

September 16, 2008

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE
N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE
PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE BAUMANN BROTHERS FURNITURE AND
CARPETS STORE (22-26 EAST 14TH STREET) IN MANHATTAN AS A LANDMARK**

Good day, Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of The New York Landmarks Conservancy.

The Conservancy supports the proposed designation of the Baumann Brothers Furniture and Carpets Store at 22-26 East 14th Street, Manhattan as a New York City landmark. Built in 1880-81, it is one of many cast-iron buildings in the City designed by D. & J. Jardine, and is a fine example of their work. The design of the five-story structure incorporates neo-Classical, neo-Grec, and Queen Anne styles, which are in evidence on the largely intact upper floors. The *AIA Guide to New York City* (2000) calls the cast-iron façade a “rich embroidery” of columns, garlands, and floral decorative elements. On a block lined with less interesting buildings of many styles and from many eras, it stands out as a gem.

Just south of the Ladies Mile Historic District, the Baumann Brothers Building is another reminder of New York’s late nineteenth century retail history, still in use today. We support its designation as an individual Landmark, and hope that this designation will prompt the owners to restore the ground floor storefront to its historic appearance.

Thank you for the opportunity to present The Landmarks Conservancy’s views.