

Valerie S. Mason
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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

July 22, 2024

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

RE: 857 Fifth Avenue (Upper East Side Historic District) – *Matthew Cordone Architect PLLC* – A no-style building designed by Robert L. Bien and constructed in 1961-1963. Application is for a façade restoration of the natural stone only on the ground floor of the south elevation and the existing columns on the west.

Dear Chair Carroll,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on July 17, 2024, the Board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS the facades of 857 Fifth Avenue were built with glazed white brick; and

WHEREAS red granite was introduced into the west façade for a height of two stories and into the south façade for a height of one story; and

WHEREAS the red granite has deteriorated and will be replaced in large part; and

WHEREAS the red granite cannot be matched; and

WHEREAS the red granite that is removed will be used to repair the red granite that will be retained; and

WHEREAS three two-story high columns on Fifth Avenue are set within a corner garden in the L-shaped recess below the west end of the building; and

WHEREAS these free-standing columns on the west elevation, which are currently clad in red granite, will be clad with honed limestone to be in the color range of the white brick above; and

WHEREAS the columns set in the wall behind the free-standing columns will remain in red granite; and

WHEREAS the low wall of the corner garden will remain in red granite on the west and south facades; and

WHEREAS the garden terminates on the south façade where the recess ends; and

WHEREAS the red granite, currently on the face of the first floor of the south façade, will be replaced; and

WHEREAS the height of the garden wall will be extended as a gray granite base on the south façade; and

WHEREAS the first-floor façade above the gray granite base will be honed limestone; and

WHEREAS the red granite that remains composes as accents with the proposed limestone; and

WHEREAS the dark gray granite and buff limestone are compatible with the off-white brick building; and

WHEREAS the gray granite and limestone reintroduce colors that return the building, except for small areas of red granite, to a color palette that is similar to the original coloration; and

WHEREAS the proposed changes to the façade are appropriate and contextual within the historic district; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT this application is **APPROVED** as presented.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

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Chair

Anthony Cohn and David Helpern

Anthony Cohn and David Helpern
Co-Chairs, Landmarks Committee

cc: Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
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
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District