

**THE NEW YORK
LANDMARKS
CONSERVANCY**

November 20, 2018

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE N.Y.C. LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE PARK TERRACE WEST—WEST 217 STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Good morning, Chair Carroll and Commissioners. I am Glen Umberger, speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Conservancy is pleased to join community and preservation advocates in supporting the designation of the Park Terrace West—West 217 Street Historic District.

Inwood is an historic neighborhood with a high degree of architectural cohesiveness and a strong sense of place and the Conservancy applauds the Commission for bringing a new historic district to an area of Manhattan that currently has but one designated individual landmark, the Dyckman farmhouse.

However, the Conservancy believes that there is a much larger and very well-defined section of Inwood that should also be an historic district. The ten city blocks west of Broadway to Payson Avenue between Dyckman and Isham streets are so consistent and architecturally harmonious that they epitomize the special character and sense of place that is so important in defining the boundaries of an historic district. We urge the Commission to move to calendar this proposed historic district.

In addition, the Conservancy would also like to reiterate that we believe there are several fine buildings that meet the requirements for individual landmark status, along with two city parks that should be designated as scenic landmarks: these were specified in our letter to Acting Chair Bland, dated July 23, 2018. We urge the Commission to also move quickly to calendar these important historic resources in the neighborhood.

We believe that LPC must ensure that Inwood's distinctive character is not lost and that there is an appropriate balance between preservation and growth and thank the Commission for designating the Park Terrace West—West 217 Street Historic District as the first historic district in Inwood.

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