

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Regarding 190-198 Columbus Avenue
June 29, 2004**

LANDMARK WEST! is a non-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 install an awning.

We urge the Commission to have the applicant remove the existing roll-down gate and housing and install an interior gate allowing a sloped retractable awning in line with the original storefront dimensions. The security gate is one of the last remaining on this stretch of Columbus Avenue, which has been improved considerably in the last 15 years since designation. This application does not do anything to enhance the retail corridor of Columbus Avenue but maintains previous unsightly and historically inappropriate changes to this storefront. With the removal of the security gate and the installation of a smaller air conditioning unit, the storefront would have more glass exposure and more display space, every shop owner's dream.

We strongly encourage the applicant to rethink this proposal and put first things first - don't let the inappropriate, retrograde security gate drive the rest of the storefront design.

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Regarding 7 West 83rd Street
June 29, 2004**

LANDMARK WEST! is a non-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 install a marquee.

The proposed marquee is a very handsome design but is too heavy in appearance. The Committee would like to see the architects move towards greater transparency, using clear glass instead of vinyl mesh and thinner pieces of bronze. More lightness and refinement would enhance the sculptural look of this marquee.

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
Regarding 444 Amsterdam Avenue
June 29, 2004**

LANDMARK WEST! is a non-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 construct a ramp and modify the stoop entrance.

We find it difficult to comment because our Committee was not given the opportunity to conduct the kind of careful review of the plans we feel is necessary in order to provide thoughtful and constructive feedback.

As many of the Commissioners know, LANDMARK WEST! routinely contacts applicants and/or their architects to request copies of drawings and, when a proposal seems particularly complex, a presentation so that our Certificate of Appropriateness Committee can formulate testimony for the Landmarks Commission's public hearing. This testimony is based on careful study of the drawings and in-depth discussion among committee members, many of whom have special expertise in architecture, history and preservation. We consider the C of A Committee and its process to be central to our efforts to contribute positively to the broader landmarks review process. We also make a concerted effort to make project information available to neighbors in order to keep them informed and involved in neighborhood preservation issues.

While the architects were willing to share the plans for the St. Agnes Branch of the NYC Public Library with LW!, DDC, the project manager was not. LW! has worked very successfully with DDC in the past, most notably on the West 72nd Street subway station and we were dismayed by their lack of cooperation.

The drawings for this proposal were available for review at the Landmarks Preservation Commission on Friday, June 18 but this is inadequate for our process. Most members of LW's C of A Committee are not able to go to the LPC on Fridays during the workday, thus preventing us from having the kind of frank, exhaustive dialogue that normally takes place at our meetings and informs our testimony. Based on what one staff member was able to see of the plans for the library, this seems like a project we would love to support.

DDC's unwillingness to accommodate community requests for information about a project that will impact the physical fabric of the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District sends a deplorable message about their attitude toward the public review process.

As to whether or not the LPC should approve this project, we regrettably have no comment.