



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
505 West End Avenue  
February 13, 2018**

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 505 West End Avenue, a Renaissance Revival apartment house designed by Gaetan Ajello and built in 1920-21. The application is to replace windows.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee first and foremost wishes to extend our appreciation to the applicants for their thoughtful and thorough presentation, which is one of the most clear and comprehensive we have seen in recent hearings.

We recognize that replicating the current one-over-one windows would provide the most cohesion with this landmark's façade—given the current circumstances of the building as a whole, that is. Those circumstances, however, do not reflect the original design of the landmark, and we would urge the board of 505 West End Avenue to create a masterplan that would allow for the return of historic configurations across the facades of this landmark in the future.

In this presentation, it is mentioned that the entirety of this landmark's windows were replaced in the 1980s. It is not shocking to hear that these aluminum windows have deteriorated in the years since—in fact, they have perhaps lasted longer than could be expected. Noting the limited lifespan of such windows, we find further reason to recommend the establishment of a masterplan that would prepare for the inevitable future replacement of existing windows.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee could recommend the approval of this proposal providing that it did not preclude a future comprehensive masterplan which would consider a return to the original configuration intended by the architect.