

Russell Squire
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

May 18, 2023

Honorable Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Center Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

RE: 972 Fifth Avenue (Upper East Side Historic District) - *Architectural Preservation Studio, DPC* -
A high Italian Renaissance style building designed by McKim, Mead & White and constructed in 1902-1906 Application is to move one of the existing border stones 8 to 10 inches into the courtyard so the legs would no longer encroach over the public space.

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on May 18, 2023, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS 972 Fifth Avenue, the Payne Whitney House, is the home of the French Cultural Services in New York of the French Embassy;

WHEREAS the American Society of Le Souvenir Francais seeks to honor Antoine du Saint-Exupery, the author of “The Little Prince;”

WHEREAS the 972 Fifth Avenue mansion has a courtyard to the south with a low granite wall along the sidewalk;

WHEREAS the proposed honor will be the placement of a sculpture of “The Little Prince” by sculptor Jean-Marc De Pas on the low granite wall enclosing the courtyard garden;

WHEREAS the length of the wall is 27’-1” from the southern edge of 972 Fifth Avenue to the northern edge of 1 East 78th Street, the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University;

WHEREAS the gate in the wall into the courtyard is at the southern edge of 972 Fifth Avenue;

WHEREAS the wall varies in height with the slope of the sidewalk from north to south;

WHEREAS the height of the wall at the proposed location of the sculpture is 2’-3” above the sidewalk;

WHEREAS the stone block approximately in the middle of the wall is about 11’-0” from the southern edge of 972 Fifth Avenue and is about 11’-0” long;

WHEREAS this stone block will be set back eight inches on a new, shallow granite base to enable the sculpture to sit on the stone wall without protruding past the property line;

WHEREAS the sculpture will be placed approximately 13'-3" from the southern end of the mansion on the southern portion of the stone block;

WHEREAS a bronze plaque will be placed on the face of the stone towards the southern end of the stone block;

WHEREAS the overall height of the sculpture is 4'-1;"

WHEREAS the upper portion of the sculpture sitting on the stone is 2'-4" high and the bottom portion of the sculpture is 1'-9" high;

WHEREAS the positioning of the sculpture on the setback portion of the wall eliminates the objections of the Departments of Transportation and Design and Construction of the extension of the sculpture over the property line;

WHEREAS the setting back of a portion of the wall creates a defined setting for the sculpture and the plaque;

WHEREAS the placing of the sculpture on the recess in the wall is appropriate and contextual within the historic district;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this application is approved as presented.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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David Helpern and Jane Parshall

David Helpern and Jane Parshall
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc: Honorable Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District