LANDMARK WEST!

THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
225 West End Avenue
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 (C of A) Committee wishes to comment on the application to alter the areaway and install a barrier-free access lift, signage and lighting at 225 West End Avenue, a Renaissance Revival style apartment building designed by William H. Birkmire and built in 1928-29, which is part of the West End – Collegiate 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. It is within this context that the C of A Committee raises the following issues:

1.) To be truly period appropriate, the globe lamps should be milk glass, not acrylic.
2.) As currently proposed, the union of the street level fence-turned gate and its metal mesh panel adjoining it to the lift seem technically implausible.

The applicant has failed to provide a detail drawing or schematic vignette in any of the presentation's sketches or renderings to exemplify how these elements will join. Further, there is no drawing or sketch showing how the modified fence will interact with the lift gate in plan. Applicants should not be permitted to obtain permission to modify landmark protected buildings with less than complete disclosure of their plans and clear and complete disclosure of the materials they intend to use.

We recommend the Commission request the applicant supply details clarifying gate assembly before taking a vote.

Thank you for your time.