



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
140 West 81st Street
June 27, 2023**

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 140 West 81st Street, a Romanesque Revival style church designed by John F. Capen and built in 1893 from within the Upper West Side/Central Park West Historic District. The application is to apply a coating on the masonry facade.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee appreciates that the test results of the cleaning method were unsatisfactory. While Keim coatings are often used to unify the appearance of masonry and serve as a protective layer to repel inclement weather, the sampling of the test areas show differing levels of staining on the masonry. We are concerned that the application of a sodium silicate coating, which may appear benign at first, is very much a "last resort treatment," and the heavier staining is likely to transfer through over time, making recoating difficult and costly.

The LANDMARK WEST! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee would like to see the applicant explore more methods of cleaning the masonry that may yield better results and further testing before committing to this very final and irreversible step in the restoration process.

Thank you.