



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Division for Historic Preservation
Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
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Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

June 13, 2013

Jay Valgora, principal
Studio V Architecture, PLLC
44 East 32nd Street
New York, NY 10016

Re: The Bancroft Building

Mr. Valgora:

Our office has received your submission for a request for National Register of Historic Places eligibility for the Bancroft Building in Manhattan. I want to thank you for your thoroughly prepared historic overview of the site and based on the information submitted, the New York State Division for Historic Presentation has determined that the Bancroft Building at 3-7 West 29th Street is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Constructed in 1896 and 1897, the Bancroft Building was designed by Robert H. Robertson, well known for his turn of the century skyscrapers in Manhattan. The building is eligible for the National Register under Criteria C in the area architecture for its association with Robertson and because of its spectacular late-Victorian, high-style commercial design. The highly decorated building's most character defining feature is its use of polychromy to achieve its eclectic style. The building is additionally significant for its association with the Camera Club of New York, whose members have included Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, Bernice Abbott, and Richard Avedon. Stieglitz played a significant role in the merger of the New York Camera Club and the Society of Amateur Photographers in 1896. The group emerged as the newly founded Camera Club of New York and set up their organization at the newly constructed Bancroft Building.

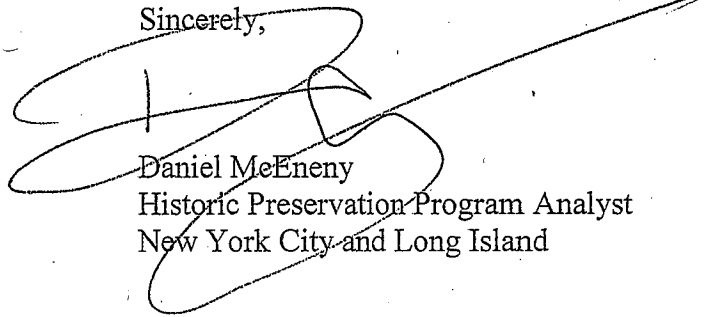
In addition to this individual eligibility for the Register, we would like to take the opportunity to encourage your party to sponsor the listing of the local

Madison Square North Historic District to the National Register, which would encompass a larger area of historic properties, including the fine row houses at 11, 13, & 15. It appears that at the time of the 2001 LPC designation of the district, a conservative boundary was selected. I would additionally encourage your group to request that LPC examine an expansion of their boundary for the district.

Eligibility and/or listing on the National Register offers a measure of protection under federal and New York State historic preservation laws. It does not prohibit a property owner from making changes, selling, or even demolishing a property with private funds. The Division for Historic Preservation provides consultation when public money or permitting is associated with a historic site. The purposes of the Register program is to document sites of cultural significance in communities and to qualify properties for potential grant programming and tax credit incentives for rehabilitation.

If there are any questions about this determination of National Register of Historic Places eligibility, please contact the Division staff to discuss further.
518.237.8643 x3257 daniel.mceneny@parks.ny.gov

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel McEneny', is written over the typed name and title.

Daniel McEneny
Historic Preservation Program Analyst
New York City and Long Island

cc: Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York