



NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

George E. Pataki
Governor

January 6, 2003

Ms. Arlene Simon
President
LANDMARK WEST!
45 West 67 Street
New York, New York 10023

Dear Ms. Simon:

I am writing in response to your letter regarding 2 Columbus Circle. Yours was among several letters from various organizations and citizens concerned about the fate of this building, considered by many to be significant as an example of modernist architecture.

In light of the fact that demolition was once a strong possibility, we are encouraged by the City's plan to sell the building to the American Craft Museum for its continued use as a museum, and we hope to work with that organization to undertake the rehabilitation in a way that respects the historic character of the structure. Since we have not been informed of any state or federal involvement in the rehabilitation, we prefer not to issue a formal determination of eligibility at this time, but rather to try to affect a satisfactory outcome by working with the new owners in a positive manner. Should there be state or federal involvement at a future date, we will proceed with an eligibility determination as required by Section 14.09 of the State Historic Preservation Act and/or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

I hope that you will continue to share with us your insights and knowledge about 2 Columbus Circle. For our part, I assure you that the State Historic Preservation Office will make its best effort to work towards a satisfactory solution for all parties.

Most sincerely,

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner
State Historic Preservation Officer