

NOVEMBER 12, 2013

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
APTHORP APARTMENTS, 390 WEST END AVENUE, NEW YORK, AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK**

Good day Chair Tierney and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy has reviewed the proposal presented today, and walked around the site to understand better the relationship of the proposed rooftop additions to the Apthorp Apartments.

The Apthorp was among the first buildings considered for designation when the Commission was established. It is an individual landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and simply one of the most important buildings in Manhattan. Filling a city block, it can be seen from many angles, at great distances. The Apthorp was designed in an Italian Renaissance style, which places a premium on scale and proportion. As the designation report notes, the architectural firm of Clinton & Russell took care to translate the qualities of a smaller palazzo into this substantial building, which has a majestic presence.

This out-of-scale addition would destroy the classical form, and diminish this landmark. We feel that it would be difficult for any rooftop addition to be acceptable, and that those presented today are simply too tall and massive. They are visible from vantage points throughout the neighborhood, at Riverside Park, Broadway, and West End Avenue. They would irrevocably damage the seamless roofline that contributes to the sense of place along West End Avenue, which the Commission recently protected in designating the West End Collegiate Historic District Extension. Given the jarring changes that this addition would bring to such a magnificent building, we urge the Commission to reject this proposal.

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