

August 12, 2008

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE
THE LANDMARKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL REGARDING
THE DESIGNATION OF THE NOHO HISTORIC DISTRICT EXTENSION.**

Good morning Chair Lappin and members of the City Council. I am Andrea Goldwyn speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy supports the designation of the proposed NoHo Historic District Extension and urges this Subcommittee, the Land Use Committee and eventually the full City Council to affirm this designation.

Designation of the NoHo Historic District (1999) was a significant step toward recognizing and saving the legacy of New York's historic commercial architecture. The original research for the district included an area larger than what was designated. The NoHo East District (2003) filled in some of those missing pieces, and the designation of the 56 properties in the NoHo Extension would further rectify the prior omission.

The distinctive sense of place that defines the NoHo Historic District Extension is derived from buildings with a mix of styles and uses that recall New York's history from the early 1800s to the present. There are residential, commercial and industrial buildings that have been served New Yorkers of all economic backgrounds, in styles ranging from Federal to Italianate to early 21st century.

In order for the district to maintain its integrity all of the proposed properties should be included. It has been suggested that two properties in particular be omitted from the proposed district: the White House Hotel at 338 Bowery (Late Arts and Crafts, 1928-29) and the Edison parking lot at the corner of Great Jones Street and Lafayette Avenue. The White House Hotel has been in operation for nearly 100 years and is one of the few remaining hotels of its type on the Bowery, the remnant of a significant era in the history of this neighborhood. The Edison parking lot is abutted by buildings within the existing NoHo Historic District and the proposed extension; its inclusion within the district will require that any new development of the site be reviewed by the Landmarks Commission to ensure that it is in context with its historic surroundings.

The NoHo Historic District extension contains a diverse group of buildings that represent the history, architecture, and character of New York for a period spanning nearly 200 years, and the Conservancy enthusiastically supports its designation. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.