

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I help out with this effort?

Call Landmark West at (212) 496-8110 and visit us on the web: www.landmarkwest.org/amsterdamhouses. We can't wait to meet you!

What is the difference between listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and local landmark designation?

State and National Registers of Historic Places Landmark Designation: Items on the National Register of Historic Places are included on the nation's official list of historically significant structures, and includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. A National Register designation mandates that a property must be considered in the planning of federal or federally assisted projects impacting the registered property, and qualifies that site for financial assistance from governmental funds for historic preservation when these funds are available. Generally properties eligible for listing in the National Register are at least 50 years old. For more information, visit the National Historic Landmarks website, www.cr.nps.gov/landmarks.htm.

Local Landmark Designation: The Landmarks Preservation Commission is the New York City agency that is responsible for identifying and designating the City's landmarks and the buildings in the City's historic districts. The Commission also regulates changes to designated buildings. The minimum age for New York City designation is 30 years. For more information, visit the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission website: www.nyc.gov/landmarks.

What does it mean when something is “eligible” for landmark status?

A site can only be “listed” on the New York State and National Register of Historic Places with the consent of the owner. In the case of Amsterdam Houses, the New York City Housing Authority has not yet agreed to this designation. Until then, AH will be considered “eligible” for the state and national registers. The federal review explained above is the same for “eligible” and “listed” properties.

Why is it important to designate and protect landmarks and historic districts?

As the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission explains, landmarking is important to:

- Safeguard the city's historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage
- Help stabilize and improve property values in historic districts
- Encourage civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past
- Protect and enhance the city's attractions for tourists
- Strengthen the city's economy
- Promote the use of landmarks for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people of New York City

Have other NYCHA properties been designated local landmarks?

Brooklyn's Williamsburg Houses and Manhattan's Harlem River Houses and First Houses (Lower East Side) were designated NYC landmarks in recognition for their architectural, social and cultural significance.

What is Landmark West?

Landmark West is a non-profit award-winning community group working to preserve the best of the Upper West Side's architectural heritage from 59th to 110th Streets between Central Park West and Riverside Drive. Since 1985, we have worked to achieve landmark status for individual buildings and historic districts. Today, Landmark West is the proud curator of the area's nearly 2,700 designated landmarks (up from only 337 in 1985), and continues to promote awareness of these architectural treasures and the urgent need to protect them against insensitive change and demolition.

Join us! We organize lectures, walking tours and other events throughout the year. For more information, call (212) 496-8110 and visit us on the web: www.landmarkwest.org. The special web feature for Amsterdam Houses is: www.landmarkwest.org/amsterdamhouses