



**NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION
COMMISSION**

Robert B. Tierney
Chairman

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**CHELSEA ENCLAVE LINKED TO UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND 1863
DRAFT RIOTS NAMED A HISTORIC DISTRICT**

*Lamartine Place Is City's 22nd Historic District Formed Since 2003, Highest Number
Approved by Any Administration*

*East Village Rowhouse Tied to Noted Abolitionist and Prison Reformer, and a Former
Lower East Side Bank Also Given Landmark Status*

The Landmarks Preservation Commission today unanimously approved the designations of the Lamartine Place Historic District and the Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association at 110 Second Avenue and the S. Jarmulowsky Bank Building at 54 Canal St. as individual New York City landmarks.



"All of the buildings that received landmark protection today are closely associated with a number of important events and people who had an enormous impact on New York City's extraordinary history," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney.

The Lamartine Place Historic District consists of 12 rowhouses along the north side of West 29th Street between Eighth and Ninth avenues in Manhattan. One of the 12 buildings was a documented stop on the Underground

Railroad and was attacked during the Draft Riots of 1863. That building, 339 W. 29th Street, was owned by Abigail Hopper Gibbons, the daughter of noted abolitionist Isaac T. Hopper. Together, they established the Women's Prison Association, a prison reform organization that has since 1874 operated a halfway house for women and girls released from jail at 110 Second Ave., one the two landmarks approved this afternoon.

The second, the former S. Jarmulowsky Bank, remains one of the tallest and most distinctive buildings on the Lower East Side. It was constructed in 1912, when the neighborhood was considered the center of Jewish life in the United States, and the largest Jewish community in the world.

The Lamartine Place Historic District is the City's 98th historic district, and the 22nd created by the Commission since 2003, the highest number formed by any administration since the Commission was founded in 1965. Descriptions of the district and two buildings follow below:

Lamartine Place Historic District

Completed in 1847, the district's 12 buildings were part of a block-long row on West 29th Street that stretched between Eighth and Ninth avenues. The four and five-story brick rowhouses, designed predominantly in the Greek Revival style with Renaissance Revival style elements, were constructed by developers William Torrey and Cyrus Mason for middle-class families. The street was named after Alphonse de Lamartine, a French writer and politician who was active in the French Revolution of 1848, to distinguish it from the numbered street grid.

The rowhouses attracted a number of influential New Yorkers at the time, including Abigail Hopper Gibbons and her husband, James Sloan Gibbons, noted abolitionists who lived at 339 W. 29th Street from 1852 until 1866. Mrs. Gibbons was the daughter of Isaac T. Hopper, a Quaker prison reform advocate who helped escaped slaves in Philadelphia before moving to New York in 1829.

The Gibbons home was not only a meeting place for abolitionists, but also an established stop on the Underground Railroad, providing refuge to slaves fleeing to Canada. The Gibbonses were strong and well-known supporters of President Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, which they believed would bring an end to slavery. After President Lincoln delivered the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863, the Gibbonses draped 339 W. 29th Street in bunting, triggering an attack on the building by emancipation opponents.

In July 1863, four months after Congress enacted a national draft to increase the number of federal soldiers fighting in the war, a lottery held in New York to select new recruits touched off four days of riots in which hundreds of people were killed, and thousands injured. More than 100 buildings were destroyed by fire and another 200 damaged, including the Gibbons home, which was burned and ransacked. Two of the Gibbons daughters escaped the fire and mob by climbing over neighboring roofs to safety before escaping through 355 West 29th Street.

“This 19th-century enclave was an eyewitness to the dramatic events that shook New York City during the Draft Riots of 1863,” said Chairman Tierney. “One of the houses that was directly attacked was also a haven for fleeing slaves, and a home to the abolitionists who assisted them. It's a district that serves as a remarkable reminder of an important part the history of our City and nation.”

The Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association of New York



Located at 110 Second Ave. between East 6th and 7th streets, the Isaac T. Hopper Home is a three-story Greek Revival style rowhouse that was one of four built in 1838 for the extended family of Ralph Mead, a wealthy wholesale grocery merchant, when this section of Second Avenue was one of the most elite residential addresses in Manhattan.

The Women's Prison Association, a prison reform organization founded by Quaker abolitionists Isaac Tatem Hopper and his daughter, Abigail Hopper Gibbons, purchased the site in 1874, for use as a temporary shelter for women and girls released from prison. The facility, called the Isaac T. Hopper Home, was originally established in 1845 under another name and is considered the oldest halfway house for women in the world.

“The WPA’s mission of assisting former prisoners continues to this day inside of this striking early 19th century rowhouse,” said Chairman Tierney. “It’s one of a number of important institutions that opened in the East Village in the late 19th century.”

Some of the WPA’s successful reforms to the New York State prison system include the separation of first offenders from the general prison population; the creation of separate facilities for women, who had previously shared cells with men; legislation for a probation system for women; the formation of prison schools and the construction of a separate state prison for women in Bedford Hills, New York.

Clad in red brick, the Greek Revival-style building has a high stoop, an entrance with paneled double doors and a transom, long parlor-level windows and cast-iron balcony, and a denticulated cornice. The most distinctive feature is its brownstone portico with Ionic fluted columns that support an entablature. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

The S. Jarmulowsky Bank Building, 54 Canal St., southwest corner of Orchard Street

The 12-story, tripartite, neo-Renaissance style bank building was completed in 1912 as the architectural showpiece of one of the leading bankers on the Lower East Side, Sender Jarmulowsky, a Russian Jewish immigrant who originally established a bank at the site in 1873.



In addition to being an exceptional businessman, Jarmulowsky was a highly respected Talmudic scholar and philanthropist. He was instrumental in the construction and establishment of the famed Eldridge Street Synagogue, and served as its first president.

The S. Jarmulowsky Bank building was designed by Rouse & Goldstone, an architecture firm that was best remembered for its opulent apartment houses, and facility with adapting Renaissance ornament to tall buildings. In May 1911, The New York Times called it “an innovation for the East Side, being the first strictly high-class tall bank,” in the neighborhood, with a design “to equal in every respect the highest grade banking buildings throughout the city.”

“The bank building became an instant landmark when it opened, towering above its surroundings and showcasing its owner’s financial strength, and has stood since then as a symbol of the Jewish immigrant experience in the late 19th and early 20th centuries,” Chairman Tierney said.

The corner skyscraper features a rusticated ground floor executed in Indiana limestone, an ornate terra-cotta crown and an elaborate corner entrance that led to a two-story banking hall. The highlight of the ground floor is a carved panel over the entrance containing a clock framed by rosettes and a helmeted figure resembling Hermes, the Greek god of commerce.

Sender Jarmulowsky died shortly after the building’s opening, and the bank failed by 1917. It was sold by his sons, and continued to house a variety of industrial tenants into the 21st century. Currently vacant, the building was purchased in 2006 by its current owner, who plans to convert it to residential use.

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 25,000 buildings, including 1,242 individual landmarks, 110 interior landmarks, 10 scenic landmarks and 98 historic districts in all five boroughs. Under the City's landmarks law, considered 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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