



THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
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ADVISORY REPORT

ISSUE DATE: 02/07/2007	DOCKET #: 07-4857	CRA #: CRA 07-5668	
ADDRESS RIVERSIDE PARK <u>Plaza at Soldiers & Sailors Monument</u> SCENIC LANDMARK		BOROUGH: MANHATTAN	BLOCK/LOT: 1897/19

To the Mayor, the Council, and the Commissioner of the Department of Parks and Recreation

This report is issued pursuant to Sections 3020 and 854 (h) of the New York City Charter and Section 25-318 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, which require a report from the Landmarks Preservation Commission for certain plans for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, or demolition of any improvement or proposed improvement which is owned by the City or is to be constructed upon property owned by the City and is or is to be located on a landmark site or in a historic district or which contains an interior landmark.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission, at the Public Meeting of February 6, 2007, following the Public Hearing of the same date, voted to issue a positive report for a proposal for the alterations to a plaza, located immediately south of the Sailors and Soldiers Monument within the Riverside Park and Riverside Drive Scenic Landmark, as put forward in your application completed on January 11, 2007.

The proposal, as approved, consists of relocating chess tables; replacing and relocating benches and light posts; creating three new planting beds, with bluestone curbing and 1' high wickets; replacing existing asphalt paving with hexagonal asphalt pavers; relocating granite pavers at tree pits within the plaza area to tree pits in other locations; replacing 3' high metal fencing in-kind at the western side of the plaza; and installing a drinking fountain. The proposal was shown on presentation boards labeled 1 through 11, 13/13 and F1, dated presented February 6, 2007 and consisting of photographs and drawings, all submitted by the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation and presented at the Public Hearing and Public Meeting. Additionally, an undated plan from a previous proposal for the area, filed under Status Update Letter 03-1036 (LPC 02-3720), issued August 13, 2002, was presented by the Commission staff.

In reviewing this application, the Commission noted that the Riverside Park and Riverside Drive Scenic Landmark Designation Report describes the park and drive as an English Romantic style park and parkway, built in 1873-1902 and designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, with modifications and additions designed by Clifton Lloyd and Gilmore Clarke and built in 1934-1937. The Commission also noted that the section of the park and drive, currently occupied by the plaza, was originally designed by Olmsted during the 1870s as part of Riverside Park and Riverside Drive; that concurrently with the construction of the Sailors and Soldiers Monument, the area was renovated circa 1902, including the installation of cannons within a grassy landscape and likely the widening of paving at Riverside Drive; and that the area was altered circa 1930s under the direction of Robert Moses and Gilmore Clarke, including the creation of an asphalt paved plaza and the installation of benches. The Commission finally noted that Status Update Letter 03-1036 (LPC 02-3720) was issued August 13, 2002 for a proposal for the redesign of the plaza; and that the redesign work

was not conducted.

With regard to this proposal, the Commission found that the relocation of the chess tables from their prominent siting to a more discreet location, the repositioning of bench locations and the placement and configuration of the proposed planting beds will help establish an organized hierarchy within the plaza, emphasizing the significant features and enhancing views of the existing Sailors and Soldiers Monument and the historic cannons; that reintroducing greenery, reemphasizing the northward vista to the monument, and maintaining the primary paved viewing areas for the river and drive views will harmoniously integrate significant features of the original Olmsted era design, the circa 1902 renovations, and the Moses era renovations; that the paving replacement will help unify paving along Riverside Drive, be in keeping with the style and character of the drive, and maintain the secondary character of this plaza area in relation to the adjoining Sailors and Soldiers Monument, without removing any significant historic fabric; that the designs of the proposed bench, light posts, fencing, and drinking fountain will be consistent with the design of these elements throughout the park and will be harmonious with the naturalistic style of the park and drive; that the placement of the cannons, consistently sited since 1902, will not be altered; and that the cumulative effect of this work will support the significant historic and naturalistic character of the Riverside Park and Riverside Drive Scenic Landmark.. Based on these findings, the Commission determined the that work is appropriate to the site and voted to issue a positive report.

PLEASE NOTE: This permit is issued contingent upon the Commission's review and approval of the final construction drawings. No work may begin until the final drawings have been marked approved by the Landmarks Preservation Commission with a perforated seal. Please submit these drawings to the Landmarks Preservation Commission staff when they become available.

This permit is issued on the basis of the building and site conditions described in the application and disclosed during the review process. By accepting this permit, the applicant agrees to notify the Commission if the actual building or site conditions vary or if original or historic building fabric is discovered. The Commission reserves the right to amend or revoke this permit, upon written notice to the applicant, in the event that the actual building or site conditions are materially different from those described in the application or disclosed during the review process.

All approved drawings are marked approved by the Commission with a perforated seal indicating the date of approval. The work is limited to what is contained in the perforated documents. Other work or amendments to this filing must be reviewed and approved separately. The applicant is hereby put on notice that performing or maintaining any work not explicitly authorized by this permit may make the applicant liable for criminal and/or civil penalties, including imprisonment and fines. This report constitutes the permit; a copy must be prominently displayed at the site while work is in progress. Please direct inquiries to Bernadette Artus.

Robert B. Tierney
Chair

cc: Caroline Kane Levy, Deputy Director of Preservation; M. Bracken, Assistant Landscape Architect, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation