

October 10, 2018

To: Landmarks Commission, City of Boston

From: Nicholas Tranquillo

RE: Proposal to the Landmarks Commission for 173 Commonwealth Avenue

I thank you for the opportunity to present my proposal to you.

My intention is to install an English cast limestone statue of Venus disarming Cupid on top of an English cast limestone pedestal at the very back of our front garden up against the facade of the building. The statue and pedestal will be almost entirely obscured by the Japanese maple tree in my garden and will be barely visible from the street. The statue is a beautiful depiction of Venus disarming Cupid. Her hand gently holds Cupid close while he playfully stands on a vase reaching for his arrows. Both faces are elegant, handsome and nicely detailed. The statue is based on the original by Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse, born in France (1824-1887). Carrier-Belleuse was a student of David d'Angers and studied briefly at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. His career is distinguished by his versatility and his work outside France: in England between 1850 and 1855 (working for Mintons) and in Brussels around 1871. Carrier-Belleuse's name is perhaps best known because Auguste Rodin worked as his assistant between 1864 and 1870. The two traveled to Brussels in 1871 and, by some accounts, Rodin assisted Carrier-Belleuse's architectural sculpture for the Brussels Stock Exchange. In 1862, Carrier-Belleuse was one of the founding members of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, and was made an Officier of the Legion d'honneur.

The statue is 45" tall and the pedestal is 35" tall. If installed in the indicated location, the top of the statue will sit 8" above the window sills on the first floor. I believe that this statue and pedestal will be an elegant, refined, and distinguished enhancement of my façade and, by extension, Commonwealth Avenue. It is also my belief that this is an appropriate and historically accurate addition to the Back Bay.

Side view of Statue.



Close-up front view of Statue.





Full view of Statue and Pedestal.





Statue will be placed in between troughs and windows on first floor of building.





View from sidewalk on Commonwealth Avenue towards first floor façade and proposed placement of statue and pedestal in between troughs.





View from sidewalk on Commonwealth Avenue towards first floor façade and proposed placement of statue and pedestal.





View from Commonwealth Avenue towards first floor façade and proposed placement of statue and pedestal. Clearly, the tree will obscure visibility of statue and pedestal from passersby.

