



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
252 West 76th Street  
July 19, 2016**

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 install a barrier-free access ramp, alter the areaway, modify the entrance steps, and install an entrance marquee at 252 West 76th Street, a Beaux-Arts style apartment building designed by Ralph S. Townsend and built in 1902-03. This apartment building is part of the West End-Collegiate Historic District Extension.

Our Committee found this proposal to be a logical response to their given need. A ramp to the higher sidewalk provides accessibility and minimizes the required run of the ramp. Swapping the side of non-historic below street level stairs will not harm historic fabric.

The existing brick knee wall at street edge has been long altered, and the proposed steel railing and gate seems fitting in color and style, if not height. With the stone base, this fence tops out at 7'-4" at the lowest point in the sidewalk. At the highest part of the sloping sidewalk, it still reaches 6' tall. This height seems excessive and unwelcoming, especially adjacent such a narrow sidewalk- even a 6" reduction which could bring it more in line with the sill height beyond seems preferable.

Thank you for your consideration.