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Public Editor
New York Times
229 W 43rd St
New York, NY 10036

212-556-3500

Dear Sir:

I ask you to investigate both Christopher Gray and Andrew Alpern, two Freelance writers of the New York Times, (StreetScapes April 5, 2009) for misrepresenting the facts as they cooperated to put together an article about a case before the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to appear on April 14.

They should specifically be questioned regarding who contacted them and/or encouraged them to participate in the article's misrepresentation and whether or not there was a self-imposed deadline on creating the article. I ask this because the article's misrepresentation of the facts specifically relate to issues under consideration by the Commission and erroneously state that the two buildings are one when they are not. The article begins with the erroneous statement, "This L-shaped house, with a Queen Anne front and a factory-style behind, was built in 1896 by August Zinsser." That description is inaccurate and misleading. The Queen Anne style building is linear and the factory-style building is adjacent to it not connected with it. Anyone going from one building must exit each to enter the other.

That misrepresentation is precisely what was intended by the authors to suggest that an addition to the factory-style building is actually a landmarks issue whereas it is not. The disputed addition has nothing to do with the "1896" building (Mr. Gray got that date wrong as well! It was 1872.) This attempt by Mr. Gray's and Mr. Alpern's to confuse the LPC and the general public is wantonly destructive. It appears to have been planted by one or more neighborhood groups to use the New York Times to deceive the Commission. I appeal to you to obtain statements from the two in an investigation by you. If the LPC requires the addition be removed, which would cost half a million dollars, then those that misrepresent the facts in the New York Times together with the Times will be held liable along with those that used the NYTimes for illegitimate purposes.

Sincerely,



Thomas H. Haines

cc: Richard Eisenberg, Eisenberg Tanchum & Levy, LLC,
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Andrew D. Alpern, 315 Eighth Avenue Apt. 1711, 10008