



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512  
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

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

May 2, 2012

Hon. Robert B. Tierney  
Chair  
Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Municipal Building, 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
One Centre Street  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: 300 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street**

Dear Chair Tierney:

Manhattan Community Board 4 is writing in support of the recent RFE by Ms. Annice Alt for the building at 300 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street on the eastern boundary of Board 4. Although the low building on the southwest corner of Eighth Avenue and the narrow side street often seems all but lost among the huge buildings and surging crowds of Midtown, its elaborate cooper roof and its upper-floor ornament still sometimes attract a surprised look and at least a second glance from individuals among the multitudes of passersby.

The Board urges the Commission to act promptly to designate this extraordinary three-story survivor. It is indeed an exceptional building in New York City. Its rare and handsome design is clearly derived from the movement usually known as the Viennese Sezession, and its architect is the distinguished Emery Roth, perhaps best known for his handsome apartment buildings in such areas as the Upper East Side. .

The building is effectively intact above the first floor, of which unfortunately very little is left. To the best of our knowledge there are few if any other buildings in the city that are so clearly of Secessionist design, although the influence of the movement is indeed visible in some other buildings of the period. To lose this building in the heart of the city would be a major loss, and not merely to the student of architecture: When the area, as seems all but inevitable, becomes less transient and more upscale in character, this building, if preserved and restored, might well add real character and value to this part of Midtown.

The Board urges the Commission to take action to preserve this important building before it is too late

Sincerely,

Corey Johnson  
Chair

Pamela Wolff  
Co-Chair  
Landmarks Committee

Damyanti Radeshwar  
Co-Chair  
Landmarks Committee