



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
199 Columbus Avenue
August 8, 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 install a bracket sign on this Renaissance-Romanesque Revival-style flats building, designed by Gilbert A. Schellenger and built in 1892-93.

Our committee does not object to this application for a bracket sign as it is not visually obtrusive and will utilize existing holes in the building's masonry.



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Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
325 West End Avenue
August 8, 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 windows on this neo-Renaissance style apartment building designed by Neville and Bagge and built in 1915-16.

Our committee is opposed to this application on the grounds that these beautiful leaded stained glass windows should be repaired, not replaced with prefab materials. It is unfortunate that many of the building's stained glass windows, which enliven its secondary facades, have been replaced with factory-manufactured clear glass windows. The Commission should not allow previous replacements to set a precedent for continued removal of the building's original architectural details. The fact that many of the original windows have been replaced makes the remaining few that much more precious.

We also note that the Preservation League of New York State listed original wood windows on its Seven to Save list for 2006. In its campaign raise awareness, the league notes, "While often seen as interchangeable parts, windows are actually one of the most important aspects of a building's historic material and appearance. They are also most likely to be the last item on a regular maintenance list and deteriorate over time. Each year thousands of historic wood windows are removed and sent to landfills in New York State alone. Property owners believe that the windows are beyond repair or that they are saving energy or time by installing replacements."

That being said, the fact that the remaining windows at 325 West End Avenue are leaded stained glass makes them that much more valuable and worthy of maintaining. We urge the applicant to repair these important features.