

November 25, 2014

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO 39 EAST 72ND STREET, WITHIN THE UPPER EAST SIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Good morning Chairman Srinivasan and Commissioners. I am speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

In 2013, the Conservancy gave a Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award to 41 East 72nd Street for the meticulous restoration of its neo-Grec façade, as well as its fine interior rehabilitation. The building was once one of a group of seven; only two are extant. Now there is an opportunity for the other remaining row house, which long ago lost details of its historic façade, to be restored back to its original appearance. We cannot support the application that would deny a clear 1882 neo-Grec precedent in favor of a faux early 20th century Beaux-Arts styling, with a mansard roof that has no historic connection to the original or proposed style, and a visible penthouse which brings the height well above its neighbors.

We hope that the Commission will guide the owners to consider a more historically accurate façade restoration and a less bulky, less visible rooftop addition.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the Conservancy's views.