

**TESTIMONY OF THE LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION BEFORE
THE CITY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE ON LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITING
AND MARITIME USES ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE ELEVENTH STREET
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MANHATTAN.**

December 6, 2010

Good morning Council Members. My name is Jenny Fernández, Director of Intergovernmental and Community Relations for the Landmarks Preservation Commission. I am here today to testify on the Commission's designation of the Eleventh Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Manhattan.

On March 23, 2010, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Eleventh Street Methodist Episcopal Chapel (later People's Home Church and Settlement, now The Father's Heart Church). There were 5 speakers in favor of designation, including the owner of the building, the owner's architect, City Council Member Rosie Mendez, representatives of Lower East Side Preservation Initiative, Historic Districts Council and the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. There were no speakers in opposition to designation. The Commission received one letter from the Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in support of the designation. On September 14, 2010, the Commission voted to designate the building a New York City individual landmark.

The Eleventh Street Methodist Episcopal Chapel (later People's Home Church and Settlement, now The Father's Heart Church) was constructed in 1867-68 to the design of prominent architects William Field and Son. The firm is best known as the architects of affordable apartment houses and this is one of the few known houses of worship that they designed. By the mid-19th century the Gothic Revival style had become the standard for church buildings in the United States. Gothic Revival style features of the church include the window hood moldings with stops and the pointed finials at the roof; however, the squares with stylized flower designs and the pointed arched corbel table of the cornice are decorative, eclectic features that are highly unusual. Architects Jallade and Barber altered the front facade of the church in 1900-01. After the alterations, the mission reopened in 1901 with a new name, the People's Home Church and Settlement, and its institutional work was enlarged. Mission churches such as the Eleventh Street Methodist Episcopal Chapel provided social services in addition to religious evangelical work. The Methodist Episcopal Church closed the church in 1930 and sold the building to the Russian Ukrainian Polish Pentecostal Church, the first Slavic Pentecostal church in the country, in 1941. Its successor, The Father's Heart Church, still occupies the premises. The work of the church today, like its 19th century predecessors on the Lower East Side, includes religious and social services.

The Commission urges you to affirm this designation.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



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in favor in opposition

Date: 12/6/10

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Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 1 Centre Street NY NY 10007

I represent: LPC

Address: S/A/A

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



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in favor in opposition

Date: 12/6/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

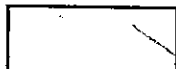
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