



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
334 West 89th Street
July 22, 2008**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-profit community organization committed to the preservation of the architectural heritage of the Upper West Side.

The Certificate of Appropriateness Committee wishes to comment on the application to replace the areaway fence and install a trash enclosure at 334 West 89th Street, a Renaissance Revival-style rowhouse designed by Ralph S. Townsend and built in 1893-94.

We are pleased that this proposal includes the removal of the existing areaway fence. Restoring the barrier-free nature of the rowhouse's areaway would return to it a sense of openness. Upon the removal of the current fence, we encourage the applicant to restore the existing masonry and do no more. As several of the applicant's neighbors are evident, an open areaway is the most appropriate treatment for the front elevation of a rowhouse such as this. The applicant would do well to take its cue from these nearby examples.

The applicant proposes installing a 9-foot-long, 2-foot-deep enclosure of solid, black metal to "hide" the building's trash receptacles from the public. In actuality, the introduction of a three-dimensional, opaque mass along the sidewalk will be anything but hidden. The applicant should simply relocate the trash repository area to the basement level. In doing so, presumably no permit would be necessary and the rowhouse's historical integrity would not be compromised.