



NATIONAL TRUST  
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION

RICHARD MOE  
PRESIDENT

May 6, 2003

The Honorable Robert B. Tierney  
Chair  
Landmarks Preservation Commission of New York City  
Municipal Building  
1 Centre Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor North  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Commissioner Tierney:

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has been following the proposal to substantially alter the façade of Two Columbus Circle, and we are writing to express our concern.

The National Trust has a strong interest in ensuring the continued integrity of Two Columbus Circle. Designed in 1964 by noted architect Edward Durrell Stone, this signature building has been described as an important challenge to the then prevailing Modern Movement landscape. Its quirky "lollipop" façade is a nationally recognized, albeit controversial, local landmark. We understand that the marble facing may be compromised, but believe that the historic fabric may be preserved using appropriate conservation techniques. At the very least, we would urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to hold a hearing on the building.

We recognize the difficulty oftentimes experienced in classifying a "modern" structure as "historic." But the fabric of our culture is composed of many elements from many time periods, and each element contributes to our understanding of our country's growth and development. To lose the façade of Two Columbus Circle to inappropriate development would be unfortunate for the City of New York as well as admirers of architectural innovation nationwide. We urge you to consider all preservation options with respect to the fate of this iconic building.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Richard Moe

RM:MF:hh

cc: Kyle Merker, Chair, Manhattan Community Board 5  
Michael Utevsky, Chair, Land Use and Zoning Committee, MCB #5

*Protecting the Irreplaceable*

