

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
450 Amsterdam Avenue  
Tuesday, October 11, 2005**

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 proposed changes to the awning at 405 Amsterdam Avenue. We feel that the proposed awning should not interfere with the building's architectural quality. The proposed awning should be lowered to respect the frame of the storefront and not obstruct the view of the building's decorative columns.

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
2112 Broadway  
Tuesday, October 11, 2005**

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 modify the West 74<sup>th</sup> Street entrance of this Individual Landmark.

We would like to commend the applicant for taking the initiative to restore the exquisite ironwork doors designed by master craftsman Samuel Yellin for this 1928 bank building by York and Sawyer. In particular, the removal of existing waist-high plates to reveal the full length of the doors will greatly enhance the appearance of 74<sup>th</sup> Street façade. Although Yellin's work is on display at the Federal Reserve Bank at 33 Liberty Street, Yale, Bowdoin, and other universities, churches and courthouses, this set of doors has been described as one of the most important examples of his work on the East Coast.

However, our Committee does not feel that the proposed glass door and wall would be an appropriate complement to these majestic iron doors. The renderings supplied to our Committee downplayed the juxtaposition of new and old, but even the best-designed glass enclosure would not be totally invisible. For instance, the necessary panic hardware for the fire exit will reduce its transparency. The Committee therefore advocates that the applicant maintain one leaf in the open position and keep the vestibule open. Proper upkeep and lighting will alleviate any security concerns. New York has numerous examples of vestibules that remain open and are merely cleaned with a hose each morning to maintain them. The committee believes that every effort should be made to keep these important doors visible and operable.

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Riverside Park Sidewalk Alterations Between W. 99th and W. 101th  
Tuesday, October 11, 2005**

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 proposal to repave existing sidewalks and add sidewalks to the Firemen's Island in Riverside Park in the blocks between W. 99<sup>th</sup> and W. 101<sup>th</sup> streets.

We would like to commend the applicant for its sensitive addition to this historic element of Riverside Park. We understand the need to add the north-south sidewalks to the "island" to improve the deteriorating landscape, reduce wear on the park and make the monument wheelchair-accessible to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The berm proposed for the sidewalks' eastern edge will effectively screen this intrusion from view.

The applicant has proposed asphalt covered with bluestone screening as surface material for the new sidewalks and the island's existing sidewalks. Stone screening is more appropriate to Olmsted's design of Riverside Park, but we understand the heavy use of the park requires a more durable material. Although the C of A committee supports this proposal, we would like to ask the Commission to consider the durability of this experimental path material and also the potential maintenance of this material as it wears.

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
120 W. 86<sup>th</sup> Street  
Tuesday, October 11, 2005**

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 add a cornice to 120 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street.

We would like to commend the applicant for taking the initiative to replace the cornice on this apartment building. The restored cornice will greatly improve the appearance of the structure and will provide an indication of its original design. The applicant has chosen to restore the cornice to create an attic story in the structure and will incorporate windows that were not in the original cornice. The rooftop addition will be setback from the edges of the building to show that it is not part of the original structure.

Despite our support for restoring the cornice, our Committee feels that it should respect the spirit of the original, and that the new cornice should visually terminate the building in a bold fashion. Consequently, we have several recommendations to alter the proposed design. The cornice will be strengthened by removing some of the proposed details. First, the palmettes and anthemias were not paired in the original cornice, and the proposed pairings contribute unnecessary fussiness to the design. We would like to see single elements instead of paired elements. The cornice's top edge should be widened to improve its visual termination of the building. In the proposed design, the windows are flush with the plane of the frieze. The Committee is concerned that light spilling through the windows at night will reduce the shadow from the cornice. In order to reduce their visual impact, the windows should be recessed into the frieze. Further, the number of mullions in the addition should be scaled to resemble the original windows and the number of panes should be simplified. We also recommend that, to strengthen the appearance of the cornice, the bracket spacing should reflect the original.

The Committee's final recommendation relates to distinguishing the rooftop addition from the original structure. Darker brick or a different finish will accomplish this.