



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
137 Riverside Drive  
March 21, 2017**

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 (C of A) wishes to comment on the application to install a barrier-free access lift at 137 Riverside Drive, a neo-Renaissance style apartment building designed by Charles E. Birge and built in 1906-07, which is part of the Riverside - West End Historic District.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee supports efforts to increase access to all buildings and facilities for all New Yorkers including those who are mobility challenged. It is important that applicants take steps to increase accessibility while at the same time making those modifications in a manner that is appropriate to the landmark status and character of the specific structures involved.

While this proposal may address immediate local needs, the C of A Committee suggests that the applicant should consider whether it satisfies the Federal ADA requirements regarding equitable access. It would be unfortunate to complete this work only to find that it fails to do so. These concerns spurred a broader discussion regarding compliance and the potential future need for ADA masterplans across our districts.

The C of A Committee finds that the proposal is appropriate.

Thank you for your time.