Landmarks Preservation Commission
October 13, 2009, Designation List 419
LP-2331

RALPH and ANN E. VAN WYCK MEAD HOUSE (later ISAAC T. HOPPER HOME of the WOMEN'S PRISON ASSOCIATION), 110 Second Avenue, Manhattan. Built c. 1837-38.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 448, Lot 4.

On January 13, 2009, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association) and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site (Item No. 2). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Nine people spoke in favor of designation, including representatives of City Councilmember Rosie Mendez, the Municipal Art Society of New York, Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, Historic Districts Council, New York Landmarks Conservancy, East Village Community Coalition, and Metropolitan Chapter of the Victorian Society in America. The building was previously heard at public hearing by the Landmarks Preservation Commission on December 13, 1966, and May 26, 1970 (LP-0465).

Summary

The grand three-story (plus attic and basement) Greek Revival style rowhouse at No. 110 Second Avenue, in today's East Village neighborhood of Manhattan, is the only survivor of a row of four houses that functioned as an enclave for the extended family of the very wealthy wholesale grocery and commission merchant Ralph Mead (1789-1866). Constructed c. 1837-38 by the Mead family, No. 110 was the home in 1839-44 of merchant/ship broker David H. Robertson. After Robertson declared bankruptcy, this property was foreclosed and auctioned in 1844, and transferred to Ralph Mead. The proprietor of Ralph Mead & Co. (established 1815), Mead and his second wife, née Ann Eliza Van Wyck, resided here from 1845 until 1857. The house was leased after 1858 and remained in Mead family ownership until 1870. It was sold to railroad agent George H. Ellery and his wife, Cornelia, who resided here c. 1872-74. It was purchased in 1874 by the Women's Prison Association, which had been established in 1845 as the Female Department of the Prison Association of New York by Isaac Tatem Hopper and his daughter, Abigail Hopper Gibbons, noted Quaker abolitionists and leading advocates of prison reform, and chartered in 1854 under the new name. The Isaac T. Hopper Home, opened here in 1874, is considered the world's oldest halfway house for girls and women released from prison. The Home's original mission was to rehabilitate these women by providing short-term shelter, religious counseling, domestic training in sewing and laundry work, and job placement. A rare extant house of the period when this section of Second Avenue was one of the most elite addresses in Manhattan in the early 19th century, it is also a fine example of a grand Greek Revival style rowhouse. The house is characterized by its machine-pressed red brickwork laid in stretcher bond; high stoop and areaway with wrought-iron fence; entrance with Italianate style paneled double doors and transom; long parlor-level windows and cast-iron balcony; and denticulated cornice; and is made particularly distinctive by its brownstone portico with Ionic fluted columns supporting an entablature. The Isaac T. Hopper Home, which has continuously served the mission of the Women's Prison Association here since 1874, is a rare surviving 19th-century institutional presence in this ever-changing neighborhood.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

The 19th-Century Development of (Today's) East Village Neighborhood[1]

The area of today's Greenwich Village was, during the 18th century, the location of the small rural hamlet of Greenwich, as well as the country seats and summer homes of wealthy downtown aristocrats, merchants, and capitalists. A number of cholera and yellow fever epidemics in lower Manhattan between 1799 and 1822 led to an influx of settlers in the Greenwich area, with the population quadrupling between 1825 and 1840.[2] Previously undeveloped tracts of land were speculatively subdivided for the construction of town houses and rowhouses. Whereas in the early 19th century many of the wealthiest New Yorkers lived in the vicinity of Broadway and the side streets adjacent to City Hall Park between Barclay and Chambers Streets, by the 1820s and 30s, as commercial development and congestion increasingly disrupted and displaced them, the elite moved northward into Greenwich Village east of Sixth Avenue. A potter's field, located north of 4th Street below Fifth Avenue since 1797, was converted into Washington Military Parade Ground and expanded (to nearly nine acres) in 1826 and landscaped as Washington Square in 1828. This public square spurred the construction of fine Federal and Greek Revival style town houses surrounding it.[3]

To the east, during the 17th and 18th centuries, was Dutch Governor Peter Stuyvesant's Bowery farm. In the vicinity were Native American trails, today's Broadway and Bowery, that the Lenape Indians traversed from the southern tip of Manhattan to Inwood and Harlem. St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery Church (1799)[4] was built on a higher, dry piece of land, while the area to the east of today's Second Avenue, known as Stuyvesant Meadows, remained an undeveloped marshy area. In the late 18th century, the area east of Second Avenue was the estate of Mangle Minthorn, father-in-law of Daniel Tompkins (1775-1825), governor of New York (1807-17) and U.S. vice president under James Monroe (1817-25). Both Stuyvesant and Minthorn were slave owners. In 1832, the Common Council created the 15th Ward out of the eastern section of the large 9th Ward, its boundaries being Sixth Avenue, Houston and 14th Streets, and the Bowery. According to Luther Harris' history *Around Washington Square*, during the 1830s-40s "this ward drew the wealthiest, most influential, and most talented people from New York City and elsewhere. By 1845, 85 percent of the richest citizens living in the city's northern wards resided in the Fifteenth."[5] Fifth Avenue, extended north of Washington Square to 23rd Street in 1829, emerged as the city's most prestigious address.

For a brief period beginning in the 1820s-30s, Lafayette Place, including the grand marble Greek Revival style LaGrange Terrace (1832-33, attributed to Seth Geer),[6] St. Mark's Place, and Bond, Great Jones, East 4th and Bleecker Streets were also among the city's most fashionable addresses. The latter street was developed with three block-long rows of houses in 1827-31, including Carroll Place, both sides of the street between Thompson Street and LaGuardia Place, built with Federal style houses by the English-born speculative real estate developer Thomas E. Davis.[7] Davis also developed both sides of the block of St. Mark's Place (East 8th Street) between Third and Second Avenues in 1831 with fine 3-1/2-story Federal style marble-and-brick-clad town houses with balconies,[8] and became involved with the Stuyvesant family in the development of the former Bowery farm to the north of St. Mark's Place as an elite residential neighborhood. Lower Second Avenue and adjacent side streets remained prestigious through the 1850s.

The Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House[9]

The grand three-story (plus attic and basement) Greek Revival style rowhouse at No. 110 (originally 108) Second Avenue, between East 6th and 7th Streets, is the only survivor of a row of four houses (originally Nos. 106-112) on this block associated by the late 1830s and early 1840s with the extended family of wholesale grocery and commission merchant Ralph Mead. The lots on this blockfront, part of the Nicholas W. Stuyvesant estate, were conveyed in 1830-35 to developer Thomas E. Davis, who apparently intended to build on them. Instead of developing this Second Avenue property, however, Davis in 1834-36 conveyed his lots, including Nos. 106, 108 and 110, to three brothers, Benjamin, Ralph, and Staats (States) M. Mead.

Born in Greenwich, Conn., Benjamin Mead (1780-1858) and Ralph Mead (1789-1866) had begun in 1803 as clerks in the grocery business of Samuel Tooker (established by 1798) in New York City; Benjamin became a partner in S. Tooker & Co. in 1806 and continued the firm after the founder's death, until around 1847. Staats M. Mead (1791-1863), also born in Greenwich, began work as a cabinetmaker in 1805, starting out with Jacob B. Taylor. A closely entwined family, all three Meads married Holmes sisters. Ralph Mead's own wholesale grocery and commission merchant business after 1810 was located on Coenties Slip; he took as partners two of his brothers-in-law, in Mead & [Hugh] Holmes in 1813, and Ralph Mead & Co., with Israel C. Holmes, from 1815 to 1820, then Elisha B. Sackett until 1832. Ralph Mead was listed in the U.S. Census in 1820, and owned no slaves. Quite wealthy – tax assessments in 1839-40 listed his personal worth at $20,000 – Mead moved with his family to Washington Square in 1834. He was also a director of the New York & Erie Railroad Co., City Fire Insurance Co., and Adriatic Fire Insurance Co., as well as being active in the Methodist Church and the American Bible Society. Ralph Mead retired from the grocery business in 1859, turning over his firm to a son and nephew.

Nos. 108 (today's 110), 110, and 112 Second Avenue were constructed c. 1837-38. John Peters owned and lived in No. 112 in 1839-42. Ralph Mead, and his wife, Sarah Holmes Mead, who he had married in 1813 and with whom he had eight children, resided in No. 110 in 1838-44. No. 108 (today's 110) was officially conveyed by the Meads in 1839 for $18,500 (subject to a $5,000 mortgage) to the widow Margaret Robertson, although it was actually purchased by her son, the merchant and ship broker David H. Robertson, who resided here in 1839-44. Robertson declared bankruptcy in 1842, which was contested as fraudulent by his creditors, as he had conveyed his house, furnishings, horses, etc., to his mother. The family was involved in other litigation, as well, when Robertson's 15-year-old daughter was secretly married without her parents' consent, then changed her mind. This property was foreclosed and auctioned in 1844, and was purchased for $6,800 (subject to the mortgage) and transferred to Ralph Mead in April 1844.

The tax assessments for 1844 listed the notation "unfinished" for Nos. 108 (today's 110), 110, and 112 Second Avenue, apparently indicating that they were being remodeled, and No. 106 was constructed at this same time, on a lot owned by Ralph Mead. His wife, Sarah, had died in 1842; in February 1846, he was re-married, to Ann Eliza Van Wyck (1801-1860). Mead sold his former residence, No. 110, in 1845 to grocer William R. Hitchcock, and Mead and his family resided in No. 108 (today's 110) from 1845 until 1857. This and the two other rowhouses on the block functioned as an extended Mead family enclave. His daughter, Lydia A. Mead, and her husband, Nathan J. Bailey (a grocer in the firm of Hoffman & Bailey), also resided in No. 108 until 1847. No. 112 was owned by and the home of (1843-58) the eminent saddlery hardware merchant Francis T. Luqueer, father-in-law of one of Ralph Mead's sons, Samuel Holmes Mead (who married Mary C. Luqueer in

1845), and Luqueer's son, John A. Luqueer. And No. 106 was owned by and the home of (1846-53) Ralph's daughter, Harriet Mead (died 1856), who in 1846 married Philip Jacob Arcularius Harper, the eldest son of James Harper, one of the founders and senior member of the publishing firm of Harper & Bros., and a mayor of New York.

After Ralph and Ann Mead moved out, No. 108 (today's 110) Second Avenue was leased in 1858-62 to the large extended families of Martinique-born bookkeeper/clerk Montgerald de Girardin; his son, merchant Leon de Girardin; his son-in-law, jeweler Francis L. Tifft (in the firm of Lincoln, Tifft & Co.); and, apparently another relative, druggist Philander D. Orvis. The *Times* mentioned Dr. Herman Milgan living here in 1866.[10] Following Ralph Mead's death in 1866, No. 108 (today's 110) was transferred to his son, Melville Emory Mead (1833-1921), who continued operation of the Mead grocery business, as E. & R. Mead & Co., along with his brother-in-law, Edwin Hyde (1812-1896). Hyde was married since 1835 to Melville's sister, Elizabeth Alvina Mead, and was also the brother of Melville's wife, Elizabeth B. Hyde Mead. City directories listed Edwin and Elizabeth A. Mead Hyde living in No. 108 (today's 110) in 1867. In 1870, the house, now officially re-numbered 110 Second Avenue, was sold for $20,000 (subject to a $9,000 mortgage) to George H. and Cornelia W. Poole Ellery. George H. Ellery (1810-1890), son of a U.S. Senator from Rhode Island, worked as a young man in the cotton business in Savannah, was later engaged in drygoods in New York City in the firms of Lauterman, Large & Ellery and Ellery, Wendt & Hoffbauer prior to the Civil War, and was a Purchasing Agent in 1864-65 at the Dept. of the Treasury's U.S. Cotton Agency in Memphis, one of the locations in occupied areas of the Confederacy where the agency supervised commerce. After the war, Ellery was a railroad agent, serving also as vice president of the Jeffersonville & Indianapolis Railroad. The Census of 1870 and New York City directories in 1870-71 indicated the Ellerys' primary residence as Rhode Island, but they resided c. 1872-74 in No. 110.

Greek Revival Style Rowhouses in Manhattan[11]

As the city of New York grew in the period after the Revolution, large plots of land in Manhattan were sold and subdivided for the construction of groups of brick-clad houses. Their architectural style has been called "Federal" after the new republic, but in form and detail they continued the Georgian style of Great Britain. Federal style houses were constructed from the Battery as far north as 23rd Street between the 1790s and 1830s. The size of the lot dictated the size of the house: typically each house lot was 20 or 25 feet wide by 90 to 100 feet deep, which accorded with the rectilinear Commissioners' Plan of New York City adopted in 1811. The rowhouse itself would be as wide as the lot, and 35 to 40 feet deep. This allowed for a stoop and areaway, and a fairly spacious rear yard. During the early 19th century, several houses were often constructed together as a continuous group, sharing common party walls, chimneys, and roof timbering. The houses, of load-bearing masonry or modified timber-frame construction, had brick-clad front facades. With the increasing availability of pattern books, such as Asher Benjamin's *American Builders Companion* (published in six editions between 1806 and 1827), local builders had access to drawings and instructions for exterior and interior plans and details. Federal style rowhouses usually had a three-bay facade with two full stories over a high basement and an additional half story under a peaked roof with the ridge line running parallel to the front facade. The front facade was usually clad in red brick laid in the Flemish bond pattern, with stone trim. The planar quality of the facades was relieved by ornament in the form of lintels, entrances, stoops and areaways with iron railings,

cornices, and pedimented or segmental dormers. The most ornamental feature was the doorway, often framed with columns and sidelights and topped with a rectangular transom or fanlight, and having a wooden paneled door. The wood-framed sash were double hung and multi-light (typically six-over-six). A wooden cornice with a molded fascia extended across the front along the eave.

Around 1830, builders in New York City began to incorporate some Greek Revival style features on grander Federal style houses, such as the Seabury Tredwell ("Old Merchant's") House (1831-32), 29 East 4th Street.[12] During the early 1830s, fashionable rowhouses were constructed in a Greek Revival style that was distinct from the earlier Federal style houses. Local builders were influenced by the designs and builder's guides of architects such as Asher Benjamin, Minard Lafever, and Alexander Jackson Davis. Some examples were "high style," such as the nine marble-fronted houses with a continuous Corinthian colonnade of LaGrange Terrace (Colonnade Row) (1832-33). Many rows of speculatively-built Greek Revival style houses were constructed, particularly in the Greenwich Village and Chelsea neighborhoods, during the period of enormous growth and development in New York during the 1830s-40s.

Greek Revival style rowhouses, which became widely popular, basically continued many of the traditions of Federal style houses, including three-bay front facades, brick cladding with brownstone trim, and raised stoops and areaways with iron railings. They differed, however, in stylistic details and in scale, being taller and somewhat grander at a full three stories above a basement (with higher ceilings per story). By this period, technological advances in brickmaking allowed for higher quality, machine-pressed brick. The brick was laid in a bond other than Flemish, such as stretcher bond. Ornamentation was spare, including simple, molded rectangular lintels and a flat roofline capped by a denticulated and molded wooden cornice (sometimes with attic windows). Similar to Federal style houses, the most ornamental feature was the doorway. The Greek Revival style doorway was recessed, with a rectangular transom, sidelights, and paneled (often a single vertical panel) door. The entrance commonly featured a brownstone surround with wide pilasters supporting an entablature, such as those seen at No. 159 Charles Street (c. 1838) and No. 354 West 11th Street (c. 1841-42).[13] On grander houses, the entrance featured a portico with Doric or Ionic columns flanking the doorway and supporting a prominent entablature. Examples of this type include "The Row" (1832-33), 1-13 Washington Square North; the Samuel Tredwell Skidmore House (1845), 37 East 4th Street;[14] and the Mead House. The wood-framed sash were double hung and typically six-over-six (often nine-over-nine or six-over-nine on the parlor level).

No. 110 Second Avenue, a rare surviving house of the period when this section of Second Avenue was one of the most elite addresses in Manhattan in the early 19th century, is also a fine example of a grand Greek Revival style rowhouse, characterized by its machine-pressed red brickwork laid in stretcher bond; high stoop and areaway with wrought-iron fence; entrance with Italianate style paneled double doors and transom; long parlor-level windows and cast-iron balcony; and denticulated cornice; and is made particularly distinctive by its brownstone portico with Ionic fluted columns supporting an entablature. Minimal later alterations include the molded metal lintels and corbeled sills (post-1890s) and enlargement of the attic windows (c. 1966-70).

Today's East Village Neighborhood in the Late 19th Century[15]

Commercial and institutional intrusions and the continual arrival of immigrants ended the fashionable heyday of the wealthier enclaves, such as Second Avenue and St. Mark's Place, before the Civil War. In the 1850s, Broadway north of Houston Street was transformed from a residential into a significant commercial district. Also beginning in the 1850s, after the political upheavals in Europe of 1848 and the resulting influx of German-speaking immigrants to New York City, the Lower East Side (the area bounded roughly by 14th Street, the East River, the Bowery/Third Avenue, and Catherine Street) became known as *Kleindeutschland* ("Little Germany"). Aside from their presence as residents, these immigrants contributed in significant ways to the vibrant commercial and cultural life of the neighborhood and the city at large. By 1880, this neighborhood constituted one-fourth of the city's population (as one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the world) and was the first major urban foreign-speaking neighborhood in the U.S., as well as the leading German-American center throughout the century. A massive exodus of Jews from Eastern Europe from the 1880s to World War I led to approximately two million Jewish immigrants settling in New York; most lived for a time on the Lower East Side, establishing their own cultural and religious institutions there.

As wealthier residents moved northward in the 1850s, their single-family residences were converted into multiple dwellings or boardinghouses, as well as other uses, such as clubs or community cultural institutions. For instance, of the Federal style houses on the westernmost block of St. Mark's Place: No. 29 became the Harmonie Club, a German-Jewish singing club (1856-59); Nos. 19-21 housed another German musical club, the Arion Singing Society (1870-87), and these buildings, along with No. 23, became Arlington Hall, a ballroom-community center in 1887; the Children's Aid Society's Girls' Lodging House (by 1871) and its offices (by 1891) were at Nos. 27 and 24; and No. 12 was replaced by the German-American Shooting Society Clubhouse (1888-89, William C. Frohne).[16] Most of the remaining houses were demolished for denser development with French flats and tenements between 1874 and 1902.

Hastening the change in the residential character of this section of the Lower East Side after mid-century were a wide variety of major cultural, religious, commercial, and educational institutions, including the Astor Place Opera House (1847; later Clinton Hall/Mercantile Library; demolished), Astor and Lafayette Places; Astor Library (1849-52, Alexander Saeltzer; 1856-69, Griffith Thomas; 1879-81, Thomas Stent), 425 Lafayette Street; Bible House (1852; demolished), home of the American Bible Society and other religious organizations, Astor Place and Third Avenue; Cooper Union (1853-58, Frederick A. Petersen), Astor Place and Third Avenue; Tompkins Market/ 7th Regiment Armory (1855-60, James Bogardus and Marshall Lefferts; demolished), Third Avenue and East 7th Street; and Metropolitan Savings Bank (1867, Carl Pfeiffer), 9 East 7th Street. The New York Free Circulating Library, Ottendorfer Branch, and German Dispensary (1883-84, William Schickel), 135 and 137 Second Avenue, among others, catered to the German community. Assembly halls such as Webster Hall and Annex (1886-87, 1892, Charles Renz, Jr.), 119-125 East 11th Street, became important neighborhood social centers.[17] Scattered throughout the area were purpose-built churches and synagogues for wealthier congregations, as well as many religious structures created out of altered rowhouses. The Third Avenue elevated railroad opened in 1878.

On either side of the former Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House on Second Avenue, the other former Mead family houses were altered or replaced. Nos. 112 and 114 were demolished for the construction of the Middle Collegiate Church (1891-92, Samuel B. Reed). No. 108, by 1893

the home of the Swiss Benevolent Society, received a new facade in 1906-07 (Oscar Lowenson, architect) for the Hebrew Free Loan Association.[18]

The Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association of New York[19]

The former Mead House at No. 110 Second Avenue was purchased for $32,500 in July 1874 from George H. and Cornelia Ellery by the Women's Prison Association and Home. This organization had been established in January 1845 as the Female Department of the Prison Association of New York, which had been formed the previous month by a group of New York politicians, philanthropists, and businessmen in response to the crowded prison conditions that were one result of the city's vast increase in population. Integral in the creation of both associations was Isaac Tatem Hopper (1771-1852), a devout Quaker abolitionist and leading advocate of prison reform, who had been a prison inspector in Philadelphia, prior to his move to New York City in 1829. Hopper became known as one of the nation's foremost authorities in penology, and devoted the rest of his life to the Prison Association. His daughter, Abigail Hopper Gibbons (1801-1893) was also instrumental in the establishment of the Female Department. She was a vigorous participant with her father and husband, James S. Gibbons, in the abolitionist cause, and had previously operated a Friends School in Philadelphia and taught in New York, as well as establishing an industrial school. Philadelphia Quakers had been the first in the United States, in the 1820s, to consider the question of imprisoned women, and by the 1840s, Protestant missionaries in New York City also took up the interrelated causes of poor women and women in prison. The House and School of Industry, founded in 1850,[20] provided employment in needlework in order to assist women out of extreme poverty and away from vice. The women who founded and led the Female Department were pioneers in questioning the prevailing attitudes toward women in prison and the prison conditions in which they were forced to live; at the time, women who committed crimes and "fallen women" were considered outcasts and beyond redemption, though many were simply immigrants and the working poor.

In June 1845, the Female Department opened the Home for Discharged Female Convicts in a rented house on West 4th Street near Eighth Avenue. The facility moved in 1848 to No. 191 Tenth Avenue (the address was No. 213 after 1869). Providing temporary shelter for up to 30 women at a time, the founders hoped to "prevent recidivism among drunken, vagrant, and immoral women."[21] Historians consider this the first such halfway house in the world. In 1853, after a conflict over the issue of men's authority over the organization, the Female Department separated from the Prison Association, and was chartered in 1854 under the new name, Women's Prison Association of New York (WPA) and Home. The WPA Constitution stated that the mission of the Home was "the improvement of the condition of [female] prisoners, whether detained on trial or finally convicted, or as witnesses... [and] the support and encouragement of reformed convicts after their discharge, by affording them an opportunity of obtaining an honest livelihood, and sustaining them in their efforts to reform."[22] The organization attempted to encourage religion among the women, provided domestic skills through sewing and laundry work, assisted in job placement, and aimed to reform female prisoners through separation from and supervision by men. Resident women served on probation for a month, paid 50 cents per week for lodging and washing, and were then sent out to work.

In 1858, the home was officially named the Isaac T. Hopper Home. In WPA's *Annual Report* that year it was noted that, due to the confusion of many other New York institutions using the name "Home," "this Association has therefore adopted as a distinctive name for its House department, that of 'The Isaac T. Hopper Home'" since Hopper "was the founder of the Female Department of the Prison Association, and it is therefore appropriate to give it his name."[23] Novelist Catherine Maria Sedgwick, the First Directress (1848-66) of the Hopper Home, was followed by Sarah Platt Haines Doremus (1867-77). By 1861, WPA began to receive some funding from the City.

In 1865, a legacy of $50,000 was left to WPA through the will of the wealthy Charles Burrall of Hoboken; this legacy (which was expected to yield at least $3,500 a year), along with $12,000 received from the sale of Gibbons' railroad stock, allowed the Home to pay off its mortgage, conduct repairs, and make investments. WPA reported debt in 1867, however, due to unexpectedly extensive and costly repairs that were found necessary to the Home. By 1872, WPA considered its building unfit, due to these costly repairs and the fact that it was too small for the organization's mission. By this time, WPA had housed some 5,800 women. A male advisory committee suggested construction of a new facility, rather than purchasing an older house. Instead, Abby Hopper Gibbons, for whom WPA continued as a primary interest, serving on its executive committee and as corresponding secretary for many years, headed a committee to search for a new home and to raise additional funds. WPA's *Annual Report* stated that "In the spring of 1874 an opportunity offered to purchase a larger and more suitable building on Second avenue, whither the Home moved on July first. Here a larger house with numerous conveniences enables us to conduct our industrial department on a larger scale than ever before."[24] Laundry and household work in the new Home were conducted in the basement, while two spacious sewing rooms were located on the second story. In 1875 and 1882, the laundry was enlarged through one-story additions in the rear yard.

Abby Hopper Gibbons, who served as First Directress of the Hopper Home after 1877, was also president of the New York Committee for the Suppression of the State Regulation of Vice (founded 1876), which met here; opposed to the licensing of prostitution, the committee advocated instead the rehabilitation of the women and the prosecution of their male customers. Among WPA's many notable reform accomplishments were its assistance in the revision of the state's classification system (1885), so that first offenders were separated from the general prison population; the introduction of matrons in police stations, established by state law (1888); placement of the first female superintendent in New York's House of Detention (1888); the creation of separate prison facilities for women, who had previously been placed in the same cells with men (1892); legislation for a probation system for women (1900); formation of prison schools (1901); construction of a separate state prison for women at Bedford Hills (1902); industrial training and alcoholism programs for women (1907); and starting street patrols conducted by policewomen (1922).

<u>20th-Century History of the East Village</u>[25]

After a period of decline, Greenwich Village was becoming known, prior to World War I, for its historic and picturesque qualities, its affordable housing, and the diversity of its population and social and political ideas. Many artists and writers, as well as tourists, were attracted to the Village. By the 1910s, property owners and merchants attempted to improve the Village's economy and rehabilitate its physical condition, with "shrewd realtors beg[inning] to amass their holdings of dilapidated housing."[26] These various factors and the increased desirability of the Village to upper-middle-class professionals lead to a real estate boom – "rents increased during the 1920s by 140

percent and in some cases by as much as 300 percent."[27] New York University, particularly after World War II, became a major institutional presence around and to the south and east of Washington Square. During the 1950s, the area south of Washington Square, to Houston Street, was targeted for urban renewal. The surviving historic streets to the west became particularly popular for coffee houses, restaurants, and clubs.

After World War II, the ethnic make-up of the Lower East Side changed again, becoming dominated by Latin American immigrants, especially those from Puerto Rico. Their immigration was encouraged by the government as a source of cheap labor, particularly for the garment trades, hotels, and small manufacturing. The community named itself Loisaida to symbolize the second generation Hispanic roots that had developed in the context of the African-American and Latino movements for social and economic justice, equality, and identity.

The residential and cultural desirability of the neighborhood that came to be known as the "East Village" increased with the removal of the Third Avenue El in 1955. As indicated by Terry Miller,

> the psychological barrier that had marked the eastern boundary of Greenwich Village was gone. Blocks that once had no prestige were suddenly seen as intriguing, and apartments here were less costly than those in Greenwich Village. ... As artists and writers moved east, the blocks from St. Mark's Place to Tenth Street were the first to hint that the Lower East Side was being transformed. Realtors began marketing the area as "Village East," and by 1961 as the "East Village," a name that stuck.[28]

From World War I to the 1940s, Second Avenue between East 14th and Houston Streets had been considered the heart of New York's Jewish community, known as the "Yiddish Rialto" for its role as the world's center of Yiddish theater. As Yiddish theater declined, the East Village gave rise in the 1950s to "Off-Broadway" and "off-Off-Broadway" theater, including the Phoenix Theater (1953-61) in the former Louis N. Jaffe Art Theater (Yiddish Art Theater) building (1925-26, Harrison G. Wiseman), 181-189 Second Avenue;[29] the Orpheum Theater (1958), 126 Second Avenue; and Ellen Stewart's La Mama Experimental Theatre Club (1961), 321 East 9th Street (after 1969 at 74 East 4th Street). In the 1950s, the East Village also became home to a number of key Beat Generation writers, including Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, Norman Mailer, and W.H. Auden, and was renowned for its protest art and politics, galleries, poetry and coffee houses, bookstores, clubs, with a "counterculture" scene centered on St. Mark's Place.

The Isaac T. Hopper Home, which has continuously served the mission of the Women's Prison Association here since 1874, is a rare surviving 19th-century institutional presence in this ever-changing neighborhood. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

Description

The Mead House (Isaac T. Hopper Home) at No. 110 Second Avenue is a three-story (plus attic and basement) Greek Revival style rowhouse with a three-bay, 26-foot-wide facade. It is clad in machine-pressed red brick laid in stretcher bond above a brownstone base. The base has two windows with six-over-six double-hung (non-historic) wood sash and non-historic iron grilles. The areaway, paved in concrete with a metal plate and grate, as well as planting areas, has a wrought-iron fence and gates (which replaced the original cast-iron ones, c. 1893-1966), set partially on stone

edging. The high brownstone stoop (which once had urns on the pedestals) has non-historic metal railings and a recessed basement entrance. The main entrance has a brownstone portico with pilasters and Ionic fluted columns (parts of the Ionic capitals are missing) supporting an entablature; and Italianate style paneled double wooden doors and a transom set within a rope molded enframement, with paneled reveals. A non-historic light fixture has been placed over the doorway. The parlor level has long windows (with nine-over-nine double-hung (non-historic) wood sash) and an original bracketed cast-iron balcony. A security camera and a light fixture have been placed on the parlor-level wall. Windows on the second and third stories have six-over-six double-hung (non-historic) wood sash. The windows historically had shutters. The original stone lintels (with a simple top molding) and simple stone sills were replaced by projecting molded metal lintels and corbeled metal sills (post-1890s). The denticulated cornice was altered (c. 1966-70) by the enlargement of the attic windows (with three-over-three double-hung sash), partial re-cladding in wood, and removal of a denticulated molding. A metal railing was placed at the front of the roof, and a metal leader pipe is located on the northern edge of the facade.

Report researched and written by
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NOTES

1. Adapted from LPC, *Webster Hall and Annex Designation Report* (LP-2273) (N.Y.: City of New York, 2008), researched and written by Jay Shockley.

2. Jan S. Ramirez, "Greenwich Village," in Kenneth T. Jackson, ed., *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (New Haven: Yale Univ. Pr.,1995), 506.

3. First was a uniform row of twelve 3-1/2-story Federal style houses (1826-27) on Washington Square South (4th Street), between Thompson and MacDougal Streets, by Col. James B. Murray and others. On Washington Square North, west of Fifth Avenue, Federal and Greek Revival style town houses were built between 1828 and 1839, while east of Fifth Avenue, "The Row" of thirteen large Greek Revival style town houses was developed in 1832-33 by downtown merchants and bankers who leased the properties from the Trustees of Sailors Snug Harbor. The University of the City of New York (later New York University) constructed its first structure, the Gothic Revival style University Building (1833-36, Town, Davis & Dakin; demolished), on the east side of the Square.

4. The church is a designated New York City Landmark.

5. Luther Harris, *Around Washington Square: An Illustrated History of Greenwich Village* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ. Pr., 2003), 35.

6. Of the original nine houses, Nos. 428-434 are extant and are designated New York City Landmarks.

7. Born c. 1795 in England, Davis immigrated to New Brunswick, N.J., where he worked briefly as a distiller. In 1830, he relocated to New York City and began to acquire real estate. He obtained the backing of the J.L.

& S. Josephs & Co. Bank, which represented the interests of the Rothschild family in the U.S. from 1833 to 1837. Davis acquired a major portion of the Staten Island real estate holdings of the late Gov. Daniel Tompkins at a sheriff's sale in 1834, and continued to amass property along the island's northern shore. Plans were made to develop this property into a summer retreat to be named New Brighton, and five Greek Revival style residences were built along Richmond Terrace in 1835; Davis' own mansion became the nucleus of the Pavilion Hotel (1836, John Haviland; demolished). In 1836, Davis conveyed New Brighton to a syndicate of five New York businessmen for the then astronomical sum of $600,000. According to Luther Harris, "in an 1840 auction following the Panic of 1837, Davis picked up over 400 lots on Fifth Avenue blocks north of Twentieth Street, for a few hundred dollars each, with plans to erect elegant residences there." His real estate was listed in the 1860 census as worth $1.5 million. Harris, 23; Walter Barrett, *The Old Merchants of New York* (N.Y., 1864), 133; LPC, *St. George-New Brighton Historic District Designation Report* (LP-1883)(N.Y.: City of New York, 1994); U.S. Census (18th Ward, New York, 1860).

8. Two houses, the Hamilton-Holly and Daniel LeRoy Houses, Nos. 4 and 20, survive and are designated New York City Landmarks.

9. New York County, Office of the Register, Liber Deeds and Conveyances, including liber 352, p. 384 (1836), liber 376, p. 600 (1837), liber 398, p. 343-345 (1839), liber 442, p. 521 (1844), and liber 1130, p. 658 (1870); New York Tax Assessments, 11th Ward (1831-1836) and 17th Ward (1837-1875); *New York City Directories* (1838-1876); "Ex parte The Creditors of David H. Robertson," *The New-York Legal Observer*, Oct. 8, 1842, 20-22; [Robertson v. Cowdrey], in "Circuit Court of New York," *Western Law Journal* (Jan. 1845), 191-192; Spencer P. Mead, *History and Genealogy of the Mead Family of Fairfield County, Connecticut...* (N.Y.: Knickerbocker Pr., 1901), 240-246; [Mead, Holmes, and Van Wyck families], Barrett, 365-378, and www.conovergenealogy.com and ww.worldconnect.rootsweb.ancestry.com websites; "Nuptial," *New-York Weekly Museum*, Oct. 30, 1813; "Ralph Mead," U.S. Census (New York, 1820); "Dissolution," *New-York Gazette*, July 31, 1820, 4, and *New York Spectator*, Jan. 17, 1832; "Office of the City Fire Insurance Company," *New York Times (NYT)*, Sept. 22, 1854, 7; "Erie Railroad Directors," *NYT*, Oct. 11, 1854, 8; Harriet Mead Harper obit., *NYT*, Dec. 17, 1856, 8; "Adriatic Fire Insurance Co.," *NYT*, Oct. 29, 1858, 7; "The Anniversaries," *NYT*, May 11, 1860, 8; Ralph Mead obit., *NYT*, July 24, 1866, 5, and *The Christian Advocate*, Nov. 22, 1866, 1; Elizabeth A. Mead Hyde obit., *NYT*, Mar. 26, 1886, 5; "Failure of R.S. Luqueer & Co.," *NYT*, Feb. 20, 1896, 11; Edwin Hyde obit., *New-York Tribune*, Feb. 8, 1896, 7; Philip J.A. Harper obit., Mar. 7, 1896, *NYT*, 3, and *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 14; Melville E. Mead obit., *NYT*, June 5, 1921, 22; "Melville Emory Mead," *Who's Who in New England*, 735; [De Girardin/ Tifft family], "Married," *NYT*, Jan. 1, 1856, 8, and U.S. Census (New York, 1860); George H. Ellery obit., *NYT*, Apr. 2, 1890, 4; "Records of Civil War Special Agencies of the Treasury Department," www.archives.gov website; "Cornelia W. Poole," James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island 1636-1850*, 255; Ellery family, U.S. Census (Rhode Island, 1870).

10. "Essex Market – Before Justice Mansfield," *NYT*, Apr. 27, 1866, 2.

11. Federal style houses portion adapted from LPC, *281 East Broadway House (Isaac T. Ludlam House) Designation Report* (LP-1993)(N.Y.: City of New York, 1998), written by Marjorie Pearson. Also: Charles Lockwood, "Greek Revival Style" in *Bricks and Brownstone: The New York Rowhouse 1783-1929* (N.Y.: Rizzoli, 2003); Ada Louise Huxtable, "Houses With Grecian Graces," in *Classic New York: Georgian Gentility to Greek Elegance* (Garden City, NY: Anchor Bks., 1964), 89-107; LPC, *Rowhouse Manual* (n.d.).

12. The house is a designated New York City Landmark.

13. Both houses are designated New York City Landmarks.

14. "The Row" is located within the Greenwich Village Historic District and the Skidmore House is a designated New York City Landmark.

15. Adapted from LPC, *Webster Hall and Annex Designation Report.*

16. The building is a designated New York City Landmark.

17. All of the mentioned extant buildings are designated New York City Landmarks.

18. "Swiss Benevolent Society," in Moses King, *King's Handbook of New York* (N.Y.: M. King, 1893), 448; "The Building Department," *NYT*, July 4, 1906, 10; "Hebrews Dedicate Free Loan Home," *NYT*, May 6, 1907, 18.

19. New York County, liber 1301, p. 126-128 (1874); "Abigail Hopper Gibbons" and "Isaac Tatem Hopper," *Dictionary of American Biography* 4 and 5 (N.Y. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1932 and 1933), 237-238 and 224; Women's Prison Assn. of New York (WPA), *Annual Report* (1848-1882); "Women's Prison Association," correctionhistory.org website; "Women's Prison Association of New York. 'The Isaac T. Hopper Home'," Rev. J.F. Richmond, *New York and its Institutions, 1609-1871* (N.Y.: E.B. Treat, 1871), 457-460; Margaret H. Bacon, *Abby Hopper Gibbons: Prison Reformer and Social Activist* (Albany: Univ. of N.Y. Pr., 2000); Estelle B. Freedman, *Their Sisters' Keepers: Women's Prison Reform in America, 1830-1930* (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Mich. Pr., 1981), 28-34; "From 'The Woman's Prison Association and Home'...," *NYT*, Feb. 26, 1857, 2; "Fair of the Women's Prison Association," *NYT*, Dec. 14, 1860, 5; "The Woman's Prison Association," *NYT*, Jan. 22, 1862, 3; "Home News," *New-York Tribune*, Feb. 3, 1875, 12; "Report of the Women's Prison Association," *NYT*, Mar. 29, 1875, 5; NYC, Dept. of Buildings (Alts. 928-1875 and 1039-1882); "Helping Women Keep 'Ex' in Front of Convict," *NYT*, Dec. 15, 1971, 58; U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, "Isaac T. Hopper Home National Register of Historic Places Inventory Form" (1986), written by Karl Rasmussen.

20. The later building of the New York House and School of Industry (1878, Sidney V. Stratton), 120 West 16th Street, is a designated New York City Landmark.

21. Freedman, 29.

22. WPA, *Constitution*, in *Annual Report* (1871).

23. WPA, *Annual Report* (1858), 10.

24. WPA, *Annual Report* (1874), 5.

25. Adapted from LPC, *Webster Hall and Annex Designation Report.*

26. Jan S. Ramirez, "The Tourist Trade Takes Hold," in Rick Beard and Leslie C. Berlowitz, ed., *Greenwich Village: Culture and Counterculture* (New Brunswick: Rutgers Univ. Pr., 1993), 388.

27. Ramirez, in Jackson, ed., 508.

28. Terry Miller, *Greenwich Village and How It Got That Way* (N.Y.: Crown Publrs., 1990), 258.

29. This building is a designated New York City Landmark and Interior Landmark.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association) has a special character and a special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage, and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), a grand three-story (plus attic and basement) Greek Revival style rowhouse at No. 110 Second Avenue, in today's East Village neighborhood of Manhattan, is the only survivor of a row of four houses that functioned as an enclave for the extended family of the very wealthy wholesale grocery and commission merchant Ralph Mead; that, constructed c. 1837-38 by the Mead family, No. 110 was the home in 1839-44 of merchant/ship broker David H. Robertson until he declared bankruptcy and this property was foreclosed and auctioned in 1844, and transferred to Ralph Mead; that this house was the residence from 1845 until 1857 of Mead (1789-1866), the proprietor of Ralph Mead & Co. (established 1815), and his second wife, née Ann Eliza Van Wyck, was leased after 1858 and remained in Mead family ownership until 1870, and was sold to railroad agent George H. Ellery and his wife, Cornelia, who resided here c. 1872-74; that it was purchased in 1874 by the Women's Prison Association, which had been established in 1845 as the Female Department of the Prison Association of New York by Isaac Tatem Hopper and his daughter, Abigail Hopper Gibbons, noted Quaker abolitionists and leading advocates of prison reform, and chartered in 1854 under the new name; that the Isaac T. Hopper Home, opened here in 1874, is considered the world's oldest halfway house for girls and women released from prison, with the Home's original mission to rehabilitate these women by providing short-term shelter, religious counseling, domestic training in sewing and laundry work, and job placement; that, a rare extant house of the period when this section of Second Avenue was one of the most elite addresses in Manhattan in the early 19th century, it is also a fine example of a grand Greek Revival style rowhouse, characterized by its machine-pressed red brickwork laid in stretcher bond, high stoop and areaway with wrought-iron fence, entrance with Italianate style paneled double doors and transom, long parlor-level windows and cast-iron balcony, and denticulated cornice, and is made particularly distinctive by its brownstone portico with Ionic fluted columns supporting an entablature; and that the Isaac T. Hopper Home, which has continuously served the mission of the Women's Prison Association here since 1874, is a rare surviving 19th-century institutional presence in this ever-changing neighborhood.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 74, Section 3020 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), 110 Second Avenue, Borough of Manhattan, and designates Manhattan Tax Map Block 448, Lot 4, as its Landmark Site.

Robert B. Tierney, Chair; Pablo E. Vengoechea, Vice-Chair;
Frederick Bland, Diana Chapin, Roberta Brandes Gratz,
Christopher Moore, Margery Perlmutter, Commissioners

Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), 110 Second Avenue, Manhattan

Photo Credit: Christopher D. Brazee (2009)

Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), 110 Second Avenue, Manhattan (Left)

Source: Moses King, *King's Handbook of New York* (1893)

Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), 110 Second Avenue, Manhattan (middle of the block)

Photo Credit: LPC (1966)

Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), 110 Second Avenue, Manhattan (middle of the block)

Photo Credit: Christopher D. Brazee (2009)

Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), 110 Second Avenue, Manhattan

Photo Credit: John Barrington Bayley (1966)

Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), 110 Second Avenue, Manhattan

Photo Credit: Michael Stein (1978)

Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), 110 Second Avenue, Manhattan

Photo Credit: Christopher D. Brazee (2009)

Ralph and Ann E. Van Wyck Mead House (later Isaac T. Hopper Home of the Women's Prison Association), 110 Second Avenue, Manhattan

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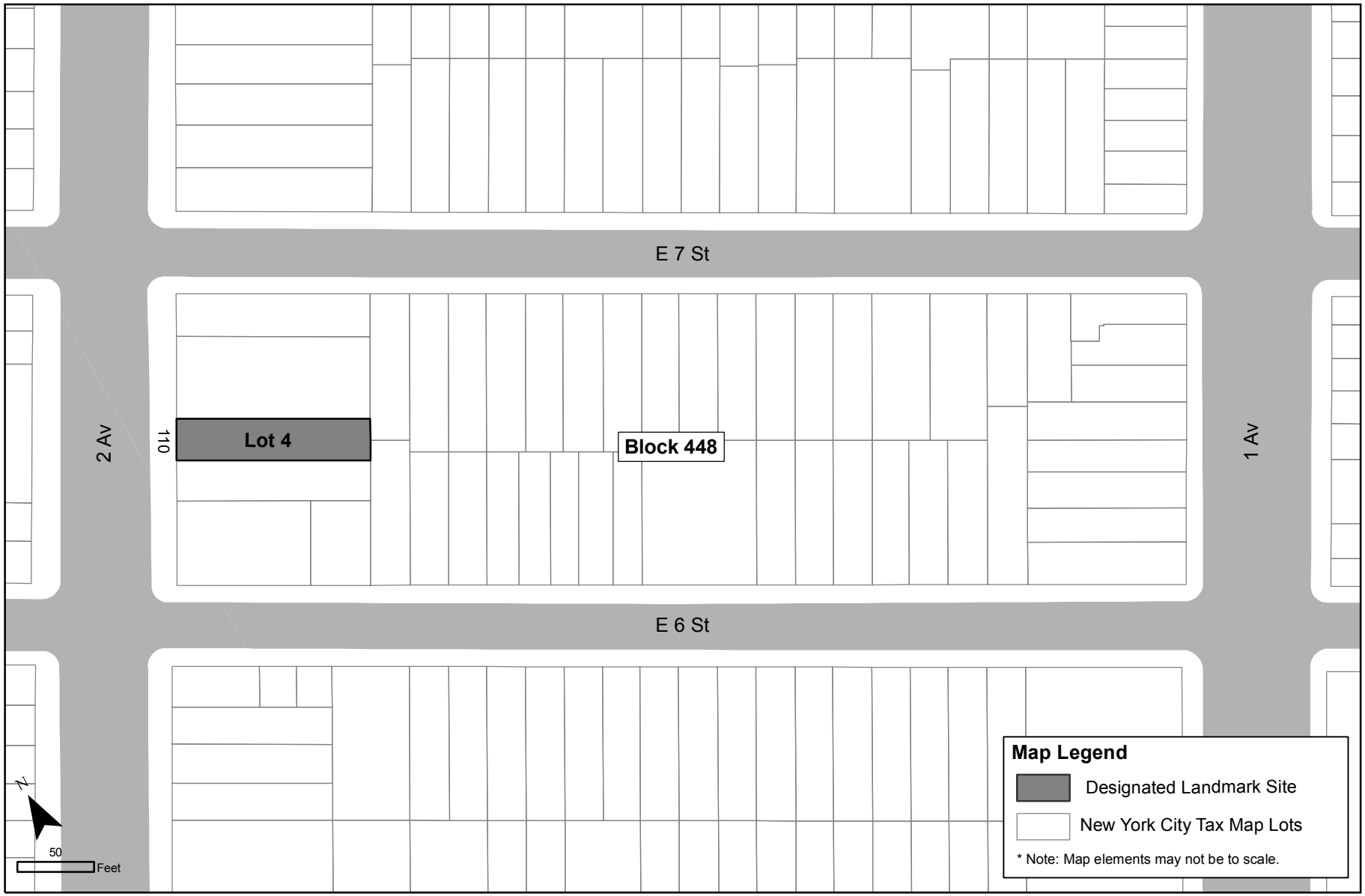

RALPH AND ANN E. VAN WYCK MEAD HOUSE (LATER ISAAC T. HOPPER HOME OF THE WOMEN'S PRISON ASSOCIATION) (LP-2331), 110 Second Avenue. Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 448, Lot 4.

Designated: October 13, 2009

Graphic Source: New York City Department of City Planning, MapPLUTO, Edition 09v1, 2009. Author: New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, October 15, 2009, OTK.