

## Sabotage by 'Improvement'

In the name of "improvement," the erosion of New York's architectural heritage goes on. Commercial vandalism is about to inflict new damage on the only work in New York by Louis Sullivan—the Bayard Building at 65 Bleecker Street. It had its first floor "modernized" by the owners last year; now the Department of Buildings is about to issue a permit for the destruction of the entrance. The department will do so reluctantly and without alternative by the end of the week. It has no option since the building is not yet designated as a landmark, although it is on the Landmarks Preservation Commission's list for this winter's hearings.

The fine foliated terra cotta ornament of the 1890's, by one of the great names in American architecture, will be replaced by featureless flat slabs for a conventional commercial doorway; and the ground floor sabotage will be complete. Irresponsible and insensitive remodeling is as inexorable an instrument of destruction as the bulldozer.