



July 23, 2019

Sarah Carroll, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street
New York, New York 10007

Re: RFE for Eastern Dispensary, 75 Essex St., New York, NY

Dear Chair Carroll,

We are writing to request, on behalf of the Lower East Side Preservation Initiative (LESPI) and Friends of the Lower East Side (FOTLES), that the NYC Landmarks Preservation revisit FOTLES's previously submitted Request for Evaluation for Individual Landmark status for the Eastern Dispensary Building at 75 Essex Street.

As you know, Manhattan's Lower East Side is the focus of preservation efforts for our volunteer organizations. This historic neighborhood, treasured by New Yorkers as well as Americans across the country, is undergoing massive change, as is evident to all who visit or live there. Some blocks still evoke the tenement environment experienced by countless immigrants who began their lives in America here in the 19th and early 20th centuries; other areas are almost unrecognizable as they become crowded by massive contemporary structures. At a time when immigration is a vital issue in our country, it seems imperative to us that the architectural fabric and rich history of this neighborhood not disappear. We all need to be reminded of the struggles and courage of the early immigrants who lived in very difficult conditions, yet who overcame them to thrive and to enrich the American experience. This neighborhood remains a source of inspiration for all, but sorely needs protection.

While LESPI's mission is to support historic district designation in the traditional Lower East Side, we are also compelled to bring attention to individual buildings when situations seem especially dire. The enclosed documents represent a re-application for evaluation of the Eastern Dispensary. This building was brought to the attention of the Landmarks Commission in 2013, before the massive Essex Crossing development had been constructed. Now the Eastern

Dispensary is overwhelmed by contemporary architecture on both sides of Essex Street. Its role as a marker of the area's and building's momentous histories is now clearer and more important than ever. As its protection is particularly urgent, we are submitting a renewed Request for Evaluation jointly with FOTLES, incorporating their original research documents. Given the painful loss of the Beth Hamedrash Hagodol Synagogue, close by on Norfolk Street, we urge that the historic Eastern Dispensary not meet a similar fate.

Please let us know if we can provide any further information. With thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard D. Moses, President



Deborah Wye



Mitchell Grubler



Linda Jones



Joyce Mendelson

Lower East Side Preservation Initiative

Friends of the Lower East Side