



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT
NEW YORK STATE SENATE
NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

March 18, 2009

Robert Tierney
Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Tierney:

We write in support of the West End Preservation Society's (WEPS) Request for Evaluation to preserve the architecturally and historically significant buildings on West End Avenue from West 70th Street to West 107th Street in Manhattan. As you know, WEPS recently commissioned a survey of the avenue by Andrew Dolkart, a leading architectural historian and Director of Columbia University's Historic Preservation Program. The survey reviews the architectural and historical merit of buildings along West End Avenue and makes a compelling case for why the avenue in its entirety deserves historic district designation.

The proposed historic district captures a relatively short window of time in early 20th Century architecture when economic and social forces—largely a result of the introduction of service on the revolutionary Interborough Rapid Transit Subway line beneath Broadway in 1904—contributed to the avenue's redevelopment from low-rise row-houses to the current grand apartment buildings. Designed by prominent architects like George & Edward Blum, Rosario Candela and Clinton & Russell, these buildings are among the finest examples of New York City's early 20th Century multifamily dwellings and form a cohesive and uniquely "New York" model for upper-middle class living. As Dolkart describes, the buildings on the avenue embody a tremendous sense of place, with consistent height, cladding materials, and buildout to the lot line. Nestled between these are a number of diverse and impressive churches, ranging in style from English Gothic to Neo-Flemish.

We appreciate the demands placed on the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) and the limits of its resources; however, we would like to join WEPS in expressing the urgency of this matter and the need to swiftly calendar this proposal.

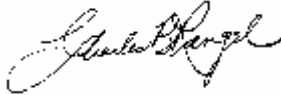
Recent years have seen alterations to significant buildings, while others have been threatened with demolition.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. We appreciate LPC's dedication to preserving our City's heritage and look forward to continuing to work with you towards that end.

Sincerely,



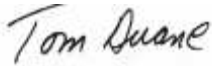
Jerrold Nadler
Congressman



Charles Rangel
Congressman



Scott M. Stringer
Manhattan Borough President



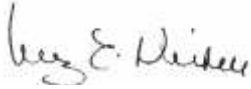
Tom Duane
State Senator



Eric Schneiderman
State Senator



Linda Rosenthal
Member of Assembly



Inez Dickens
City Councilmember



Gale A. Brewer
City Councilmember

cc: West End Preservation Society
Community Board 7