanne Welles
Margot Wellington
Clark & Diane Whelton
Michael D.D. White, Esq.
Marilyn B. Wilson
Anne Whitman
Kevin & Alexandra Wolfe
Anthony C. Wood
Sheryl Woodruff
George W. Young
Linda Yowell
Lloyd P. Zuckerberg
F. Anthony Zunino III

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.

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.