



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
130 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
June 20, 2006**

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 construct a rooftop addition to an apartment building designed by Liebman Liebman Associates and built in 1985-88.

Our committee objects to this application as would set a precedent that could lead to additional requests for terrace enclosures in the district. Further, the proposed addition would throw off the balance of this highly-symmetrical building.

If the enclosure is approved, we strongly recommend clear glass to increase the transparency of the structure. Furthermore, we recommend that the metal framework of the enclosure be treated to resemble the color of the surrounding masonry.



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
179 Columbus Avenue  
June 20, 2006**

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 legalize the installation of signage, lighting and an awning without Landmarks Preservation Commission permits on a neo-Grec-style flats building with Queen Anne-style elements designed by Thom and Wilson and built in 1885-87.

Our committee is not supportive of legalizations as they improperly reward property owners for ignoring Landmarks Preservation Commission guidelines. We do not support the legalization of the blue neon tubes that frame the store's windows. They are an unnecessary and unwelcome addition to this building's display. Based on our understanding from the applicant, our committee is supportive of the removal of the 67 and More tobacco shop awning.

Further, we are disappointed the original "Thomas Pharmacy" sign, which was grandfathered at district designation in 1990, was replaced. The original sign appears to have had painted or applied lettering, and its replacement has more visually obtrusive channel letters, which are not permitted in this district. We are in favor of removing the existing channel letters and replacing them with applied letters or a painted sign, which are in accordance with the Commission's guidelines for the district.



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**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
262 West 88<sup>th</sup> Street  
June 20, 2006**

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 alter the rear façade and to construct a rooftop addition to a Renaissance Revival style rowhouse designed by Norman Whipple and built in 1884.

The Committee does not object to the application to alter the rear façade. The proposed alteration is not visible from any thoroughfare, and the existing rear façade does not appear to be original to the building's construction.

The Committee is not opposed to approval of the proposed rooftop addition, as it has a minimal visible impact from the street. The proposal to raise the parapet decreases the addition's visibility, as does the proposed setback. Our only suggestion is that the applicant take special care to ensure that the masonry used to raise the parapet and replacement coping match the existing masonry.



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
200 Central Park West  
June 20, 2006**

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 replace the roof of the Hall of Life at the American Museum of Natural History at 200 Central Park West. The building was designed by Trowbridge and Livingston, completed in 1924 and is an Individual Landmark located within Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District.

The American Museum of Natural History is a crowning jewel of the Upper West Side, and we carefully consider any proposed alteration to the complex. As the red slate roof is an important feature in the design of the Hall of Life, the Committee recommends that the Commission deny this application. The project team states that the slate roof has reached the end of its serviceable life, but it seems more likely that the roof underlayment and transitions are deteriorated and not the slate. It is not clear why copper was chosen over slate since the service life of slate is much longer than copper, which, if properly maintained, can be well over 100 years.

Instead of completely replacing the red slate roof with standing seam copper, we advocate a more restorative approach as a solution. The presentation materials show that red slate was originally located at the cap and edges of the roof, and the remainder of the roof was a glass skylight. In either the 1930s or 1950s, the skylights were covered with red slate. We propose echoing the historic condition by maintaining the red slate at the cap and edges, and using the sheet copper laid out in the same pattern as the old glass panel system, with the seams in the copper aligning, or at least recalling, with the edges of glass panels. This proposal is more restorative in concept than either the existing condition or the proposed alteration, and will allow a future observer of the building to have a better understanding in the transition of roofing materials.