

December 6, 2016

STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK LANDMARKS CONSERVANCY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION REGARDING PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF THE MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT

Good morning Chair Srinivasan and Commissioners. I am Andrea Goldwyn speaking on behalf of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. We are pleased to join residents, elected officials, and tireless local advocates in support of the Morningside Heights Historic District.

The District is a stately collection of approximately 115 buildings that run down Riverside Drive from 119th Street and throughout side streets from 116th Street to Cathedral Parkway. These masonry-clad structures date from the late 19th- to the early 20th-centuries and are in the revival styles typical of that period, including Beaux-Arts, Classical Revival, Georgian-Revival, neo-Renaissance, and French Renaissance. Many were built as transportation advances made this area ripe for new development when the IRT line opened in 1904.

They maintain much of their historic volume and mid-rise height, with original materials and details intact. While the composition of the district is mainly apartment buildings, it also includes a group of charming 19th-century row houses on 114th Street and the nearby Collegiate Gothic-style Broadway Presbyterian Church, which dates to 1912.

Most buildings within the District are included in the National Register-eligible Broadway-Riverside Drive or Cathedral Heights Historic Districts. Nomination forms for both districts comment on the integrity "of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association." Clearly this group of buildings is well-deserving of local recognition as well.

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