

5/23/16 361CPW Candlelight Vigil

CDW remarks

C&H designed great church buildings in distant places like St Augustine, Philadelphia, and Providence, but also nearby in Staten Island and Washington Heights. The partners were both deeply interested in the new needs of American church design that required broad auditoriums suited to eloquent preaching and excellent choral music.

This building, The First Church of Christ Scientist, is their most complex church design.

It is key to the character and identity of Central Park and the Upper West Side. And it provides a fine setting for this vigil. Indeed, C&H designed many of the buildings that provide a setting for our culture and our democracy.

- If you attend the Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington Cemetery -- It takes place in the amphitheater designed by C&H
- If you see a Senator or Member of Congress interviewed on Capitol Hill – chances are good that the backdrop is one of the rotundas of the House or Senate Office building - designed by C&H.
- Our great research Library at 42<sup>nd</sup> was designed by C&H One of our city's great art collections is housed in Henry Clay Frick's house, designed by C&H, They designed the Manhattan Bridge and Grand Army Plaza in the SE corner of Central Park. They designed the Engineer's gate, just across the park.

Recently many of these great projects have been jeopardized.

But repeatedly New Yorkers including you and me, have spoken up to defend our landmarks and protect the qualities that make this city great.

Just in the past few years

- We stopped the gutting of 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Library
- We saved the garden at the Frick Collection
- We persuaded the Central Park Conservancy to follow original plans in the restoration of Grand Army Plaza

Now, again, the barbarians are at the gates and the Landmarks Commission has passed the buck. The interior of this great church has been damaged... but we can stop further destruction. With the leadership of well-organized neighbors, a terrific attorney, the indispensable Landmarks West! and with your help let's make the last push at the Board of Standards and Appeals to stop the wasteful, foolish, and inappropriate defacement of this great church building.

This landmark must be saved for future generations.