



Christopher Marte

紐約市市議員馬泰 Council Member, District 1

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September 19, 2022

Sarah Carroll
Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission
David N. Dinkins Municipal Building
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Subject: Comments on Application at 60 Wall Street (LPC-22-09533)

Dear Chair Carroll,

I write to urge you and the Landmarks Preservation Commission to side with the community and preservationists alike and reject the application before you concerning proposed work at 60 Wall Street.

A campaign to preserve this site by postmodern groups has gained enough support from a plethora of stakeholders and professionals to warrant a swift rejection of what would unmistakably jeopardize and diminish the harmonious relationship between 60 Wall Street and the landmarked 55 Wall Street. This proposal can be critiqued for its destruction of the beloved public space, or the irreparable alteration of a uniquely postmodern building, but as LPC is meant to opine on the harmonious relationship between 60 and 55 Wall Streets, I urge you to reject this application on this basis.

In its 1984 report attesting to the harmonious relationship between the buildings, the LPC specifically noted that:

“The proposed structure’s colunnaded base conforms to the streetwall set up by buildings along the length of Wall Street including the Citibank building; that by thus integrating itself within the architectural context of Wall Street that the proposed tower also achieved consistency with the Landmark itself; and that the height, rhythm and massing of the ground floor colonnade related to the Landmark’s scale; likewise the choice of granite for the facades of the proposed building is complimentary to 55 Wall Street; that the basic form of the colonnade is contemporary and as such is not a duplicate of the Landmark but rather, a sensitive response to it; that the tower portion of the building is well integrated with the base through the use of stepped set-backs; that due to the location of the proposed building, shadows of it would not be cast on the facades of the landmark; and that therefore due to the building’s design, choice of material, and

location in relation to the landmark, that a harmonious architectural relationship would exist.”

This rationale focuses almost entirely on the base and colonnade which are in jeopardy today, and to approve of an application that ignores the exact design elements that allowed for the building to harmonize with 55 Wall Street would be irresponsible and inconsistent with the interpretations of the LPC in its initial determination. In no way does the new design respect this existing harmony, nor justify a comparable relationship that would warrant or allow for the work proposed.

It is important to also note that 60 Wall Street is well-worthy of its own landmark status. In response to a Request for Evaluation submitted June 17, 2022, the LPC determined that 60 Wall Street did merit further study into the potential for landmarking. In this unique situation, action must be taken by the LPC that not only remains consistent with the past determinations of the Commission, but that stays true to the unchanging responsibilities of the Commission to preserve and advocate for the historical and architectural significance of our city’s built environment. In light of the unfortunate fate of the Dangler Mansion, this moment should be regarded as nothing but an opportunity to intervene in the degradation and effective disappearance of such an important and worthy site as 60 Wall Street.

Both Manhattan Community Board 1 and the Historic Districts Council, among others, have called on the LPC to postpone the decision on this application until consideration of landmarking has been fully realized. I share this concern and offer my support of the consideration and eventual confirmation of 60 Wall Street as a landmark.

Therefore I urge you to reject this application and prioritize the consideration of 60 Wall Street for landmark status prior to any decision related to alterations on site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Marte', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Marte
New York City Council Member