

Grace Note

Some New York stories have an upbeat ending—even some stories involving money. What seemed like a particularly long shot, the saving of the Gothic Revival houses on Fourth Avenue owned by Grace Church, is now a reality. The necessary sum has now been raised for the church to provide the kind of school facilities that will use rather than destroy the buildings' historic facades. Great credit is due to those who, when the prospects seemed blackest, pitched in to raise and contribute to the building fund.

The fact that was clear to many, including the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the New York Landmarks Conservancy, was that the loss was not to be reckoned just as two old houses. With Grace Church, they form a key element of a once tranquil neighborhood that has been consistently diminished by development. Their most important features, their handsome exterior unity with the church and their essential quality as streetscape, will be maintained. This is no small preservation victory; the whole city gains in history and style.