



Date:	2/14/2017
LPC Docket #:	LPC-19-6592
LPC Action:	Approved
Action required by other agencies:	Multiple
Permit Type:	CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

**Address:** 463 West Street, aka 455-465 West Street & 577 Bethune Street - Bell Telephone Laboratories Complex (now  
**Borough:** Manhattan

**Block:** 639      **Lot:** 1

**Historic District:** Individual Landmark

**Description:** A complex of buildings, including a neo-Classical style office and factory building, designed by Cyrus L. W. Eidlitz and built in 1896-1899, and a neo-Classical style building designed by Cyrus L. W. Eidlitz and built in 1899 and altered in 1931-34 by Voorhees, Gmelin & Walker for the New York Central Railroad elevated freight railway. Application is to install a barrier free access ramp.

### COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission NOTED that the West Street façade entrance was historically a loading bay, with alterations attributed to the architect Richard Meier in 1970, including the creation of a passageway featuring steps and an inner courtyard, among other alterations. The Commission further noted that the property is located in a flood zone.

Pursuant to Section 25-307 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Commission APPROVED the proposal, finding:

- that the passageway designed by Richard Meier provides public access to an inner courtyard that was not historically accessible, and the proposed installation of the barrier-free access ramp will further this effort to allow all means of accessibility;
- that although the installation of the proposed ramp will remove and divide a select area of the concrete steps that are part of the Richard Meier alterations, it will occur within the covered passageway at the location of the former interior loading dock, and therefore the loss of material will not be readily apparent from within the elevated courtyard or from West Street looking into the passageway opening;
- that the simple design and materiality of the ramp, featuring straight and curved walls formed with untinted concrete with black metal railings, is in keeping with the existing ramp installed by Richard Meier at the inner courtyard;
- that the ramp will feature a simple S-shaped configuration to minimize the footprint and contain the moderate length of the run, and will not overwhelm or detract from the composition of the passageway;
- and that the work will not diminish the special architectural and historic character of the building.

#### VOTE:

Present: Meenakshi Srinivasan, Adi Shamir-Baron, Frederick Bland, Diana Chapin, Wellington Chen, Michael Devonshire, Michael Goldblum, John Gustafsson, Kim Vauss, Jeanne Lutfy

10-0-0

In Favor = M.Srinivasan, A.Shamir-Baron, F.Bland, D.Chapin, W.Chen, M.Devonshire, M.Goldblum, J.Gustafsson, K.Vauss, J.Lutfy

Oppose =

Abstain =

Recuse =

Please note that these "Commission Findings" are a summary of the findings related to the application. This is NOT a permit or approval to commence any work. No work may occur until the Commission has issued a Certificate of Appropriateness, which requires review and approval of Department of Buildings filing drawings and/or other construction drawings related to the approved work. In addition, no work may occur until the work has been reviewed and approved by other City agencies, such as the Department of Buildings, as required by law