

WHAT CAN YOU DO? HELP PRESERVE THE LOWER EAST SIDE!

- I would like more information, please contact me.
 I want to volunteer I want to donate

Name: _____

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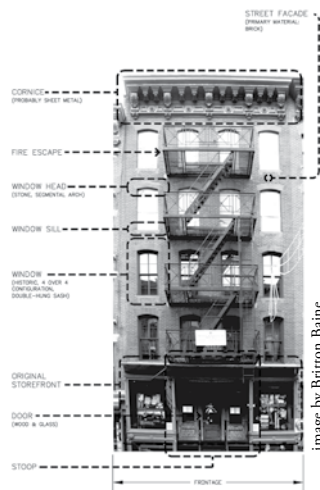
Phone: _____

LESPI: 232 E. 11th Street, New York, NY 10003
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 347-827-1846

LESPI is an organization composed of local residents and preservationists who want to preserve the architecture and streetscapes of Manhattan's Lower East Side. LESPI is particularly interested in the area's magnificent streetscapes - there are several left that are relatively intact from when they were built in the late 19th century.

LESPI acts to preserve the historic Lower East Side by

- Conducting a survey of buildings
- Evaluating
- Mapping
- Gathering public and official support
- Applying for NYC landmark historic district designations



ELEMENTS OF A TYPICAL TENEMENT

Image by Britton Baine

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lespi-nyc.org



Lower East Side Preservation Initiative

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Lower East Side Preservation Initiative



WHY PRESERVATION?

The Lower East Side Is A Living History that's a special part of New York City's soul. It's a collection of legendary neighborhoods: the East Village, Lower East Side below Houston St., Chinatown, Little Italy and the Bowery. It's beautiful old buildings and streetscapes that form a unique architectural and human synergy.

But Its Physical Fabric — Its Buildings And Streetscapes — Is Under Attack. Historic structures are being bulldozed, imploded, and jack hammered, one ornate tenement block, one handcrafted façade, one floral cornice at a time. The destruction is continuous, seemingly oblivious to economic forces. Even beyond New York, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has recognized this threat and designated Manhattan's Lower East Side as one of the country's eleven most endangered historic places.



photo by Onno de Jong

What If The Lower East Side As We Know It Disappeared Completely — its scrappy creative spirit and beautiful face morphed into a hodgepodge of massive unrelated, undistinguished hotels, developments and new high rise buildings perched on the heads of distinguished old structures? **This Is Not Far Fetched.** It's happening now at a fast pace.



photo by Clayron Patterson

Unchecked development leads to the loss of cultural history; neighborhood context and cohesiveness; human scale civility; creative, educational, and spiritual spaces. It destroys the architectural signposts that mark the neighborhood's central and vital role in our country's immigrant history, political history, art, music and theater history. The Lower East Side is an important part of this history, one that's always been unique.

What's The Best Way To Protect The Streetscapes And Structures Of The Lower East Side? Rezoning will help. But only when the New York City's Landmarks Preservation Commission designates our historic streetscapes as historic districts will the neighborhood's future be ensured.

What Is Historic Landmarking? When a historic district is officially designated by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, its special architectural features are protected. This doesn't mean that buildings can't be changed. It does mean changes must be made thoughtfully. It means historic streetscapes and

building facades must be respected, that they cannot be wantonly defaced and destroyed. It means an end to the careless, ad hoc destruction of a neighborhood's history and heart.



photo by Bruce Monroe

What Does It Take? Donations, volunteers, constant vigilance, political clout and pro bono legal assistance. Support from local people and all those who believe that our neighborhood's past upholds its future is critical. You can really support preservation in our neighborhood — join **LESPI**.

What About The Future? New York City is a magnet, and it's growing to accommodate the influx. But thoughtful growth, planned to save our history, will build a better future for our city.

How Can We Respond?

The Lower East Side Preservation Initiative — **LESPI**. We're local residents and preservationists seeking to preserve our community's historic architecture and streetscapes. **LESPI** was instrumental in the landmarking of the East Village / Lower East Side and East 10th Street Historic Districts. Now we're working to expand on this success to include other Lower East Side neighborhoods. **LESPI** is an advocate, standing up to preserve the Lower East Side. Contact us — join our effort! Lower East Side Preservation Initiative — helping to preserve New York's Lower East Side.



photo by Onno de Jong