

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Regarding the pavilion at Riverside Drive at West 122<sup>nd</sup> Street  
September 14, 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 elevator.

Although Landmark West's primary area of concern is the Upper West Side below 110th Street, we are concerned about the future of the open-air viewing pavilion on Riverside Drive across the street from Grant's Tomb. This 1910 structure, designed by Theodore Videto, is called out on the National and State Registers of Historic Places and is located within Riverside Park, a New York City Scenic Landmark, therefore meriting our concern and commentary.

While we are pleased to see that this pavilion will be receiving much needed restoration work, the elevator in the proposed location disrupts the symmetrical composition of this classical pavilion and interrupts the views of the Palisades, the most important function of this overlook pavilion.

The best solution for wheelchair accessibility would be to introduce a ramp to the pavilion which would be the least visually intrusive and the easiest to maintain. However, if a ramp is not possible given the space limitations, we propose that the elevator be repositioned to have the least effect on the pavilion and the view. The elevator should be relocated away from the pavilion thus maintaining the elegant proportions of the pavilion while providing wheelchair accessibility. The building would be better served by an above ground and detached elevator structure, similar to the MTA's elevators located at the 66<sup>th</sup> Street IRT station in Manhattan and at the Dekalb station in Brooklyn. The elevator could also be moved to east towards Riverside Drive and slightly north, so that it is flush to the guard rail attached to the stairs and separated from the pavilion structure. This solution would also maintain the classical symmetry of the pavilion.