



The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

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MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG AND LANDMARKS CHAIR ROBERT B. TIERNEY ANNOUNCE DESIGNATION OF THE GANSEVOORT MARKET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Historic District Will Unify The West Side Of Manhattan For The Next Century

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Robert B. Tierney, announced today the designation of the Gansevoort Market Historic District. The Gansevoort Market is Manhattan's only tangible reminder of the late 19th- and 20th- century period when working piers dotted the lower Hudson River and indoor and open-air markets filled most of the West Side. Today, the Gansevoort Market Historic District survives as a vibrant neighborhood of meatpackers, retail commerce, restaurants, offices, clubs, galleries and apartments.



The Gansevoort Market Historic District is the southern anchor of the City's plans for the Far West Side. The historic character, combined with its dynamic mixed-use environment, make it a destination for New York businesses and residents alike. It is also home to the southern tip of the High Line, the elevated rail line that runs from Gansevoort Street through Chelsea into the Hudson Yards. When the High Line is rehabilitated into a world-class park, the Gansevoort Market District will serve as its key point of entry.

“We are very excited by the critical role that the Gansevoort Market Historic District, with its unique sense of place and historic importance, will play in the development of the Far West Side,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “This is just the first of several key projects, including the restoration of the High Line, the construction of Hudson River Park, and the development of the Hudson Yards, that form the core of the Administration's plans for the Far West Side. When completed, these projects will revitalize the West Side of Manhattan, forming a necklace of dynamic waterfront communities, each with their own unique assets.”

The restored High Line will complement another important area asset, Hudson River Park. These two open space networks will allow New Yorkers to travel easily from the Gansevoort Market District to the Hudson Yards area. The Administration has made the redevelopment of the Hudson Yards, including the creation of new open space and additional commercial and residential space, a top economic development priority. The designation of the Gansevoort Market district is an important first step in achieving the Administration's long-term goals for the Far West Side.

The earliest buildings in the district are Greek Revival residences from the 1840s. Commercial development intensified by the end of the 19th century, when two municipal markets opened in the vicinity. After the Manhattan Refrigeration Company provided the underground infrastructure for refrigeration in the district in 1906, older buildings began to be converted to market uses. By World War II, poultry and meat packing had consolidated as the main commercial activity within the district. The district's street layout, with its distinct Belgian block paving, is shaped by the transition between the irregular grid pattern of Greenwich Village and the grid of the 1811 Commissioner's Plan, which provide for unusually large and open intersections and create unique public spaces, particularly where Ninth Avenue meets West 14th Street and Gansevoort Street.

“The Gansevoort Market Historic District's streetscapes tell the story of a neighborhood that has evolved over the last 150 years,” said Robert B. Tierney. “Its unique sense of place is evident to anyone who walks through the district.”

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The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the New York City agency responsible for designating and regulating New York City's landmarks.