

June 12, 2012

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF 78-86 TRINITY PLACE, MANHATTAN, THE NEW YORK CURB EXCHANGE, AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK

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

The Conservancy supports designation of the New York Curb Exchange at 78-86 Trinity Place. The building is a link to the City's financial history. It was the first indoor location and the longtime headquarters of the Curb Exchange, later known as the American Stock Exchange, which at one time, was the second largest securities exchange in the country.

The building is a fine example of the Art Deco style, designed by Starrett & Van Vleck, the prominent early 20th century architects. Its austere limestone façade features stylized buttresses, corbelled window frames, and other geometric forms, creating a contrast to the Gothic Revival spire of Trinity Church across the street.

After 9/11, the Conservancy was part of the Lower Manhattan Emergency Preservation Fund, a coalition dedicated to documenting and preserving the significant historic architecture of Lower Manhattan. The group developed a report proposing a Greenwich Street South Historic District, which included this building, so we are very happy to support designation today.

This handsome edifice, which is already a National Historic Landmark on the national Register of Historic Places, deserves the recognition of designation as a New York City landmark, and the guidance that the Landmarks Law provides. Thank you for this opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.