

Nicholas Viest
Chair

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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

September 24, 2013

Hon. Robert B. Tierney, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: 2 East 91st Street (between Fifth and Madison Avenues) [Cooper Hewitt Museum] – Expanded Carnegie Hill Historic District

Dear Chair Tierney:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, the board adopted the following resolution regarding **2 East 91st Street (between Fifth and Madison Avenues) [Cooper Hewitt Museum] – Expanded Carnegie Hill Historic District – Sharon C. Park, Architect** – A Neo-Georgian with Beaux-Arts elements style mansion designed by Babb, Cook & Willard and built in 1899-1903. Application is to alter the 90th street garden entrance, awning and corner piers lighting.

WHEREAS, 2 East 91st Street is a Neo-Georgian with Beaux-Arts elements style mansion designed by Babb, Cook & Willard and built in 1899-1903.

WHEREAS, the applicant wishes to alter the 90th Street garden entrance awning and corner piers lighting.

WHEREAS, with regard to the 90th Street garden entrance, the applicant proposes to refurbish the fence and gate and install a new, painted steel awning which would extend, at its longest point, 5' out over the sidewalk and at its shortest point, 4' feet over the sidewalk, and would be 8' above the sidewalk.

WHEREAS, with regard to the existing Fifth Avenue granite piers, the applicant proposes to insert LED dimmable white low-glow lighting strips within the stone reveals, with said insertion to be flush with the exterior face of the piers, and reversible with no mechanical fastening into the existing structure.

WHEREAS, numerous members of the community present at the meeting voiced concerns about a lack of sufficient time to study the proposed changes to so significant a landmark and concerns regarding the impact of the proposed changes to the property at issue.

WHEREAS, the Landmarks Committee felt that the presentation did not provide sufficient details, for example the applicant did not provide a panoramic picture of the streetscape as it would appear with the proposed changes, and the applicant did not provide firm or specific details as to the size or color of the lettering that the applicant proposes to include at the front of the proposed awning.

WHEREAS, the proposed changes as presented would be inconsistent with the historic character and design of this unique architectural gem of the Expanded Carnegie Hill Historic District.


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, this application is **disapproved**.

This recommendation was approved by a vote of 36 in favor, 6 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

Sincerely,



Nicholas Viest
Chair



David Helpern and David Liston
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc: Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Liz Krueger, NYS Senate Member
Hon. Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Micah Kellner, NYS Assembly Member
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member
Hon. Jessica Lappin, NYC Council Member