

PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF 2 COLUMBUS CIRCLE

WHEREAS, There has been a concerted effort by public officials, civic and preservation groups, as well as notable architects to preserve 2 Columbus Circle by designating it a NYC individual landmark, and

WHEREAS, This important building was designed for Huntington Hartford by the noted architect Edward Durrell Stone in 1965 (the same year the landmarks law was passed) to house the Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art, and

WHEREAS, Its bold and unique design, and its unusual curving marble façade and rounded arches at the top of the building's loggia is perfectly suited to its site and is affectionately known by many New Yorkers as the "lollipop building". It is an icon of 1960's architecture, a major work for a prominent client by one of America's leading architects, and

WHEREAS, The building's design is noted for its departure from the strict architectural vocabulary of the Post War International Style and is a powerful statement in its prominent location in Columbus Circle, and

WHEREAS, In 1997 Community Board Five voted to recommend that 2 Columbus Circle, because of its architectural and cultural significance, be included in a proposed Central Park South Historic District described as "a wall of distinguished masonry buildings which form an opulent and appropriate wall for the historic and lush parkland.", and

WHEREAS, Among those supporting landmark designation for 2 Columbus Circle are: State Senator Tom Duane, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, State Senator Eric Schneiderman, Assemblyman Richard Gottfried, Assemblyman Scott Stringer, Councilmembers Christine Quinn, Gale Brewer and Eva Moskowitz, Municipal Art Society, NY Landmarks Conservancy, Fine Arts Federation, Historic Districts Council, Coalition For a Livable West Side, Landmark West, Coalition for Environmentally Sound Development, architects Giorgio Cavaglieri, foremost preservationist, and Robert A.M. Stern, Dean of the Yale School of Architecture, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Manhattan Community Board Five supports landmark designation for 2 Columbus Circle and requests that the Landmarks Preservation Commission hold a public hearing in order to designate this significant NYC building.

Vote: 4-0-0-0

Committee vote.
It failed at the
full Board. But
at least a vote
was taken not to
record any action.

KATE:

This is the failed CB5 resolution on 2 Columbus Circle that I promised to send you.

Joyce Matz insists that the Municipal Art Society and the New York Landmarks Conservancy did support designation for the building.

And she's correct. It was at a rally/demonstration in front of 2 Columbus Circle about two years ago. I was there, and so were Frank Sanchis and Peg Breen, both of whom were interviewed for television cameras at the scene; both spoke in favor of designation.

Best regards,

Jack Taylor

P.S.: I hope you received the material I sent you about the Guardian Life annex -- and that there is a chance Landmark West! will support designation for it.