



May 20, 2025

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE FOLLOWING BUILDINGS AS INDIVIDUAL LANDMARKS:

- Barbey Building, 15 West 38th Street, Manhattan
- Fashion Tower, 135 West 36th Street, Manhattan
- Furcraft Building, 242-246 West 30th Street, Manhattan
- 29th Street Towers, 214 and 224 West 29th Street, Manhattan
- Lefcourt Clothing Center, 275 Seventh Avenue, Manhattan

Good morning Chair Carroll and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy is pleased to support designation of these five individual landmarks heard today as the LPC's Midtown South Initiative.

The five buildings represent significant moments in the history of the Garment Center. They remind us of the era when New York led the world in garment design and manufacturing, and how the Garment Center created not only jobs but a distinct culture and eco-system for this industry. From the 1909 Barbey Building, which anticipated the move of the Garment Center to this section of the City, to the Lefcourt Clothing Center, which cemented the Garment industry's pre-eminence, all five buildings speak to the important role that this industry has played in the City's cultural history.

The architecture represents the era well. All are masonry clad towers, with distinct and delightful ornament, that occasionally makes a direct connection to the Garment trade. Designed by notable architects, they were purpose-built, with loft spaces for showrooms, studios, manufacturing and office use. The historic height, setback massing, masonry facades, fenestration, and ornament of the five building are largely intact, with some alterations, especially at the storefronts.

These buildings are key to Garment Center history. We appreciate that the Commission has brought them forward for designation, in the context of the Midtown South rezoning. However, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement lists many more buildings that reach eligibility thresholds for the LPC and/or the State Register of Historic Places. As the rezoning will only increase development pressure in and around the rezoning area, we ask the Commission to continue this important work and designate more buildings in the rezoning area.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.