



February 19, 2013

Robert Tierney  
Chair  
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney,

It has come to our attention that the United States Postal Service (USPS) intends to sell Old Chelsea Station, a Depression-era Colonial Revival post office located at 217 West 18th Street. Given the substantial threat to this historically significant building posed by any change in occupancy, we respectfully request that the New York City Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) initiate an evaluation of the building and favorably consider it for designation as an Individual Landmark.

Old Chelsea Station was listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places in 1989. The station stands as a remnant of the Depression-era public works projects. Designed by local architect Eric Kebbon in 1935, this building is a remarkably well-maintained and quintessential example of the structural style that defined the post offices built in this period. In New York City, there exist two other post offices also designed by Kebbon. Old Chelsea Station is unique in that it is more modest than the architect's other buildings. The principal facade of the station features Doric order columns, four terracotta rosettes, and relief sculptures of bald eagles watching over the two main entrances. Following the completion of the building's construction, artist Paul Fiene was commissioned to create stone panels for the interior. The two sculptures Fiene designed, entitled "Deer" and "Bear," picture woodland animals cast in low-relief.

We believe that under the criteria for landmark designation, Old Chelsea Station merits protection. In addition to its historic significance as a vestige of a critical period in our nation's history, it possesses aesthetic value for its distinctly minimal expression of Colonial Revival architecture.

The potential sale of the station by USPS has imperiled this historic site. While it is already recognized on both the State and National Register of Historic Places, without official New York City Landmark designation, it is vulnerable to alteration or

destruction. We respectfully ask that LPC take heed of the potential threat to this structure and move expeditiously to evaluate Old Chelsea Station for designation as a New York City Landmark.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your commitment to preserving New York City's architectural heritage.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. Representative



Carolyn Maloney  
U.S. Representative



Christine C. Quinn  
Speaker, City Council



Brad Hoylman  
State Senator



Richard N. Gottfried  
Assembly Member



Deborah J. Glick  
Assembly Member



Gale Brewer  
City Council Member



Scott Stringer  
Manhattan Borough President