

May 21, 2019

**STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY
LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS - 215
EAST 71ST STREET AS AN INDIVIDUAL LANDMARK**

The New York Landmarks Conservancy is pleased to support designation of the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York Headquarters as an individual landmark.

The 1929 Headquarters building is a fine example of the Colonial Revival style. This style was often used for homes, civic institutions, and clubhouses in the first part of the 20th century, to connote connections with early American history. It was especially appropriate for an organization whose members are all descendants of Colonial-era Americans.

Architect Richard Henry Dana, Jr. drew on several period inspirations to design the building, including the 1750 home of Colonel John Mc Evers, which once stood at 34 Wall Street. According to a November 16, 1930 *New York Times* article, "the society has undertaken to render what it considers a civic and patriotic service by reproducing such a house..."

The Headquarters features many elements typical of the Colonial Revival style. It has a robust red brick façade, decorated with stone stringcourses and brick quoins. Multi-light double-hung sash are framed by paneled shutters at the first story, and windows above the cornice are set in pedimented dormers. A scrolled broken pediment tops the rusticated-stone door surround. The building appears to be in good condition, in its original low-scale, with much of its historic fabric intact. It is an excellent representation of this era of club architecture.

The Conservancy is happy to offer the Society support from our financial and technical assistance program. As this neighborhood faces increasing development pressure, we thank the Commission for bringing this designation forward. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Conservancy's views.