

## STONEWALL INN

51-53 CHRISTOPHER STREET, MANHATTAN

BLOCK 610 / LOT 1 IN PART CONSISTING OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE BUILDINGS AT 51-53  
CHRISTOPHER STREET ARE SITUATED

BUILT: 1843 (51), 1846 (53); COMBINED WITH NEW FAÇADE, 1930

ARCHITECT: WILLIAM BAYARD WILLIS (1930)

ORIGINAL OWNER: A. VOORHIS (51), MARK SPENCER (53); HENRY S. HARPER (1930)

STYLE: ARTS & CRAFTS

ALTERATIONS: 1960S STONEWALL SIGN REMOVED, STORE ENTRANCE AT 51 WIDENED, HORIZONTAL  
SIGN AND RETRACTABLE AWNING (51) AND LIGHT FIXTURES (53) ADDED, WINDOWS AND DOORS  
REPLACED

ACTIONS: WITHIN GREENWICH VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT; LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
1997; NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK, 1999



*Stonewall Inn in 2014*



*Stonewall Inn in 1969*

The Stonewall Inn, the starting point of the Stonewall Rebellion, is one of the most important sites associated with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender history in New York City and the nation. On June 28, 1969 a police raid at this gay bar in Greenwich Village resulted in active resistance forcing the police to retreat into the bar, setting off five days of rioting and demonstrations with unprecedented cries for “gay pride” and “gay power.” The Stonewall uprising was the catalyst for a new more radical phase in the LGBT Liberation Movement. Within a few months, in direct response to Stonewall, several activist organizations were formed in New York City, including the Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Activists Alliance, Radicalesbians, and the Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries. Soon new organizations were being established across the U.S. and throughout the world to promote LGBT civil rights.

On June 28, 1970, the first anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion was commemorated as Christopher Street Liberation Day; the main event was a march from Greenwich Village to Central Park. That day, Pride marches were also held in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago. Those celebrations have since grown into the internationally-celebrated LGBT Pride Month, with events held annually throughout the world.

The two buildings that comprised the Stonewall Inn were originally built in the 1840s as stables and in 1930 were merged at the first story and given a unified façade. Their ground floor commercial space originally housed a bakery; in 1934 it was taken over by the Stonewall Inn Restaurant, and after a fire, reopened in 1967 as the Stonewall Inn, a gay club. They are within the Greenwich Village Historic District, which was designated on April 29, 1969 – just months before the Stonewall uprising. From the time of the Stonewall Rebellion the buildings still retain their brick cladding, arched entrances, small storefront windows, associated with LGBT bars of this era, and stuccoed upper stories. In recognition of the importance of the Stonewall Rebellion, which occurred post-designation of the Greenwich Village Historic District, and to ensure the preservation of the buildings' architectural features to this period of significance, the Commission is now considering the Stonewall Inn for designation as a New York City Landmark.