

John Burgee Architects with Philip Johnson

January 18, 1984

Dr. Lawrence J. Cohn, M.D.
755 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Cohn:

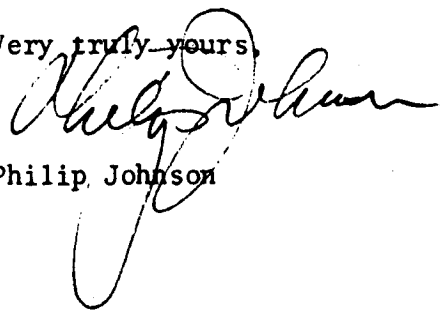
May I add my architectural word to your appeal against defacing the Historical Society building on Central Park West.

If the Landmark Law has any meaning at all, it is to prevent the defacement (really means destruction) of buildings that have historic significance.

Beyond this, the low profile of the building is a very important caesura on the cliff-like heights of Central Park West. Much as St. Bartholomew's, the Seagrams Building and Lever House make welcome reliefs on the Park Avenue canyon.

From the material you send me I cannot imagine that the Society can use the hardship excuse. Civically and architecturally, the addition would be a disgrace for the community.

Very truly yours,


Philip Johnson

PJ/jh