

**THE NEW YORK  
LANDMARKS  
CONSERVANCY**

January 13, 2009

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C.  
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED  
DESIGNATION OF 110 SECOND AVENUE, MANHATTAN, THE VAN WYCK MEAD HOUSE  
(FORMER HOPPER HOME) AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK**

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

The Conservancy is pleased to support designation of the Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House. It is not only an architectural gem of the East Village, but it is part of a larger history shared by the family at the center of another item being heard today.

Were it judged just a fine example of the Greek Revival style, the Van Wyck Mead House would merit landmark designation. However, since it was first heard in 1966 and then in 1970, it has also survived as one of the few intact reminders of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century on busy Second Avenue where so many buildings have had major and commercial alterations at the street level. Furthermore, the building possesses a significant cultural history as the site of the Hopper Home, a nineteenth century house of reform, named for the patriarch of the abolitionist family who lived on the west side of Manhattan. Clearly, now is the time for designation of the Van Wyck Mead House/Hopper Home, and the protection and guidance that the Landmarks Law provides.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Conservancy's views.