



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
185 West 80th Street
January 22, 2008**

LANDMARK WEST! is a not-for-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 storefront infill on a Romanesque Revival style flats building designed by Frederick T. Camp, built in 1887-88 and designated as part of the Upper West Side-Central Park West Historic District.

Since the Upper West Side-Central Park West district was designated in 1990, this small side-street storefront has been obscured by a large waterfall canopy and graffiti-covered roll-down gates. To say that we are happy to see this removed is an understatement. This proposal marks a positive, more graceful turn for this small commercial space, and we are pleased with the general direction of the application. Our concerns relate to the lack of the preliminary probing to determine the survival of original historic storefront fabric and the proposed window material.

It is unclear why the applicant was not required to conduct preliminary probing to determine what original and historic materials remain behind the canopy. Great care should be taken to ensure that original fabric is not destroyed, and this fabric in turn should serve as the basis of the new design. We are in favor of the design as presented but, if it is approved, urge that any Commission permits specifically allow for restoration of historic materials that are discovered.

With respect to specific elements of the design, we consider a wood storefront to be in keeping with what was historically found in this district. However, the operable sashes should also be of wood.

We look forward to seeing a greater consideration of historic fabric in this design.