

**Hearing Date: 11/22/2005**  
**LPC Docket Number: 058792**  
**Manhattan, Block: 1249, Lot: 1**

**150 Riverside Drive - Riverside - West End Historic District**

A neo-Renaissance style apartment building, designed by Maurice Deutsch and built in 1926-1928.  
Application is to install exterior security cameras at the first floor.

**HDC Testimony**

HDC does not support the introduction of six security cameras at 150 Riverside Drive. This façade is in need of restoration, not the addition of more inappropriate details. Ideally, we would like to see this facade restored, and the paint, lights, and canopies removed.

We respectfully urge the Commission to deny this application.

**Hearing Date: 11/22/2005**  
**LPC Docket Number: 062454**  
**Manhattan, Block: 1250, Lot: 61**

**346 West 89th Street - Individual Landmark Historic District**

A mansion with Georgian and Beaux-Arts style elements designed by Herts and Tallant and built in 1901-03. Application is to alter the front yard and install a fence.

**HDC Testimony**

The Historic Districts Council has long been concerned with the condition of the Isaac L. Rice Mansion at 346 West 89th Street as it is in great need of improvement. And while we are pleased to see that the applicants are working towards improving the garden, HDC's Review Committee did not find the proposed landscape plan to be satisfactory. The Rice Mansion is a designated individual New York City landmark and one of only two freestanding mansions remaining on Riverside Drive. Due to the rarity of this landmark, the management and preservation of its setting is of the utmost importance.

As we can see from the 1902 postcard depiction of the mansion presented by the applicants, this garden was intended to have formal planting beds which are reflective of the formal elements of the facade. While we understand the necessity of allowing for the landscape to accommodate the needs of the school, we believe that at least some of this historic formality should be reflected in the plan. HDC's Review Committee particularly objected to the filling in of void areas with shrubs, which they did not think was at all reflective of the historic condition of this site.

Additionally, while we understand the need for some lower maintenance areas, the Committee objected to the filling in of nearly the entire yard with synthetic grass, and recommended that perhaps an area below the play equipment could be a rubber surface and the remaining areas filled with gravel and real grass.

HDC recommends that the applicants gather more historic photos and plans of this site, and redesign this plan so that some of the formal, historic elements are incorporated in the plan. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only clean up this yard, but to bring it closer to its historic condition and enhance the integrity of this site while meeting the needs of the school.

**Hearing Date: 11/22/2005**  
**LPC Docket Number: 062517**  
**Manhattan, Block: 1111, Lot: 1**

**Central Park - Scenic Landmark Historic District**

A comfort station and storage building built in 1936 within an English Romantic style public park designed in 1856 by Olmsted and Vaux. Application is to alter the building and construct an addition.

**HDC Testimony**

HDC's Review Committee had strong objections to this proposal as they felt that this application would make more permanent something that was always meant to be temporary in Central Park. While the changes proposed for this comfort station and storage building are not egregious, the results would further damage the intended design and use of this area of the park.

In 1989, in what was considered a temporary solution, the Summer Stage series was relocated to Rumsey Field from the Naumburg bandshell, while the bandshell was to be removed or restored. HDC does not believe that Rumsey Playfield is an appropriate concert venue and that this area should be returned to either its condition as a playfield, or even better to its 19th Century appearance, reinstating the ladies refreshment stand, later the casino, and upper terrace for passive use.

A restoration of this area would reinstate the intended flow between the concert ground and refreshment area, whereas currently, the pergola is made unusable, and the importance and use of the concert ground and bandshell are undermined by the use of Rumsey Field as a concert area. Making this site the permanent location for the Summer Stage series is antithetical towards restoration and the wrong direction for this area of the park, which was at one time one of the most formally designed areas of the park.

The way people were intended to use this space has been interrupted for quite some time and the landmark bandshell has not been able to function as it was intended for too long. We look to the Landmarks Preservation Commission to guide the applicants towards a solution that will restore the core elements of this formal 19th Century design.

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