



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

July 22, 2009

Hon. Robert B. Tierney
Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building, ninth floor
New York, NY 10007

**Re: Designation of the Church of St. George Tropoforos
307 West 54th Street, as a New York City Landmark**

Dear Chair Tierney:

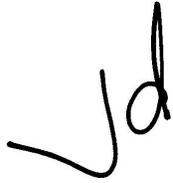
Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing to make a formal Request for Evaluation of the handsome Hellenic Orthodox Church at 307 West 54th Street with a view to designation of this handsome historic structure as an individual New York City Landmark.

While this part of Clinton contains a number of significant church structures located in the midst of its many handsome tenements, this is perhaps the finest of them. The two-story red-brick building with its fine terra-cotta arches enclosing the broad entrance and the smaller second-story windows above and topped with the date of 1886 sinuously marked by iron strapwork lettering in the gable is a remarkably rich and effective design. While most structures of the type in Clinton are churches now converted to other uses, such as the already designated Actors Studio, formerly an Associated Presbyterian Church, this building has taken the reverse route: it is a small former office building (the New Amsterdam Building) that has been converted into a church, with almost no change except for a recent stained glass window inserted in the historic window opening on the ground floor.

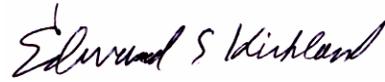
We note that the building has been called out for its “joyous ornament” in several editions of the AIA Guide. It combines with the low-scale City buildings facing it across 54th Street, the already designated Midtown Community Court and the more recent Art Moderne Midtown North Precinct—described as “a serene limestone cube” in the AIA Guide—to create an enclave of significant architecture just off busy Eighth Avenue, while its red brick links it into the dominant material of Clinton streetscapes to the west.

The Board urges swift action to designate this exceptional building. A formal Request for Evaluation is attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a 'd'.

Jean-Daniel Noland
Chair, Manhattan Community Board 4

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Edward S Kirkland' in a cursive script.

Edward Kirkland
Chair, Landmarks Committee