



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
570 Columbus Avenue
September 10, 2019**

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 570 Columbus Avenue, a Renaissance Revival style flats building designed by Jacob H. Valentine and built in 1893-94. The application is to install a barrier-free access ramp.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee fully supports accessibility to our landmarks. The design at this storefront however subsumes a sidewalk already restricted by fenced tree pits and outdoor dining at this landmark.

In this instance, with an eight-inch step, one may mitigate entrance to the shop by beginning descent at the inset threshold, thus reducing the rise to only six inches by the face of the storefront. A six-foot direct ramp from this point would reduce the projection into the sidewalk by two feet at its deepest point. Doing so would ease circulation to and from the store as well as along the sidewalk.

Overall, the proposed design demands over seventy square feet of the public sidewalk. The alternative reduces to twenty-six and one quarter square feet, while achieving the same means, closer in keeping with universal design methods.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee supports the proposal with the aforementioned modifications.