

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

December 16, 2021

Hon. Sarah Carroll, Chair
NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10007

RE: 980 Park Avenue (Park Avenue Historic District) – *Lou Martino, AIA, Acheson Doyle Partners Architects* - A Second Empire/Gothic Revival style church parish hall/rectory building designed by Patrick Charles Keely, built in 1881-1883, and altered in the late 1960s by removing the stoop, and relocating the entrance to the basement. Application is to replace entrance infill and construct an awning at the areaway.

THIS APPLICATION IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS. PART A, the proposed door and sidelights, was approved. **PART B**, the proposed awning, was disapproved.

Dear Chair Carroll,

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

WHEREAS the current entrance to the Parish Hall/Rectory Building at 980 Park Avenue is undistinguished;

WHEREAS the existing building is set back from the property line thereby creating a small forecourt that is reached via an accessible ramp from the south and two steps down from the east;

WHEREAS the current entrance has a pair of doors with one active leaf;

WHEREAS the existing wood doors are black, matching the color of the windows;

WHEREAS the lower portions of the existing doors are solid, and the upper portions are glazed;

WHEREAS the observations on the proposed door and awning are not compatible, two resolutions are required;

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on December 15, 2021, the board **APPROVED PART A** of the following resolution by a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 not voting for cause.

PART A: Proposed Door and Sidelights

WHEREAS the applicant proposes a new, wood, single door, fully glazed, with sidelights that are set above panels that are about one third the overall height of the proposed door, making the sidelights about two thirds the height of the door;

WHEREAS the proposed door will make accessibility for the disabled easier to negotiate;
WHEREAS the glazing of the proposed door and the sidelights will have a decorative grillage inspired by grillage on the building;
WHEREAS the color of the proposed door is the color of red wine;
WHEREAS the door will have a brass kickplate;
WHEREAS the proposed door and sidelights, with their generous amount of glazing, are transparent and welcoming;
WHEREAS the proposed door and sidelights are contextual and appropriate within the historic district;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that **PART A** of this application is **APPROVED** as presented.

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on December 15, 2021, the board **APPROVED PART B** of the following resolution by a vote of 39 in favor, 4 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 not voting for cause.

PART B: Proposed Awning

WHEREAS the applicant proposes an awning over the open area in front of the proposed door;
WHEREAS the awning is approximately eight feet by eight feet square;
WHEREAS the awning will be supported on brass posts;
WHEREAS the color of the awning is grey;
WHEREAS the intent is to make the awning feel like typical canopies on Park Avenue;
WHEREAS the proposed awning appears unrelated to the architecture of the building and out of place;
WHEREAS the proposed awning is not contextual and appropriate within the historic district;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that **PART B** of this application is **DISAPPROVED**.

Sincerely,

Russell Squire

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Chair

David Helpern and Jane Parshall

David Helpern and Jane Parshall
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District