



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
219 West 71st Street
November 17, 2015**

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 219 West 71st Street, a Romanesque Revival style rowhouse designed by Buchman and Deisler and built in 1891. Application is to install a barrier-free lift in the areaway.

The Committee finds the proposed application appropriate.

The Applicant is proposing to alter an existing, meticulously restored brownstone and make its rusticated base and four floors accessible for the first time since construction. Since we strongly believe that landmarks are meaningless if there are no people to enjoy them, we happily support this application.

Whereas we typically prefer interventions to contrast with the existing built fabric thereby showing a separation in time, we also realize that most often, those alterations are proposed for a rear facade or rooftop. Proposals seldom appear front and center at the sidewalk's public/private interface in the manner that is necessary for a lift such as this. We therefore feel that cloning the pediments to match existing is the right choice.

Considering that there were no accessibility lifts of this nature in 1919 at the time of construction, following available precedents of existing railings and bollards are good choices of reference. Replicating on-site pediments to host the lift control panel and minimizing the impact on the existing fabric yields a result that appears to be seamless with its context and wholly appropriate.