

## Dorothy Miner Memorial Service

16 April 2009

Welcome one and all to this special memorial for Dorothy Miner. I begin with a thank you to Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation for arranging this beautiful space in St. Paul's - - and to the Cathedral of St. John The Divine for arranging the reception space after this event. Dorothy loved these churches, and I have no doubt she would have approved these arrangements.

We gather on this beautiful spring afternoon to celebrate Dorothy's life and work. Here today are Dorothy's family, friends, colleagues and students. A number of people will speak this afternoon to share with you their very personal remembrances of Dorothy. The very mention of the name Dorothy needs no Miner. Everyone knows who you are talking about. I don't know when it started, but it was this way for a very long time. Whenever you heard the name Dorothy mentioned in the preservation community, you knew they weren't talking about the girl from Kansas.

Dorothy was a graduate of Smith College, Class of 1958 and Columbia Law School, Class of 1961. She joined the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission in 1975 as counsel. It was there, over the course of 19 years, that she became a leader of the historic preservation movement. She was not the author of the City's Landmark Preservation Law, but she nurtured it through its adolescence. She brought it case by case, application by application, hearing by hearing into adulthood. There was never a more vigilant or more protective parent. The law we have today - - and the body of precedent that surrounds it - - are Dorothy's legacy to us.

As a lawyer, Dorothy exemplified some of the best qualities of the profession: mastery of her subject, zealous advocacy, and an understanding of the implications of her work. I met Dorothy in the summer of 1975. She was in her first year at the Commission. I was a student at Columbia Law School working with Ralph Menapace as a Summer Associate at Cahill Gordon & Reindel. The joy of that summer was working with Dorothy, Ralph and Paul Byard on the *Grand Central* case. We worked in close coordination, preparing the City's brief and an *amicus brief* for the Municipal Art Society. We knew this was an important case for the City - - and we sensed it was going to be an important case for the nation - - where there were lingering doubts in courts across the country whether landmarks preservation laws were a lawful exercise of governmental authority. We recognized the grave responsibility we had, and we approached our work with a singular purpose. It was the beginning of a great partnership that fought many of the landmark battles of the 70's, 80's and 90's, from Grand Central to St. Paul and St. Andrews to St. Bart's. Unexpectedly, and sadly, I am now the lone survivor.