



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD No. 4

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J. LEE COMPTON
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

November 2, 2006

Hon. Robert Tierney
Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
One Center Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10011

Re: 241 West 14th Street

Dear Mr. Tierney:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 thanks you for the opportunity of commenting on this application to install disabled access and make minor alterations in the rear at the Andrew Norwood House, an individual landmark at 241 West 14th Street on the southern border of Board 4. The Board has no objection to the application as presented to its Landmarks Task Force on October 26, 2006.

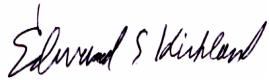
The Andrew Norwood House is a fine four-story-and-basement late Greek Revival House that was carefully restored by the previous owner, who maintained it almost as a private museum. The applicants intend to convert the building into an arts-oriented private club on the model of London clubs. The Board is glad that the applicants intend to make minimal changes to the building and to maintain its appearance and character.

Only two changes are proposed to the exterior. The first is the required installation of disabled access. This will be provided by placing a platform wheelchair lift under the stoop, where it will serve the purpose and be minimally conspicuous. This is clearly preferable to the alternative of installing a lift on the stairs of the stoop.

The second is the enclosure of the third floor in the rear to facilitate creating a dining room on the second floor. The change appears appropriate, since the rear of the building is invisible from the public way, since the new rear façade on this floor will be consistent with the adjacent floors of the building, and since the historic fourth floor will remain intact as a witness to the original condition of the rear wall of the building. The existing balcony railing at the third floor is to be placed at the corresponding location at the new balcony at the fourth floor. While the Board would have preferred a lighter railing more consistent with historic ironwork, the reality that the rear of the building is not visible from the street and that the historic wall will remain intact at this point suggests that reuse of the existing railing is not inappropriate.

Since the presentation to the Landmarks Task Force the applicants have informed the Board that the requirements for disabled access have forced changes in the application in respect to the proposed alternatives to the fourth floor of the rear façade. The Board regrets that the pressure of unavoidable deadlines prevents us from making a conforming recommendation to the Commission on these revisions to the proposal.

Sincerely,



Edward Kirkland
Chair
Landmarks Task Force



J. Lee Compton
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4

cc: Applicant
Electeds