



**West End Preservation Society Statement to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding
Certificate Of Appropriateness for Borough of Manhattan: 17-8216 – 266 West End Ave: Block 1164 – Lot 64
West End-Collegiate Historic District Extension**

March 22, 2016

Good Afternoon Chair Srinivasan, Commissioners and Staff,

West End Preservation Society would like to commend the applicant for their efforts in restoring this wonderful French Renaissance beauty on West End, most recently the granite stoop.

We understand the desire and security needs to protect one's home. We wish that such issues were not a factor so this lovely building could remain open and welcoming but wishing does not make it so. We would therefore, not be opposed to placing a fence and gate on this property, even though historically none existed.

We would respectfully request, however, that there be a reduction in the overall height and a simplification of this lovely gate design. The ornamental main-entry stone surround and door frame have such wonderful details along with the existing wrought iron grilles on the windows, that are currently visible to the Avenue. The proposed wrought iron fence and gate, maxing out at eleven or so feet, is constricting, a bit overwhelming and will prove to obstruct these details rather than enhance them, and therefore would not be an appropriate fit.

At street level, one will only see a barricade in the middle of this block. Instead of inviting us to peer through the gate to the wonderful façade, one will hear a resounding “keep out” that this fence and gate in its current form and will be shouting to passersby.

While not seeking a minimalist design, our preference for this decorated rowhouse would be one that is slightly less intense.

Thank you for considering our comments.