

friends of **GAST
IRON** *architecture*

235 East 87th Street, 6C
New York, N.Y. 10028
(212) 369-6004

Established 1970

Henry-Russell Hitchcock
Sir Nikolaus Pevsner
Honorary Co-Chairmen

RECEIVED

FEB 15 1984 February 11, 1984

LANDMARK PRESERVATION
COMMISSION

Hon. Gene Norman
Landmark Preservation Commission
20 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10007

RE: N.Y. Historical Society Building

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In taking issue with the fine architect, Hugh Hardy, who designed it and with the New York Historical Society that seeks to have it built, I must say that a massive structure on top of the Society's handsome headquarters on Central Park West can in no way be called appropriate.

Hugh Hardy's model shows a bulky mass weighing down on the elegant 1908 building by York & Sawyer, its North and South wings carefully added in 1938, and utterly fails to acknowledge the landmark qualities that make the Society's lovely building an urban asset. His proposed luxury residential tower simply overpowers it.

As a member of the New York Historical Society for nearly 20 years I object to the inept proposal. This is not preservation. What the Society is suggesting does not treat its building as a landmark but simply as a foundation for a big apartment house.

The Commission has no choice but to deny the certificate of appropriateness.

Very truly yours,


Margot Gayle
President

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Public Information: Susan Leicher **Renewals:** Rozanna Radakovich **Books:** Margaret Hance