

Hearing Date: 7/27/2004

LPC Docket Number: 022633

Manhattan, Block: 1144, Lot: 33

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

A neo-Grec style flats building built in 1885 and designed by Thom and Wilson. Application is to legalize alterations to the enclosed street café without Landmarks Preservation Commission Permits.

HDC Testimony

Since we have to live with the presence of this grandfathered sidewalk café, we think we would all benefit if it only drew enough attention to itself to keep people from walking into it. The orange plexiglass that was illegally installed in the skylights does not accomplish this, but it does inspire some incredulity that anyone would think it appropriate in a historic district. We ask that the Commission deny this application for legalization.

Hearing Date: 7/27/2004

LPC Docket Number: 045502

Manhattan, Block: 1124, Lot: 42

12 West 72nd Street - Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District

A neo-Renaissance style apartment building built in 1926-7 designed by Emery Roth. Application is to install a new entrance infill.

HDC Testimony

We believe it is completely acceptable to remove the existing non-historic entry doors at the Oliver Cromwell, but do not understand why this would be proposed if it weren't going to somehow improve the building's appearance. The vaguely Arts and Crafts style of the proposed doors has nothing to do with the building's neo-Renaissance style and, if installed, would actually detract from the detailing of the entry surround, with its vermiculated masonry and the carved panels within the entry recess. Since the original drawings clearly show the intent of the original design, we recommend that the Commission deny the current proposal and ask the applicant to either closely recall the appearance of the original design or incorporate aspects of it into a modern interpretation that will enhance the experience of using and viewing this excellent building. We also think that this entryway should be looked at as a whole and we hope that the applicant might consider removing the stucco infill above the doorway, restoring the original stonework and multi-light window, and - we can't resist suggesting - bring back the original entry marquee.

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