



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
340 Riverside Drive  
September 13, 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 replace windows at 340 Riverside Drive, a Renaissance Revival style apartment building designed by Sugarman & Berger and built in 1925 which is part of the Riverside - West End Historic District Extension II.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee is vehemently against any new through-wall air-conditioning units. Landmarking a building protects its outer skin- in many cases the thickness of brick veneer or a window sash is the dermis, and this layer must be respected, not merely "dealt with".

The Heating and Cooling Industry has improved vastly since 1925 when this building was built and if the applicant should choose not to avail themselves to more modern iterations of this technology, we suggest they maintain their double hung windows which at least operate in the intended function to the original windows and use a through-window model similar to those in use by literally hundreds of thousands of other New Yorkers in and out of historic districts and landmarks across this city -- even on the very same residential floor of 340 Riverside Drive as the applicant, and even in this room where we are currently hearing this testimony.

This design is a solution in search of a problem.

The building's facade is still primarily double hung windows, and at that, even some six over six (and eight over eight) original configuration and design windows still exist in this landmark at the fifth floor; why can't these original examples become the model rather than a minority of windows that have been modified to date?

LANDMARK WEST!'s C of A Committee suggests denial of this application.

Thank you for your time.