

Landmarkers nix Historical Society

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By JOAN SHEPARD

The Landmarks Preservation Commission yesterday turned down the New-York Historical Society's request for permission to build a 23-story apartment tower over its landmark headquarters on Central Park West.

The commission's vote, 6 to 2, denied a certificate of appropriateness for the proposed building.

Charles Platt, a landmarks commissioner, said that design was inappropriate because it "so changes and debases the existing landmark."

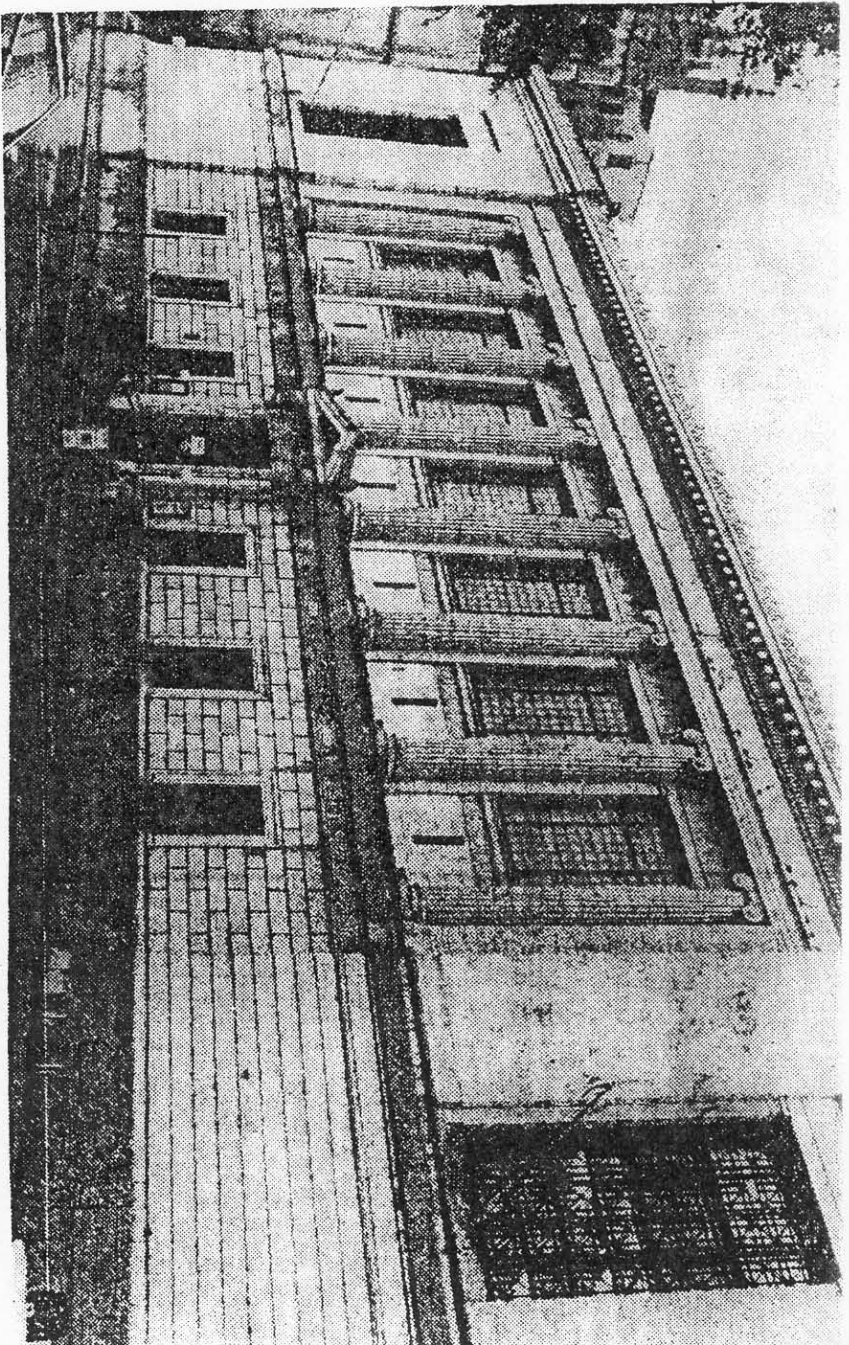
"The building is complete unto itself," said a spokesman for the commission. "The tower would turn the building into a pedestal, changing the character of the building."

"We are overjoyed with the decision," said Dr. Lawrence Cohen, chairman of the Central Park West Preservation Committee. "It preserves a wonderful landmark, the 76th St. Historic District and Central Park West."

Last December, the builder unveiled a plan for a three-tiered limestone-and-granite building with copper-clad gables.

Although the proposal, by Hugh Hardy of Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates, architects, echoed designs of nearby older apartment structures on Central Park West, it met considerable opposition.

"It would violate what is perhaps this district's and the upper West Side's greatest treasure—namely the Central



There won't be a tower on top.

Park skyline," said Councilwoman Ruth Messinger (D-West Side). She added: "For the New-York Historical Society to seek this luxury residential structure violates the stated commitment to history and preservation and would allow it to engage in speculative

real estate development."

The society wanted to put up the apartment building to generate additional income.

Other Manhattan buildings up for designation yesterday were: the Rockefeller Apartments on W. 54th and 55th

Sts. between Fifth and Sixth Aves.; extension of the St. Mark's Historical District on the lower East Side; Gorham Manufacturing at 19th St. and Broadway; the Henry Holland House on E. 54th St.; and the Lucy Dahlgren House, 15 E. 98th St.