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May 19, 2009

Hon. Robert Tierney, Chair  
New York Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street  
New York, New York, 10007

re: IRT Powerhouse  
11<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 59<sup>th</sup> Street  
Manhattan

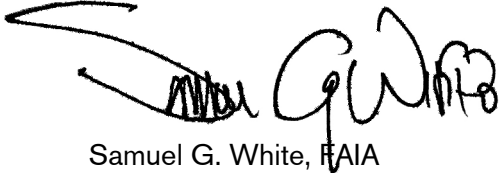
Dear Commissioner Tierney:

I am writing in support of individual designation of the IRT Powerhouse, a mature design by Stanford White of McKim, Mead & White.

The powerhouse is worthy of designation at a number of levels. It is one of about five industrial buildings or complexes attributable to White, making it a relatively uncommon commission in his vast and glittering portfolio. It is also a rare example of someone hiring an architect of considerable stature for a utility structure. Clearly there was something about that commission that made it important to both the architect and the client and each of them ended up with an extremely beautiful building. The architect's attention is evident in the overall grace of the elevations and their astonishing richness of material and detail. The idiom of classical architecture humanizes the monumental structure at the same time that the massive size of individual ornamental elements confirms White's mastery of scale. Take a pair of binoculars over to Eleventh Avenue and enjoy the feast!

Protection of this structure serves a civic purpose and will yield public benefits outweighing any modest inconvenience to the owner. I strongly urge the Commission to designate the IRT Powerhouse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel G. White', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Samuel G. White, FAIA

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