



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
50 West 77th Street
May 9, 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 50 West 77th Street, a neo-Renaissance style hotel building designed by George F. Pelham and constructed in 1902-03. The application is to install a barrier-free access lift.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee feels very strongly that our landmarks (and city) should be made accessible and appreciates the applicant's efforts to accommodate all New Yorkers. We believe this is a strong project –one that can be improved with a few modifications.

These include color. Painting the khaki and blue of the lift's steel and stanchion to black will match the existing rail at the property edge and the rail at the neighboring address making it more cohesive with the context.

We would also ask if the street level connections of the rail could be a bolted flat panel in lieu of an angled support.

And lastly, while no tears are shed for the proposed removal of the terra cotta tile, we would suggest that it be fully exorcized. In the final renderings it is shown as a makeshift capstone below the railing. An improvement would be to fully scrub this out-of-place kitchen tile from the exterior of the landmark.

Landmark West! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee recommends approval of this application.