



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
240 West 73rd 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 240 West 73rd Street, a Renaissance-Revival style apartment building designed by Leo F. Knust and built in 1927-1928 from within the West End-Collegiate Historic District Extension. The application is to construct a rooftop mechanical enclosure and bulkhead, raise parapets and chimneys, install a marquee and signage, modify masonry openings and replace doors.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee was anxious when reading through the list of alterations proposed with this application but pleased to see so many of them serve as improvements to the underlying landmark. The design team did their homework and should be commended for improving the building's functional needs and aesthetics in the process.

The Committee's one concern lay with the renaming of the building and specifically the bronze plaque. While "The Penelope" may be a lovely name and more fitting than "The Tempo," why further this building's identity crisis and not just embrace "Hotel Commander"? If the 92-year old building's name must again change, the material choice of the plaque is appropriate but, the Committee was concerned that mounting a new plaque might further damage the original signage.

This applicant has gone above and beyond elsewhere on the façade, and we maintain the hope that they not stop short, but consider restoring the original signage as well.

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