

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Regarding 450 Amsterdam Avenue  
September 27, 2005**

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 storefront infill and exterior roll-down security gates without Landmark Preservation Commission Permits.

As a rule the Certificate of Appropriateness Committee is always dismayed when owners seek to legalize alterations to landmark properties after the fact – especially in a situation like this one where it is unlikely that the Commission would have approved the work had it been presented for review prior to completion. Approval by the commission would only reward the applicant for performing alterations in direct violation of the Landmarks Law, while penalizing those who make the effort to seek the Commission’s guidance at the outset.

Our Committee takes particular issue with the awning and the exterior roll-down security gate, neither of which should be legalized. The sole purpose of the awning appears to be to cover the housing for the illegal security gate. The awning is redundant in terms of signage, and the gate could be replaced, if necessary, with an appropriate interior gate.