What are the benefits of being listed on the registers?

The State and National Registers are a part of the New York State Office of Preservation Office (SHPO), which is administered by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the registers are the official lists of properties that are significant in history, architecture, engineering, landscape design, archaeology and culture within local, state and/or national contexts. More than 80,000 historic properties in New York have received this prestigious recognition.

What are the benefits of being listed on the registers?

The State and National Registers are a recognized and visible component of public and private planning. The registers promote heritage tourism, economic development and appreciation of historic resources. Benefits include:

- Owners of historic commercial and rental properties listed on the National Register may qualify for a preservation tax credit.
- Not-for-profit organizations and municipalities that own listed properties are eligible to apply for New York State historic preservation grants.
- Properties that meet the criteria for listings receive a measure of protection from state and federal undertakings regardless of their listing status.

How do State and National Registers differ from designation under the New York City Landmarks Commission?

State and National Registers listing should not be confused with local landmark designation. Many communities have enacted local historic landmark ordinances that establish local commissions and review procedures for locally designated properties. These commissions are established and operated independently from the State and National Registers, although the goals are similar – to protect and preserve properties important in our past.

Will State and National Register listing restrict the use of a property?

Listing on the registers does not interfere with a property owner’s right to remodel, alter, paint, manage, sell, or even demolish a historic property, local zoning and ordinances not withstanding. If state or federal funds are used or if a state or federal permit is required, proposed alterations will be reviewed by the SHPO’s staff – regardless of listing status.

Where can I find more about the State and National Registers?

For more information contact the Historic Preservation Field Services at (518) 237-8643 or log on to the OPRH website at http://www.nyparks.state.ny.us or the Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts website at www.friends-ues.org.

FAQ’s About the State and National Registers of Historic Places

LEXINGTON AVENUE UPDATE

Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts is pleased to announce that an expansion of the Upper East Side Historic District on the State and National Registers of Historic Places will be considered by New York State, this winter. For more than five years, FRIENDS volunteers, staff and interns surveyed and researched over 450 buildings along Lexington Avenue from East 59th to East 79th Streets, as well as undesignated side streets from Park Avenue to Third Avenue. We are very grateful to the Kress Foundation and the Preservation League of New York State for supporting this important work. Lexington Avenue is such an important artery on the Upper East Side; it is surprising that very little of it is included in the designated historic district. The sense of place on Lexington is not unlike that of Madison Avenue, which is part of the district from 62nd Street to 77th Street. Like Madison, Lexington is lined with sets of...

FRIENDS of the UPPER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Founded in 1982, FRIENDS is an independent, not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to preserving the architectural legacy, livability, and sense of place of the Upper East Side. In addition to safeguarding the future of the Upper East Side’s six historic districts and 125 individual landmarks, and as an advocate for sound preservation policies for the city, Friends has also been a leader in successful efforts to improve dramatically the zoning laws governing the area’s avenues and residential side streets.

For further information please telephone 212-535-2526 or visit www.friends-ues.org.
Lexington Avenue Update

of four and five-story 19th century row-houses, which also feature shops on their ground floors. Although the architecture is simpler than that in parts of the Upper East Side Roman Catholic churches, the streetscape is more picturesque due to the presence of smaller buildings and gas lamps. The proposed boundary increase consists of portions of 17 blocks in two separate districts. Groups of these low-scale buildings are interspersed with larger apartment houses. Additionally, the area is known for its East Side Roman Catholic churches. For the most part, these churches lie east of Third Avenue, from 52nd Street to 125th Street, an area outside designated historic districts.

Benefit (continued)

FRIENDS’ work on the Upper East Side and our latest initiatives to expand the Upper East Side Historic District on the National and State Registers. We were fortunate that three of Louis Auchincloss’ close friends were co-hosts for this special evening: Schuyler G. Chapin, former Commissioner of Cultural Affairs for New York City, Eve Halsper, former head of Brearley School and Joseph Kanon, an author and editor at Houghton Mifflin. Each gave wonderful anecdotes about Mr. Auchincloss, expressing admiration for his 60 published novels and his famous sense of humor. Mr. Chapin remarked that Louis Auchincloss was the natural successor of Henry James and Edith Wharton. Louis Auchincloss gracefully and humorously accepted the praise with an entertaining talk about growing up on the Upper East Side. The guests toasted to Mr. Auchincloss and a cake abloom with candles was wheeled out. With such outstanding company, it was an evening to remember!

Special thanks to the Benefit Committee and all those who helped to make the event so successful. With the money raised, FRIENDS can continue to be the curator of the Upper East Side’s architectural heritage.