



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
7 West 87th Street
June 14th, 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 alter the basement level entrance at 7 West 87th Street, a Renaissance Revival style rowhouse designed by Henry F. Cook and built in 1894. It is part of the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee can understand why the owners would want to change the ill-conceived entrance sequence. A far cry from the once grand parade of six stoops that allowed access to this row, the existing subterranean improvisation funnels six buildings worth of residents into a choice of two single-door apertures. Does one choose door #1? Or door #2?

Removing an already altered masonry support will further erode historic fabric; however, in this stucco-clad case, it would allow for easier turning into and out of the vestibule.

The Committee is perplexed as to why one 36"-wide opening for a door has been deemed superior to an existing 43"-wide door opening, and, further, why one would not choose a double door, or two-leaf option, especially when noting that residents converge into a double door threshold two steps deeper into the vestibule—this can not be what Frank Lloyd Wright meant when talking about the compression and expansion of space.

We are not opposed to the approval of this C of A.

Thank you for your consideration.