



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
66th West 77th Street
November 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 66 West 77th Street, aka 351-357 Columbus Avenue, a Renaissance Revival style flats building designed by Thom & Wilson and built 1894-1895. The application is to construct a barrier-free access ramp, and replace storefront infill.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee feels very strongly that our landmarks (and city) should be made accessible and appreciates the applicant's measures to meet the needs of all New Yorkers. We appreciate that the ramp proposed takes a holistic approach and serves more than one retail space, thus minimizing street clutter, or future atomized applications. This ramp is minimal almost to a fault, but avoids conflict with any defining features.

In regards to the replacement infill for the non-original storefront, although historic photos would have been helpful in assessment, LANDMARK WEST! would ask the commission to consider the southern most masonry pier to the right of the storefront – visible on sheet four but cropped on sheet seven. Although we typically advocate for paint removal from masonry, this intervention would be an opportunity to give the building back its legs. We ask the commission and applicant to consider painting this pier to match the rest of the street level base, returning gravity to this landmark, and hopefully someday consider full paint removal at this level.

In all other aspects, the LANDMARK WEST! C of A Committee believes these interventions compliment the landmark, and we recommend approval of this application.