



**West End Preservation Society Statement before the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding
Certificates Of Appropriateness for Borough of Manhattan:
14-9984 - Block 1183, lot 53 & 14-9985 - Block 1183, lot 50
344 and 340 West 72nd Street-The Chatsworth Apartments and Annex - Individual Landmark –
West End-Collegiate Historic District Extension**

January 7, 2014

Good Afternoon Chair Tierney, Commissioners and Staff,

West End Preservation Society (WEPS) is appreciative that the owners of this Beaux-Arts beauty wish to restore the Chatsworth's facade to its former glory. According to the proposed plans there is much to be done to protect this bulding from further decay and damage. We do not agree, however, that transforming first floor windows into doorways belongs as any part of that restoration. It does not enhance the overall design of this building, in our opinion, nor does it improve functionality for the overwhelming majority of residents.

Walking south on Riverside Drive or through the Park, walking west from West End Ave, The Chatsworth Apts and Annex stand as iconic punctuation to the southern tip of Riverside Park. The addition of another floor atop these buildings, most especially in the case of the Chatsworth Apts, will be a most jarring one. The additions will be clearly visible from street level, from several different locations and the 14th floor penthouse will rise over the mansard roof on the Chatsworth, interfering with the façade's rythm.

These buildings are wonderful examples of early 1900's, luxury apartment living that found a home on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. We ask that the Commission not allow these buildings' design and history to be compromised by the proposed changes of rooftop additions and the alteration of the windows into doors.

Thank you for considering our comments.