



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
168-170 West 79th Street
January 10, 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 wishes to comment on the application to alter the rooftop bulkheads, construct a rooftop playground, and install mechanical equipment at 168-170 West 79th Street, two Renaissance Revival style rowhouses with neo-Grec style elements designed by Thom & Wilson and built in 1890 which are part of the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee hears the concerns of neighbors who believe that the cage is “too high”, “too prison-like” and will bring added noise to their block. We also recognize the long tradition of NYC children playing on rooftops-- under certain parenting styles, deemed safer than streets.

Rodeph Sholom has proven to be a contentious neighbor over the years and LANDMARK WEST! has often been in support of their plans. We are weary of institutional creep which has plagued many UWS institutions but believe this is more of a quality of life issue than a preservation one, and in this case, the positive potential outweighs any negative potential.

LANDMARK WEST!'s C of A Committee is in support of this application.

Thank you for your time.