



THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE THE UPPER WEST SIDE

**Testimony of LANDMARK WEST!
Certificate of Appropriateness Committee
Before the Landmarks Preservation Commission
361 Central Park West, aka 1-5 West 96th Street - First Church of Christ, Scientist
May 13, 2025**

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 361 Central Park West, aka 1-5 West 96th Street - First Church of Christ, Scientist, a Beaux-Arts Classical style church building designed by Carrère & Hastings and built in 1899-1903. Application is to amend Certificate of Appropriateness 25-04870, issued on December 27, 2024, to construct taller railings at the roof terrace.

The Landmark West! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee is equally concerned about the safety of children using this roof terrace of the soon-to-be converted church building. However, we believe a few smudges on the previously approved glass barrier are far safer than a non-durable mesh-like fence that can be climbed or tampered with.

Additionally, we take issue with the fact that this fence can be seen from the street, while the glass was easily concealed. We find it hard to reconcile that this fence would be installed in such a prominent position on the exterior of the individual landmark.

The Landmark West! Certificate of Appropriateness Committee recommends no action be taken on this application, and the architects stick with the approved glass extended to a new height, or continue to explore appropriate options for an individual landmark.

Thank You.