



# NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission

## Sire Building

211 West 58th Street, Manhattan  
Manhattan Block: 01030; Lot: 0025

## Backlog Initiative: Addressing 95 Properties Manhattan A Group 2 Items

Manhattan Community Board 5  
Public Hearing Date(s): 6/23/2009



Photos: (left and center) 2009 (right) undated historic image

### Special Public Hearings

The Landmarks Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the backlog of buildings in the Borough of Manhattan on **November 5, 2015** and encourages interested parties to submit written testimony in advance of that hearing. Each speaker will be given three minutes total to speak, and in that time may address all of the items within Manhattan A Group 2, just particular items, or add comments to support written testimony. In order to conduct efficient hearings, we ask speakers to register in advance, and submit their written statements and materials that will be read at the hearing by **October 29, 2015** to [backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov](mailto:backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov). If you are unable to attend the hearing, your written submissions will be entered into the record and distributed to the Commissioners.

If you have questions about this property or the hearing process please contact [backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov](mailto:backlog95@lpc.nyc.gov) or call (212) 669-7817. If you would like more information about this property, please see the research file summary (over) and go to our website (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/backlog95>) and click on the link for this building's research file.



## Landmarks Preservation Commission

### Sire Building Description

Built: 1884-85

Architect: William Graul

Style: High Victorian Gothic

Landmark Type: Individual

### Research Staff Hearing Statement (2009)

#### The Sire Building

211 West 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Manhattan (Block 1030; Lot 25)



This five-story flats building was constructed in 1884-85 to the designs of William Graul for owner Benjamin Sire. It was built to house 10 residential units and a ground floor store. Flats buildings such as the Sire Building had been constructed since the 1870s on the Upper East Side, however, the area in the West 50s and low West 60s was largely undeveloped in the early 1870s, making this an early multiple dwelling from the first phase of residential development in this area.

William Graul maintained an architectural practice in New York City from 1868 to 1903 and designed many apartment buildings, row houses and store and loft buildings in the City. Benjamin Sire was a wealthy real estate dealer and the owner of several theaters.

The building was designed in the high Victorian Gothic style with neo-Grec details. It is constructed of red brick and has stone trim and details. Windows at the second floor have Gothic arch-headed lintels supported by slender columns with floral capitals. Continuous lintels and sills with banding are found at the third through fifth floors, with neo-Grec style incising in the lintels at the third and fifth floors. A cornice with a leaf design runs beneath the third floor windows. Stone and brick pilasters running vertically at the outer and inner piers are terminated at the second floors by slender columns with floral capitals. The owner's name "SIRE" appears in stone beneath a Gothic arch-headed stone blind lintel at the parapet wall above the center bay of paired windows. The cornice has neo-Grec style angular modillions and brackets and is broken by an angular shaped brick with stone trim pediment and a fire escape that goes to the roof. All the windows have been replaced with aluminum sash.

The commercial storefront infill at the ground floor has been replaced and the ground floor façade has been resurfaced with granite veneer. The ground floor storefront has been occupied by a variety of tenants, including a Studebaker car dealer in the 1910s; a pet shop c. 1930; and the Museum of the American Piano in the 1980s and 1990s. Klavierhaus, a retailer of handmade pianos, currently occupies the ground floor commercial space. The entrance to the apartments in the western bay still has its historic ornately carved wood and glass double-doors with lion heads and beveled glass.