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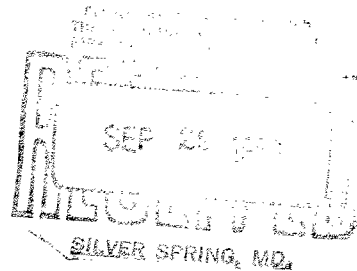
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September 24, 1980

Mr. Denis Canavan
Planner, Development Review Division
Maryland National Capital Park and
Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910



Re: Renewable Natural Resources Foundation
S-257
Historic Preservation

Dear Denis:

As you know, our client, Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, is proceeding with its plans to implement further its eleemosynary and philanthropic institution special exception. Subsequent to renovation of the Grosvenor Mansion several years ago, the architectural plans were prepared for Building I, Phase I, of the new construction process.

During your recent review of those plans on behalf of the County Board of Appeals, the question was raised as to the applicability of Chapter 24A, Montgomery County Code (Preservation of Historic Resources) to the new construction plans, since the Grosvenor estate is listed on the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County, Maryland. Rather than attempting to utilize the literal language of the law to avoid its applicability to our client's plans, we respectfully request that the Planning Board hold its hearing as soon as practicable as to inclusion of the property on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

We submit that the Foundation property should not be designated as an Historic Site by the Planning Board. As to the historical and cultural significance criteria, we believe that none of them are applicable, with the possible exception of the criteria that the property is "identified with a person or group of persons who influence society." As far as we are aware, the Grosvenor estate has not contributed to the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the area, nor does it exemplify the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the area. As to the

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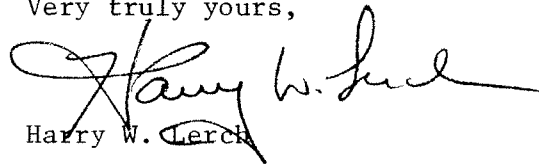
architectural and design criteria, once again, we believe that these criteria do not apply to the existing mansion on the site. While the mansion certainly is an attractive building, it is neither very old, architecturally distinctive, nor possessing a high artistic value. Due to its setback and extensive screening from Grosvenor Lane, it has never been a visual feature of the area. Moreover, absolutely none of the exterior features of the mansion have been or will be altered in any respect during the contemplated construction phases.

As you know, the current plans call for construction of several new buildings on the site. The original Master Plan for this site was prepared by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, and has been recently revised by Donald N. Coupard, AIA, & Associates. The architectural plans prepared by Mr. Coupard propose buildings which complement the existing mansion and protect and enhance the natural beauty of the site.

Based upon the foregoing, we respectfully request that the Planning Board hold its hearing as soon as possible, and that our client's property not be included on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you further, and will be happy to answer any questions which you or the Planning Board may have.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Harry W. Lerch

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