



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!  
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee  
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission  
117 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street  
May 19, 2020**

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 117 West 79<sup>th</sup> Street, a Renaissance-Revival style apartment building designed by Neville and Bagge and built in 1898-1899 from within the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District. The application is to modify a window opening and install a door and barrier-free access lift.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee supports accessibility to our landmarks in order to make them available to all New Yorkers. While the alteration to the façade is unfortunate, our Committee agrees that this is the most logical solution which is least obstructive to the landmark.

Still, our Committee has two concerns.

First, there is no documentation of the exterior façade wall at the basement/areaway level where windows may need to be modified. There are dotted lines shown on the right side—will that window be infilled? Further, there is nothing shown at areaway level for where the replacement stair is going to be located. Will this secure to the structure or stand independently?

Second, there is concern for the residual areaway immediately east of new lift. The Committee asks the applicant consider a grate at, or just below sidewalk level within the areaway, and behind the fence in this zone for maintenance and safety.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee supports approval of this application.