



June 12, 2006

The Honorable Robert Tierney, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
1 Centre Street, 9th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Dear Chairman Tierney,

I am writing in support of the designation of the Dakota Stable at 348-358 Amsterdam Avenue.

Designed by prominent architect Bradford Gilbert and built in 1891, the Dakota Stable is a rare intact example of a commercial stable, a building type that once played a crucial role in nineteenth-century New York. The stable is a reminder of the rapid technological transitions of the 20th century as it was originally built as part of a vibrant livery industry and later converted into an automobile garage with the installation of steel reinforced concrete floors, gasoline pumps and automobile turntables in 1915.

In addition to its historical significance, the Dakota Stable is an important work of architecture on the Upper West Side. Gilbert, who is known for introducing steel-skeleton construction to New York City with his Tower Building at 50 Broadway (demolished in 1914), designed the building with visionary simplicity and it is distinct not only for its arched windows, step-gabled entrances, and corbelled cornice, but also for the designer's use of two colors of brick to embellish the façade.

As you are aware, development proceeds apace and the Dakota Stable remains unprotected. We urge you to act soon to calendar this important piece of the Upper West Side's architectural and historical landscape.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kersavage
Kress/RFR Fellow for Historic Preservation