

Hearing Date: 2/6/2007
LPC Docket Number: 074857
Manhattan, Block: 1251, Lot: 1

West 88th and West 89th Streets - Scenic Landmark Historic District

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. Application is to redesign a plaza

HDC Testimony

Riverside Park, one of New York's most beautiful and significant scenic landmarks, includes prominent monuments like the Soldiers' and Sailors', a New York City individual landmark. It is nice to see a proposal to spruce up this area of the park, but HDC feels that the plan should take further steps to restore and protect the history of the site. One good way to begin would be to restore the 1902 Grass Lawn (west of the north-south promenade, south of the monument.) Returning green space to the area would put more park back into this plaza. A row of benches, like those seen in historic photos and illustrations, edging the lawn along the promenade would help dissuade heavy use of the lawn and provide seating. Just as it is important to restore missing elements of the park, it is important to preserve historic layouts that exist and work. The Moses-era changes should be preserved as they help to highlight the distinction between the more formal, city-beautiful movement plaza and monument and Olmsted's romantic, picturesque landscape, while not competing with either. The addition of an east-west axis to make this point then becomes unnecessary. HDC urges reworking this plan to create one that more fully reflects this site's history.

Hearing Date: 2/6/2007
LPC Docket Number: 071815
Manhattan, Block: 1196, Lot: 4

467 Columbus Avenue - Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District

A neo-Grec style tenement building designed by Ernest W. Schneider and built in 1885-1886. Application is to legalize the construction of a rear yard addition and storefront alterations without LPC permits.

HDC Testimony

While HDC is happy to see more appropriate changes being made to the storefront, we are concerned about the rear yard addition. A proposal for a rear yard addition built right up to the lot line would never be approved, and facing a wall with brick does not change the inappropriateness of its size. HDC urges the commission to reject the legalization of this rear yard addition.

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