

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Regarding 201 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
October 12, 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 legalize the installation of doors, signage and lighting and conduit without LPC permits.

The Landmarks Commission plays a vital role in preventing the loss of historic fabric and in upholding high standards for new design in historic areas. When property owners ignore the law and make changes without the Commission's guidance and consent, the results all too frequently range from unremarkable to destructive.

In the case of the Hotel Lucerne, the side doors, lighting, and signage suffer from being so unremarkable as to be inappropriate for the Hotel Lucerne, a grand audacious turn of the century hotel building designed by Harry B. Mulliken. The doors are too residential in their detailing - the doorknocker, the heavily varnished and pale color and black metal banding are more along the line of a stock construction house than a turn of the century hotel building. Although this is a side door to the building, the doors should still convey the grandeur and special character of the Lucerne.

The signage and lighting are also out of character with the building. The sign should be installed lower on the building façade so it is more clearly read as a pedestrian sign. It should be made smaller so it does not fill the entire face of the stone but is framed by the dimensions of the stone block and should be brass or metal, not painted wood meant to look like metal. The lighting could be more carefully thought out and installed more discreetly next to the sign and within the framing of the door, which would also serve to highlight the door and the business.