



NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman

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STEINWAY HALL INTERIOR STRIKES A CHORD WITH THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

First-Floor Reception Room and Hallway of Famed Piano Manufacturer's Showroom on West 57th Street Named New York City's 116th Interior Landmark



The Landmarks Preservation Commission today gave unanimous approval to the interior landmark designation of the lavish first-floor reception room and an adjacent hallway at Steinway Hall, the landmark office building at 109 West 57th St. commissioned by the piano manufacturer to house its showrooms and headquarters.

Completed in 1925, the 16-story office building and reception room were designed by Walter L. Hopkins, an architect with the celebrated firm of Warren and Wetmore,

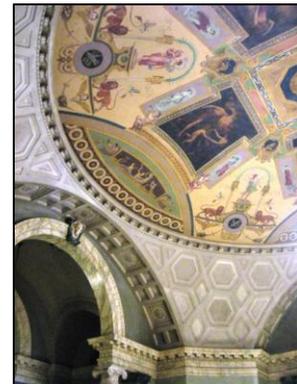
which was responsible for some of the city's best-known buildings, such as Grand Central Terminal. Steinway Hall was named a City landmark in 2001.



The neo-Renaissance style reception room, which is visible from the street, served as a circulation hub where Steinway representatives met musicians, visitors and potential customers before escorting them to the piano showrooms or to the "piano bank," where musicians select instruments needed for a concert or tour. The space consists of a double-height, octagonal rotunda featuring a crystal chandelier hanging from a domed ceiling decorated with hand-painted allegorical murals of nymphs, goddesses, animals and musical instruments. White marble arches that rest on fluted Ionic columns flanked by green marble pilasters are set within large four arched walls and linked by a continuous marble cornice.



"Given how little it's has changed over the years and the incredible talent it's served, the rotunda is a monument not only to architecture and music, but also Steinway & Sons itself," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "It's one of the most sumptuous retail spaces in New York City and has remained remarkably intact for nearly 90 years."



Although a large, glass door separates the south side of the rotunda from the hallway, the rotunda and the hallway read as one continuous space because of the use of similar architectural elements and materials.

Steinway & Sons, which was founded in New York City in 1853 and went on to become one of the most famous piano makers in the world, sold the building to the Manhattan Life Insurance Co. in 1958, and leased it for 40 years before buying it back in 1999 and selling it in June 2013 to JDS Development Group, the current owner.

To qualify for interior landmark status, a space must be at least 30 years old, architecturally, historically or architecturally significant and be customarily accessible by the public. The space comprising the Steinway Hall reception room and hallway is the City's 116th interior landmark, joining other renowned spaces such as the Rainbow Room and the lobbies of the Woolworth and Chrysler buildings.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the mayoral agency responsible for protecting and preserving New York City's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings and sites. Since its creation in 1965, LPC has granted landmark status to more than 31,000 buildings and sites, including 1,333 individual landmarks, 116 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks, 109 historic districts and 20 historic district extensions in all five boroughs. Under the City's landmarks law, considered among the most powerful in the nation, the Commission must be comprised of at least three architects, a historian, a realtor, a planner or landscape architect, as well as a representative of each borough.

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