



## The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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### **LORD & TAYLOR BUILDING VOTED AS A NEW YORK CITY LANDMARK**

#### *Retailer's Dignified Fifth Avenue Flagship Set New Standard for Department Store Construction*

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission today unanimously approved landmark status for the Lord & Taylor building, a 10-story Italian Renaissance Revival high rise that houses one of the City's oldest retail stores.



Located on Fifth Avenue between 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> streets, the Lord & Taylor building was completed in 1914, and embraced by critics of the day for having fewer ornamental flourishes and details than earlier department stores in New York and for being candid about its purpose. The gray brick-faced building, designed by the architecture firm of Starrett & Van Vleck, features a two-story limestone and granite base, a chamfered corner on 38<sup>th</sup> Street, a massive entrance arch flanked by decorative "L & T" shields, and a deep, bracketed copper cornice supported by a limestone colonnade.



"The building ushered in a new style of department store design that was later replicated elsewhere in the City," said Commission Chairman Robert B. Tierney. "In addition, Lord & Taylor's windows are on the must-see list of virtually every visitor to New York City during the holiday season. This building is part of our heritage, and part of what makes New York City great."

Lord & Taylor was Starrett & Van Vleck's first major department store, and led to similar commissions such as the Saks Fifth Avenue flagship on Fifth Avenue between 50<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> streets (also a New York City landmark), the former Abraham & Strauss department store in Brooklyn and two suburban Lord & Taylor stores. Starrett & Van Vleck is also responsible for the design of the Downtown Athletic Club and the Everett Building, both of which are New York City landmarks.

Founded in 1826 on Catherine Street in lower Manhattan by Samuel Lord and his wife's cousin, George Washington Taylor, the department store relocated several times during a northward migration of New York's retailers. In 1945, Dorothy Shaver was named president of Lord & Taylor, and became the first woman to hold that position in a major retail store. Under her leadership, the store became the first retailer to offer bridal, maternity, budget and petites departments and promoted the work of modern home décor and fashion designers. She died in 1959.

*More*

Federated Department Stores, owner of Macy's and Bloomingdale's, bought the Lord & Taylor chain in 2005, and later sold it to its current owner, NRDC Equity Partners, a private equity firm.

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The Landmarks Preservation Commission is 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 some 24,000 buildings, including 1,179 individual landmarks, 120 interior landmarks, nine scenic landmarks and 89 historic districts in all five boroughs. Under the law, 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. There are 11 commissioners, all of whom are appointed by the Mayor for staggered three-year terms.

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