

**Wild Acres
Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation**

**Planning Board Submissions Received by
Close of Business 5-28-2008**

MCP-Chairman

From: Elke Jordan [elke.jordan@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2008 5:44 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: hearing on Wild Acres nomination for Historic Preservation

RECEIVED
0503
MAY 12 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I live on Fleming Avenue in North Bethesda Grove, right next to Wild Acres, which is also known as the Grosvenor Mansion. I write in support of the nomination of Wild Acres for Historic Preservation. In addition to its significant, intrinsic, historic and cultural merits, which are well described in the official nomination, Wild Acres is a central focus of our community. Several features of our neighborhood are named after the Grosvenors, including the main street running through it, Grosvenor Lane, the Grosvenor Park apartments and condominiums, and the Grosvenor Metro station. Several areas of our neighborhood are named after the Grosvenors or Wild Acres: Wildwood Manor, Grosvenor Woods, Wildwood Shopping Center. The former Grosvenor property defines our little enclave, which is surrounded on three sides by I 495 and I 270. The Grosvenor mansion is our link to the past, it represents the historic roots from which this community grew, it gives the neighborhood its character. Designating the mansion and its related buildings for historic preservation will assure that this last remaining vestige of our past is preserved. I hope you will decide that in the increasing pressure to develop every last bit of land, we should not lose all remnants of our rich history.

Sincerely,

Elke Jordan
10114 Fleming Avenue
Bethesda, Mad 20814

generations--an effort we hope to continue on his behalf, and on behalf of the residents of this county, as we seek to protect his homestead as a historic legacy for Montgomery County.

Over the years, the County has deemed it fitting to use the Grosvenor name in identifying many of our important local sites. Surely Grosvenor's home, itself, is a site that is historically noteworthy and remarkable for the many reasons I've touched on! I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation. I urge you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Goenner

MCP-Chairman

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MAY 13 2008

From: Howie [brown-davis3@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 12:11 PM
To: MCP-Chairman

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Chairman:

I am a resident living near the Wild Acres and am writing in support of its designation for historic preservation. The entire Grosvenor estate complex is one of the few remaining examples of that exemplify the architecture of the late 19th and early 20th century estates that were common in this area. The names of Grosvenor and Bell, his wife, are an important legacy in this area with few new inhabitants realizing the historic prominence of the name Grosvenor, especially relative the founding of the "National Geographic Magazine and the contribution that Magazine has made. The Grovenor complex should be retained intact as an important historic illustration.

Howard Davis
5819 Greenlawn Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Weller, Julia [jweller@hunton.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 4:24 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Cc: Kelly, Clare
Subject: Request for Postponement
Attachments: Wild Acres.pdf

Importance: High


Dear Chairman,

Attached please find my request for postponement of the evaluation of Resource # 30/15, currently scheduled for the May 29 meeting of the Montgomery County Planning Board.

Regards,

Julia Weller

[Home](#) [VCard](#) [Bio](#)

 <p>O. Julia Weller Counsel jweller@hunton.com</p> <p>Hunton & Williams LLP 1900K Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20006 Phone: (202) 955-1849 Fax: (202) 828-3734 www.hunton.com</p>

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05/2
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1900 K STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006-1109

TEL 202 • 955 • 1500
FAX 202 • 778 • 2201

O. JULIA WELLER
DIRECT DIAL: 202-955-1849
EMAIL: jweller@hunton.com

FILE NO: 99997.029025

May 14, 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
Vice-Chairman, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Wild Acres, Resource # 30/15

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I am writing to you to request a postponement of the hearing on the nomination for historic designation of Wild Acres, Resource # 30-15, which is currently scheduled before the Planning Board on May 29, 2008. I will be out of the country from May 22 through May 31 and have been unable to find someone to take my place. As the individual who made the nomination for Wild Acres to be included on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, I would very much like to attend in person to make my presentation. I am available for either the June 19th or the June 26th meetings of the Planning Board.

Thank you for your understanding.

Regards,

O. Julia Weller

cc: Clare Lise Kelly
Senior Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Office

Coleman, Joyce

From: Lanigan, Puller C [laniganp@hhmi.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2008 2:51 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Grosvenor Estate, 'Wild Acres'

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08-0517
MAY 15 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Hanson,

It has recently come to my attention that the Grosvenor estate named, 'Wild Acres' is being considered for a Historic Trust nomination. As a native of Bethesda and long time resident of the state of Maryland, I feel this would be a wonderful asset to Montgomery County. The history of the home itself is steeped in American tradition! How exciting (at least it was to me) to discover that Mr. Grosvenor was the first President of National Geographic and that his wife, Elsie was the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell (a founder of National Geographic) and the 'father' of the telephone as we know it today! Furthermore, I believe that it is important for the estate in it's entirety be preserved including the carriage house, caretaker's house (which is restored), along with the woods and lawns that surround them. All of these elements belong together to reflect how the Grosvenors intended the property to be used and as an example of the county's estates that used to be in our area. It would be a travesty to lose that and the original artwork built in to the house!

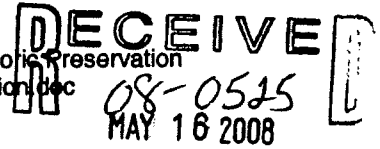
I strongly urge you to consider preserving 'Wild Acres' in the spirit in which it was built, and honored the Grosvenors for so many years.

Sincerely,

Puller Lanigan
313 Quaint Acres Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20904

MCP-Chairman

From: Pat Davenport [patdaven@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2008 10:30 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: support for adding Wild Acres to MC Master Plan for Historic Preservation
Attachments: v.2 letter to planning board in support of historic designation.doc



Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support to place Wild Acres (the Grosvenor estate) on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. Specifically, I believe that the mansion and its carriage house, the caretaker's cottage, and the entire environmental setting outlined in the recommendation of the Montgomery County Historic Commission (HPC)—with its driveway, lawns, and vistas of woods—should be designated. All of these elements together reflect how the Grosvenors used their estate and are necessary to preserve the historic character of Wild Acres.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

There are many reasons why Wild Acres should be preserved. First, the estate has national significance—it was the home of Gilbert Grosvenor, the first editor of *National Geographic*, president of the National Geographic Society for 55 years, and cousin of President William Howard Taft. He loved nature and was influential in expanding our country's national park system. Grosvenor lived in the mansion with his wife Elsie Bell, the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell. The property has other historical importance as well. According to a 1991 *Bethesda Gazette* article, records of the property date back to the 1600s. The article also mentions a colonial stone boundary marker located in the woods surrounding the house. Moreover, Wild Acres—the Grosvenor estate—is central to the character of its neighborhood and its historical roots. For example, many of the place names of the neighborhood—Grosvenor metro station, Grosvenor Lane, Grosvenor Tower condominiums, Grosvenor Mews—take their names from the estate.

The three buildings that have been nominated should be preserved. The mansion, a lovely 1920s Tudor-style building, along with its coordinating carriage house and the charming Craftsman-style caretaker's cottage were designed by a prominent Washington architect to go together. Over the years, as I have walked past the estate or taken walks there, I have always admired the buildings and the way they are situated on the grounds. Recently, after seeing the photos that accompanied the nomination of this property, I have come to appreciate their architectural details and settings even more! For example, I had always liked the proportions of the carriage house, with its row of windows and its slate hipped roof and knew that it was designed to go with the house. But the photos show how clever the architect was in aligning and coordinating the buildings to please the eye.

The environmental setting of the buildings is spectacular and should also be preserved. The long, circular drive up to the mansion, the lawns around the mansion and carriage house, and views of the woods (the Grosvenors did name their estate Wild Acres, after all!)—all of these landscape features are integral to the Grosvenors' vision for their country retreat.

The three buildings and their setting convey as a whole the original use of the property by the Grosvenors. As such, Wild Acres is a wonderful example of the country estates that once appeared along Rockville Pike nearly a century ago. I urge the Montgomery County Planning Board to add the three buildings and the entire environmental setting noted in the HPC recommendation the county's Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Many thanks for this opportunity to voice my support.

Sincerely,

Pat Davenport
10012 Fleming Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814

P.S. I will also fax a copy of this letter. E-mail is sometimes unreliable.

May 16, 2008

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08-0523
MAY 16 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

TO: Royce Harrison
MC Planning Board

From: P. Davenport

RE: Letter Supporting Adding Wild Acres
to Master Plan for Historic
Preservation

3 pages - including cover

301-495-1320

May 16, 2008

Royce Hanson
Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support to place Wild Acres (the Grosvenor estate) on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. Specifically, I believe that the mansion and its carriage house, the caretaker's cottage, and the entire environmental setting outlined in the recommendation of the Montgomery County Historic Commission (HPC)—with its driveway, lawns, and vistas of woods—should be designated. All of these elements together reflect how the Grosvenors used their estate and are necessary to preserve the historic character of Wild Acres.

There are many reasons why Wild Acres should be preserved. First, the estate has national significance—it was the home of Gilbert Grosvenor, the first editor of *National Geographic*, president of the National Geographic Society for 55 years, and cousin of President William Howard Taft. He loved nature and was influential in expanding our country's national park system. Grosvenor lived in the mansion with his wife Elsie Bell, the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell. The property has other historical importance as well. According to a 1991 *Bethesda Gazette* article, records of the property date back to the 1600s. The article also mentions a colonial stone boundary marker located in the woods surrounding the house.

Moreover, Wild Acres—the Grosvenor estate—is central to the character of its neighborhood and its historical roots. For example, many of the place names of the neighborhood—Grosvenor metro station, Grosvenor Lane, Grosvenor Tower condominiums, Grosvenor Mews—take their names from the estate.

The three buildings that have been nominated should be preserved. The mansion, a lovely 1920s Tudor-style building, along with its coordinating carriage house and the charming Craftsman-style caretaker's cottage were designed by a prominent Washington architect to go together. Over the years, as I have walked past the estate or taken walks there, I have always admired the buildings and the way they are situated on the grounds. Recently, after seeing the photos that accompanied the nomination of this property, I have come to appreciate their architectural details and settings even more! For example, I had always liked the proportions of the carriage house, with its row of windows and its slate hipped roof and knew that it was designed to go with the house. But the photos show how clever the architect was in aligning and coordinating the buildings to please the eye.

The environmental setting of the buildings is spectacular and should also be preserved. The long, circular drive up to the mansion, the lawns around the mansion and carriage house, and views of the woods (the Grosvenors did name their estate Wild Acres, after all!)—all of these landscape features are integral to the Grosvenors' vision for their country retreat.

The three buildings and their setting convey as a whole the original use of the property by the Grosvenors. As such, Wild Acres is a wonderful example of the country estates that once

appeared along Rockville Pike nearly a century ago. I urge the Montgomery County Planning Board to add the three buildings and the entire environmental setting noted in the HPC recommendation the county's Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Many thanks for this opportunity to voice my support.

Sincerely,



Pat Davenport
10012 Fleming Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

RECEIVED

From: MJ WILLIAMS [mjw5701@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2008 5:08 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: To: Royce Hanson, Chairman,

MAY 19 2008
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

I am writing to show my support to place Wild Acres (the Grosvenor Estate) located at 5440 Grosvenor Lane in Bethesda on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation because of the property's significance for the people of this region and country.

That it is a place of historical significance of monumental proportions is evident from the names of the initial occupants of the estate and their visitors. I understand that Mr. Grosvenor was head of the National Geographic Society and that he was editor for many years of the magazine. I also understand that his wife was Alexander Graham Bell's daughter and that the couple entertained many prominent people on their Wild Acres estate.

I have on occasion visited the property and have admired the beauty of the mansion and the smaller garage building next to it. My visits to Wild Acres have always provided me with a place to reflect on the abilities of men with foresight to direct the country into a better and more civilized direction. The historic significance and the beauty of the buildings and the park like atmosphere around them always cause me to reflect on someone's foresight in retaining these buildings and grounds and what a tragic loss were these to be consumed for other purposes.

I have lived in Montgomery County for many years and I don't know of any other place like Wild Acres in our area. Please protect the property's historic buildings and grounds. They deserve to be protected.

Thank you.

MJ Williams

5225 Pooks Hill Road

Bethesda MD

MCP-Chairman

RECEIVED

From: Melitta Carter [melittacarter@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2008 3:43 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: In Support of historic designation of Wild Acres

MAY 19 2008
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

To the Chairman and Committee Members of MoCo Parks and Planning

I would like to add my support in favour of the proposed historic designation of Wild Acres estate between Grosvenor Lane and Fleming Park.

I have lived in the Wildwood Manor neighborhood since 1993, and my children have grown up here.

Although the area is quite developed, the greenery along Grosvenor Lane has always been appealing to us. In addition, we have delighted in acquainting ourselves with the history of Montgomery County and our own little corner in particular. Coming from the UK, we are used to important buildings being everywhere: in fact, there is scarcely a building in London where something historic has *not* occurred. This is not the case here, so each place of interest is very precious. At a time when so many homes are being torn down, character and past are being lost. What we have in the Grosvenor Mansion is character, beauty and history. The setting is glorious: a winding narrow road leading to a clearing shaded by beautiful old trees and a large country manor nestled within. This is something really unusual in this area, and every part of it should be maintained as close to its current state as possible, so that all those who come to live in this leafy neighborhood will also have the pleasure of this discovery.

Yours respectfully,
Melitta Carter
5929 Avon Drive
Bethesda
MD 20814

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MCP-Chairman

From: Michael Diehl [diehl.mike@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2008 10:57 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Cc: diehl.mike@gmail.com
Subject: Grosvenor Estate (Wild Acres)

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MAY 19 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Hanson:

This letter supports the Historic Preservation Board's recommendation to list Wild Acres on the Montgomery County Historic Register. The recommendation extends to the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's quarters, and the environmental setting. Because designation of the mansion is not in dispute, I will address only the remaining elements of the estate.

Mr. Arthur Heaton, a master architect of the era, imbued the carriage house with distinctive characteristics. First, he located the carriage house immediately adjacent to the mansion, and not at a distance. Second, he coordinated the carriage house with the mansion architecturally. Third, he made the carriage house able to accommodate four automobiles.

These design choices demonstrate that the carriage house is an integral part of the estate, and not a utilitarian structure. By its location and coordinating architectural style, Mr. Heaton made the carriage house almost a part of the historic mansion. The care devoted to its design reveals the architect's appreciation for the importance of the automobile to life on the estate. The automobile allowed the Grosvenors a quick and comfortable means of transportation. The carriage house is also large enough to house the automobiles of arriving guests. The care devoted to the design may even reflect Mr. Heaton's well known enthusiasm for things automotive. The prominence of the carriage house and what it reflects about life on the estate made it deserving of the HPB's unanimous recommendation.

Also deserving are the caretaker's quarters, which reflect the realities of a bygone era and perhaps the sensibilities of the Grosvenor family. That the quarters were built at all reflect that the estate was not the permanent residence of the Grosvenors. The estate would require upkeep between visits, and it would be unseemly to allow the caretaker to live in the mansion during the family's absences. The quarters also reflect a time when travel was too slow, and the surrounding area too isolated, to allow the caretaker to maintain the estate from a more distant location.

The placement of the quarters and their design are also revealing. Unlike the carriage house, the quarters are located a discreet distance from the mansion, allowing both the Grosvenors and the caretaker a degree of privacy. Moreover, the quarters were sturdy and relatively comfortable for the time. They were no afterthought, as they were designed by Mr. Heaton and their plans are housed in the Library of Congress. Their relatively substantial nature may reveal a conviction on the part of the Grosvenors that persons such as the caretaker were deserving of a certain dignity. Because the quarters reflect historical realities attendant to life on the estate during that time, and are perhaps revealing of the Grosvenors' sensibilities, they deserve historic designation as well.

Perhaps the defining characteristic of the estate is its environmental setting. The Grosvenors could have chosen to erect a large mansion in Washington, where it would have been admired by the public and served as a source of pride. Instead, they selected a pastoral setting, in keeping with the focus of Natural Geographic magazine, which contains many features on rural life and natural features. The estate is impossible to imagine in an urban setting, as the mansion would be completely out of place in the city. Because the mansion was designed for a

rural setting, the environmental setting deserves historic designation as well. The environmental setting was the very reason for the estate: to serve as a place to retreat from city life and enjoy the pleasures of the country.

For all these reasons, I support designation of Wild Acres and urge you to consider the unanimous recommendation of the HPB.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Diehl
9902 Broad Street
Bethesda, MD
301.807.7828

MCP-Chairman

From: Georgana Maines [mainesgnh@rcn.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2008 11:18 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres (the Grosvenor estate) - Support the Designation to the Montgomery County Master lan for Historic Preservation

We have heard that the Grosvenor estate, Wild Acres, has been nominated for historical preservation. We are familiar with this property and believe the estate, with its several structures and wooded surroundings, preserves some unique history that must not be lost.

Future generations, by walking the grounds of this fine estate, will appreciate this important part of our heritage.

We strongly support its designation to the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,

Henry and Georgana Maines
864 Diamond Drive
Gaithersburg MD

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCP-Chairman

From: Engel Haus [ajengel@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2008 10:28 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Grosvenor estate/Historic designation

MCP Board:

I am writing in support of Historic Designation for Wild Acres, aka the Grosvenor Estate on Grosvenor Lane in Bethesda. I have lived on Lone Oak Drive for over 30 years and have always taken pride in our neighborhood being the home of Mr. Grosvenor, who started the National Geographic. In addition, the estate includes a library which has historical connection to Alexander Graham Bell--it was our own piece of history right down the street! The Tudor mansion, carriage house and caretaker's cottage, along with the grounds, are an impressive example of how life was early in the last century. I always point it out to our guests with great pride.

But there is also interesting historical information about the property from the 17th century onward (see keepGrosvenorgreen.net for more details).

There are not many estates of this caliber which remain in the county, and it should be maintained and preserved in it's entirety, as it is was designed, for future generations. I think it should be open to the public (as Uncle Tom's Cabin on Old Georgetown Road will be) as a part of our county's heritage. We should all be proud of this important historical landmark!

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Anne Engel
5809 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCP-Chairman

From: Rob Ramoy [robramoy@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 8:52 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Grosvenor property

To: Montgomery County Planning Board FROM: Rob Ramoy RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation nomination. I am writing to express my strong support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include not only the mansion but the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surround the mansion. The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Rob Ramoy
Rob Ramoy & Associates
Licensed in Maryland & Florida
301-530-7337 (o)
301-576-5990 efax
robramoy@aol.com email
www.robramoy.com

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MCP-Chairman

From: Eileen Dimond [epdimond@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 9:02 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

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To: Montgomery County Planning Board

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

From: Leo and Eileen Dimond

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

We are writing to express our support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include not only the mansion but the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion. This beautiful neighborhood treasure, full of history, cannot be destroyed. Please leave one of our last natural resources in our neighborhood intact.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason we ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Leo and Eileen Dimond
and our children,
Grace, Maggie and Michael Dimond

5817 Greenlawn Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Barry, Amy S [amy_s_barry@fanniemae.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 9:22 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation - Please help us

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MAY 19 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination that is now before you. We need your help to protect this site and our neighborhood. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda and it is critical that this resource, this history, be recognized and respected as such. In addition, this is a neighborhood of families with young children. The bike trail runs through our homes and streets, something used by so many residents of Bethesda on a daily basis. There are so few green spaces left in Bethesda and throughout Montgomery County as a whole. There is no reason for this school to be developed on this spot, destroying the natural setting and adding an unbearable amount of traffic, congestion, lights and noise to what is otherwise a very peaceful neighborhood.

For these reasons I implore you to please support this nomination and help us protect this historic site.

Sincerely,
Amy S. Barry
10311 Fleming Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814

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MCP-Chairman

From: BikerRich7@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 9:25 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

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MAY 19 2008
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

My home backs up to Grosvenor Lane directly across from the Wild Acres site; and I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

I have lived in Montgomery County for more than 50 years and The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. As such, it is important that this resource is recognized. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Richard J Rose
5512 Thornbush Court
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-493-5828

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.

MCP-Chairman

From: grandezz@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 9:52 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson:

Please support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. Please support the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion and all the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

Please don't let a big organization destroy this important part of Bethesda.

I am sure that the people of Montgomery County can count on you to save this important part of our community.

Sincerely,

Louise Brockett
6020 Rossmore Drive
Bethesda, Md. 20814

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MAY 19 2008
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

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MCP-Chairman

From: Ann [ajacobs3@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 9:57 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Historic Designation on Grosvenor Lane

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Ann S. Jacobs
10408 Snow Point Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 335-4307 (phone)
(301)493-8222 (fax)
ajacobs3@comcast.net

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MAY 19 2008
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCP-Chairman

From: Vadim Kagan [vadimkagan@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 9:57 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,
Vadim Kagan
6017 Southport Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCP-Chairman

From: kmstakes1@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 10:24 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Fwd: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

As a resident of Wildwood Manor for 33 years, and a resident of Alta Vista Gardens for 16 years, I am writing to express my strong support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, in addition to the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

As you know, the Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda and it is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason, I ask that you support the nomination.

Thank you for your consideration

Karen M. Stakes

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Or
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

To Mary
Bradford

MCP-Chairman

From: stan rosen [sbrosen@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 11:05 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

We live near the property and wish to retain the look of the Wild Acres area.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stanley & Doris Rosen
6300 Berkshire Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCP-Chairman

From: bgroyston@juno.com
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 11:06 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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MAY 19 2008
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Royston
10300 Cheshire Terrace
Bethesda, MD 20814

Elizabeth Royston

Save on Cell Phones. Click Now!

MCP-Chairman

From: Sharon Robinson [sbrobinson123@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 11:51 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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MAY 19 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Sharon Robinson
5123 King Charles Way
Bethesda, MD 20814

P.S. Help eradicate blood cancer in our lifetime. Support me in my fundraising efforts with the **Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**, click here to make a secure tax deductible donation: <http://pages.teamintraining.org/nca/seagull09/srobinson>

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MCP-Chairman

From: Joan Weinberg [joanweinberg1@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 1:07 PM
To: MCP-Chairman

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Joan Weinberg
6105 Yorkshire Terrace
Bethesda, MD 20814

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCP-Chairman

From: andreavarea@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 1:42 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,
Andrea Varea
10215 Dickens Ave
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Rosalie [rgrazzini1@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 1:42 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Cc: CLeahy@aol.com
Subject: Wild Acres

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Montgomery County Planning Board;

I am an active mother of 4 children ages 4 through 12 and a long time resident of Wildwood manor. We love our neighborhood. We particularly it's preserved green space and parks. My children walk or ride their bikes regularly to Fleming Park. I am writing to express my support of Wildwood Acres Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with this grass roots effort and vote to include not only the mansion but the other structures on the property and the environment surrounding the mansion in this historic commission.

As you may realize many of the activists in this community were born and raised in this neighborhood only to return and raise their own kids here. I would hope our county leaders will help to support our community leaders who take the time to preserve and maintain both our green space and precious history! As these are the foundations of great neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Rosalie Grazzini
Fleming Ave.
Bethesda, MD

MCP-Chairman

From: jdrockstar [jdrockstar@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 1:44 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Support for adding Grosvenor Estate to the historic register

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I have learned that the Grosvenor Estate in North Bethesda was unanimously recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission for historic designation. I live in the area and am pleased to learn of this development. The Commission found that the property clearly meets the criteria for inclusion on the county's Master Plan for Historic Preservation. I am writing to urge the Planning Board to accept the Commission's recommendation to include the three buildings used by the Grosvenors and their caretaker and the lawns and woods that surround these buildings. All contribute to the historical significance of the property because the buildings and landscape together convey how the Grosvenors planned and used their country retreat. I hope the board will vote to protect this important part of Bethesda history.

Jennifer Bricken

11108 Jolly Way

Kensington, MD 20895

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MCP-Chairman

From: Grosvenor@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 1:47 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation

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THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
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Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

On behalf of Grosvenor Homeowners Association I am writing to express our support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. It is our hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. In our view it is important that this resource is recognized as such. Accordingly, we ask that you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

James M. Meister
President, Grosvenor Homeowners Association

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.

MCP-Chairman

From: LindaMels@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 2:30 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Cc: Grosvenor@aol.com
Subject: (no subject)

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Sir:

I am in support of the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I think it should include the mansion, other original structures, and the environmental area surrounding the mansion. Being a part of history, this resource should be protected.

Please support this nomination!

Sincerely yours,

Melvin J. Stan
5511 Thornbush Court
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

i

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? [Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.](#)

MCP-Chairman

From: Jelliotti@cs.com
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 3:36 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: support for preservation Grosvenor/Wild Acres

April 19, 2008

To: Mr. Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am expressing my support for the listing of the Grosvenor Estate, Wild Acres, on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation, including the mansion and its buildings as well as the setting for the buildings so the ambiance may be preserved along with the physical entities. I was surprised to learn that the property was not already listed, since it is so historical and so well-preserved.

These things need to be saved for future generations. In my nearly forty years of living in Montgomery County I have been watching it develop with interest, and feel that the pace has accelerated more recently until we are rushing headlong into the future at breakneck speed. That makes it more important than ever that we take time to consider and preserve our more stately and gracious past. It's the only thing that will give us perspective on our present actions, and we are in desperate need of perspective.

Preserving the mansion and buildings in their environmental setting would give us all breathing space and some moments of respite from our fast-driven lives. Do please vote in favor of the listing in its entirety.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Irene Elliott
10014 Fleming Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Dabney Hibbert [dabgen@erols.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 4:48 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

We are writing to express our support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. We hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include not only the mansion but also the other original structures on the property as well as the environmental setting surrounding the mansion. An article in the newspaper a few years ago, which presented the amazing history of the property, fascinated our family and made us treasure it even more than we had previously.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda and it is most important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,
Dabney and Gene Burleson

MCP-Chairman

From: Bryan [bambryan@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 5:06 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

To: Montgomery County Planning Board

From: Ann and Brian Bryan
6024 Rossmore Drive
Bethesda, MD 20184

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include not only the mansion but the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an amazing part of the history of Bethesda and the Nation's Capital. The Grosvenor family history should be preserved. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,
Ann and Brian Bryan
XXXXX

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MCP-Chairman

From: A POLANGIN [akpolan@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 5:12 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Nomination

9800 Broad Street
9806 Broad Street
Bethesda, MD 20814

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

May 18, 2008

Royce Hanson,
Chairman
Planning Board
Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning Commission
8787 Georgia Avenue,
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Hanson

We are writing this letter in support of the designation of the Wild Acres Grosvenor Estate to be historic. We have lived in this neighborhood for a combination of 77 years and have been very aware that this property with its wonderful historic heritage is located on Grosvenor Lane, less than one mile from our homes. The Wild Acres Grosvenor estate is extremely unusual in its size, with wonderful old trees, and the mansion and outbuildings. An interesting thing about the mansion is that to see the front of it, you have to go behind it. It is a classic example of architecture from the 1920's. There is nothing like it at all in this part of the county. We understand that the mansion is the same as when it was built, just like the architect's plan, and that is quite unusual as well.

Another notable thing about this property is the fame of Gilbert Grosvenor who founded *The National Geographic* and who was married to the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell. As a five year old in 1947, Joan learned that Bell invented the telephone.

This property, including the outbuildings is really a historical gem in Bethesda. Some of the criteria for historic preservation that this property represents are as follows:

"It has character, interest and value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation" for representing the country estates that once lined Rockville Pike in the early 20th century.

"Is identified with a person... who influenced society" for being the home of Gilbert Grosvenor, Editor of the *National Geographic Magazine* and President of the *National Geographic Society*.

"It exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, and political heritage of the county and communities" by representing the "town and country" atmosphere of the Bethesda-Potomac region in the early 20th century.

"It is the distinctive characteristic of a type" by representing the Tudor Revival style mansion house and coordinating garage, as well as the rustic Craftsman style of the caretaker's cottage.

"It represents the work of a master" by being a fine example of the work of Arthur Heaton, an accomplished local architect who was prolific in the early 20th century. Heaton designed all three of the resources in this nomination.

"It possesses high artistic value" for the estate that includes the natural setting, caretaker's cottage and sweeping vistas to the north and south.

We believe that the entire property should be part of the environmental setting, as it is needed to preserve the context of the buildings. We certainly hope that this can occur.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Joan Hurley
jhurley42@hotmail.com
Arlene K. Polangin
akpolan@verizon.net

MCP-Chairman

From: Ernst Schwintzer [schwintzer@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 5:16 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: historic designation for Wild Acres

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I was pleased to learn the Wild Acres at 5440 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland 20814 received a unanimous recommendation by the Montgomery County Historic Commission for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. In my opinion, this is an action which was long overdue.

My interest in Wild Acres goes back to the 1980s when I lived for a number of years across from this property on Fleming Avenue. Since then I have been back to visit the area a number of times and have always used these opportunities to catch up on the latest news about the estate.

While I resided on Fleming Avenue, as a professional historian, I greatly appreciated having the former country estate of Gilbert H. Grosvenor across the street from my house. At the time the SAF had already converted the mansion into its headquarters building. Although I regretted the interior renovations to the mansion, I was pleased that the SAF maintained not only the building's original exterior, but also maintained the carriage house and the groundskeeper's cottage. Equally important, in my opinion, they kept the extensive grounds around these buildings, thereby retaining the environment and ambience of the original estate. At the time I was fearful that this property would one day be sold to someone who would destroy this historical gem that somehow had managed to survive the relentless growth of the suburbs with its accompanying rise in property values that made the continued preservation of this unique historical estate increasingly economically difficult from a strictly commercial point of view.

Based on my own observations of the property, I would strongly urge that not only the mansion be preserved, but that the carriage house, caretaker's cottage, and the grounds around the buildings, including the lawns and woods, be preserved to retain the ambience of a country mansion and that all these should be added to the Plan for Historical Preservation. Unlike urban buildings, the Grosvenor mansion is a prime example of an early twentieth century country estate. The carriage house and landscape around these buildings were part of a unified whole which would be threatened if only the mansion is placed on the register for historic places. Hence not only the mansion but the carriage house and caretaker's cottage as well need to be preserved if we wish to retain the estate's evocation of the country mansion era of the 1920s. Just as Mt. Vernon would be much poorer as reminder of our historical heritage if only George Washington's mansion but none of the outbuildings had been preserved, Wild Acres will be a poor reminder of the estate of Gilbert H. Grosvenor if only the mansion is preserved and the environment within which it is located is allowed to be destroyed.

Montgomery County still has the ability to preserve Wild Acres, a truly important historical site, for future generations. I sincerely hope that the Montgomery County Planning Board and County Council will approve placing the mansion, carriage house, groundskeeper's cottage, and the estate's grounds on the register for historic preservation.

Ernst Schwintzer
424 W 23rd Ave
Eugene OR 97405
schwintzer@gmail.com

MCP-Chairman

From: Louise Lawrence-Israels [leli18@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 5:50 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

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Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

19 May, 2008

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Louise Lawrence-Israels
President Grosvenor Square Home Owners Association

MCP-Chairman

From: Charles P. Schaeffer [chatsworth42@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 6:28 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: WILD ACRES HISTORIC PRESERVATION NOMINATION

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Royce Hanson
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, Md. 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson: Please add my vote of support to the nomination of the Wild Acres property as an historic site by the Historic Preservation Commission. I attended the original hearing and was much impressed by the the persuasive arguments favoring the nomination, particularly the appeal to save the three historic buildings on the former Grosvenor estate.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charles Schaeffer
6036 Chatsworth Lane
Bethesda, Md. 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Karen Regan [ksregan1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 6:48 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman

Montgomery County Planning Board

8787 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20910

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MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing in support of the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and will vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of the country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a treasure in our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Regan

5815 Lone Oak Dr

Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

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From: jguberman [jguberman@verizon.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2008 7:29 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Please add Wild Acres to Master Plan

MAY 19 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

I've learned that the Montgomery County Historic Commission has recommended adding Wild Acres (the Grosvenor Estate) in Bethesda to the county's Master Plan for Historic Preservation. I completely support this action because of the property's significance for the people of this county. I've driven by the property many times and have walked around the grounds from time to time while visiting friends in the area. I have admired the beauty of the mansion, the little garage building next to it, and the grounds of the estate. Not only are these beautiful, they are also historic. I understand that Gilbert Grosvenor built the place. He started the National Geographic Society and its magazine. I also understand that his wife was Alexander Graham Bell's daughter and that the couple entertained many prominent people at Wild Acres. As I write this it also occurs to me that the estate is an important place in that part of the county--many of the streets and places are named for it (Grosvenor Lane, Grosvenor Metro, Grosvenor Mews townhouses).

I have lived in Montgomery County for many years and I don't know of any other place like Wild Acres in our area. Please protect the property's buildings and grounds as recommended by the Historic Commission. They deserve to be protected.

Thank you.

Joan Guberman

14805 Pennfield Circle #105
Silver Spring, MD 20906

MCP-Chairman

From: ron2bell [ron2bell@erols.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 7:15 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

May 19, 2008

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

We support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. We hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. We ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,
Ann & Ron Bethke, II

MCP-Chairman

From: Zohreh Tatari [ztatari@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 7:28 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman

Montgomery County Planning Board

8787 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20910

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I would like to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. This is the only unprotected historical place remaining in Bethesda that is surrounded by a majestic forest and a myriad of wild life. Our duty as citizens is to protect and transfer this heritage to future generations. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and the entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

Sincerely,

Zohreh Tatari

MCP-Chairman

From: JFeld10261@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 7:39 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Grosvenor Estate Wild Acres

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Royce Hanson
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the nomination of Wild Acres on Grosvenor Lane for historic preservation. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to preserve the mansion, carriage house, caretaker's cottage and grounds.

The site has character and represents an early 20th Century property. The existing structures show the style of the times. It is an example of a noted architect. Mr. Grosvenor influenced our society. The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. As a youth, I attended Grosvenor Elementary School and moved back to the community to purchase my home run by the Grosvenor Homeowners Association.

Kindly support the nomination.

Sincerely,
Jack Feldman
10312 Thornbush Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.
(<http://food.aol.com/dinner-tonight?NCID=aolfod00030000000001>)

MCP-Chairman

From: Laurie Friedman [laurie@impact-resources.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 7:44 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Laurie Friedman,
5910 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

laurie@impact-resources.com
learn more at: www.meridianshealth.com

MCP-Chairman

From: Cathy [cathyw63@starpower.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 7:50 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

We have lived in this neighborhood for 45 plus years! We have seen many changes.

We support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Catherine White
Robert White
Gladys White

MCP-Chairman

From: Henry - IR Tech [henry@ir-tech.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 8:12 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination for many reasons. I believe this property has a unique and valuable heritage and is a wonderful component of our local neighborhood. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. It would be such a tragedy to see the property broken up and disassembled. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Henry Friedman, PMP
Chief Operating Officer

IR TECHNOLOGIES

(301) 581-9676 (office)
(240) 793-4477 (mobile)
(240) 465-0089 (fax)
www.ir-tech.com

MCP-Chairman

From: Linda Parker [linda20814@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 8:32 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination and I ask you to support it, also. I think you should support the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is a part of the history of Bethesda. It is a good example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, the property would no longer be as valuable without both the buildings and grounds. It is extremely important for our neighborhood and Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

Linda Parker
5806 Jarvis Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: raehle1@aol.com
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 8:42 PM
To: MCP-Chairman

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Rose Aehle
5717 Greenlawn Drive
Bethesda, Md 20814

Plan your next roadtrip with MapQuest.com: America's #1 Mapping Site.

MCP-Chairman

From: Jennifer Gallivan [gallivansgarage@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 9:02 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: save grovenour mansion and stop nations academy

Mr hanson.. please help keep out neighborhood safe from the nations academy development. There are only 4 streets that enter this community and having 900 plus cars added every morning and afternoon would create a safety hazard for local children going to ashburton and walter Johnson schools. Keeping the mansion a non-profit and now historic residence would send the right signal. Thanks from a voting democrat
John gallivan 9912 fleminf ave Bethesda md 20814

RECEIVED
0340
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

MCP-Chairman

From: Lisa_Goenner [Lisa_Goenner@london.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 9:39 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Please Support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to voice my very strongest support of the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination and to ask for your support as well, when the matter comes before the Planning Board on May 29.

The Grosvenor Mansion--along with the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage, and their entire environmental setting--could certainly stand on its architectural merits alone and still be worthy of preservation. I confess to having a particular passion for architectural preservation, as both my father and grandfather were Washington architects who left a legacy of their own considerable talent on the local landscape. (Several of my grandfather's buildings now enjoy the protection that historic designation provides, and can therefore be appreciated for generations to come.) I hope the work of Montgomery County's Planning Board on May 29 will do as much to preserve the architectural legacy that is Wild Acres. I fervently hope that, along with those buildings, the Planning Board will see fit to preserve the setting of lawns and forest. There is a vast difference in the effect that is achieved, between preserving only a building (note the Walter Johnson house on Old Georgetown Road), and preserving a significant structure along with its supporting outbuildings and acreage (as is the case with the Farmhouse and Barn on the Landon School campus where I work). Preserving the historic buildings within their setting acknowledges the original design and purpose of the architecture and honors the true spirit and charge of historic preservation.

Of course, the building and grounds together represent just one facet of the gem that is Wild Acres.

The historical significance of the Grosvenors themselves is such that it cannot be measured in a single contribution, nor even in a single arena. Gilbert Grosvenor and his wife, Elsie, operated on a truly global scale, and were a positive force that truly shaped the social, political, scientific, artistic, and literary achievements of their day. Grosvenor's leadership of the National Geographic was more than a mere publishing success story; in his time he supported some of the most daring explorations that had yet been conceived, and truly extended the world's understanding of our planet and its peoples. Although an equal among society's most illustrious personages, Grosvenor made his greatest impact on the citizenry of the world, introducing them to each other through the extraordinary images and stories to be found on the pages of the National Geographic. Grosvenor's own significant photographic contributions represented a forward leap in photography as both an art and a news form.

Perhaps most significant, however, were Grosvenor's efforts to preserve the environment. By extolling the beauty that is to be found in nature and in man's own handiwork, he helped to create in our minds and hearts an appreciation for what is valuable to us all. Grosvenor was at the vanguard of a national effort to recognize the importance of preservation for future

MCP-Chairman

From: Judy Saks [saksfour@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 10:54 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Letter concerning Grosvenor Estate

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

To: Mr. Royce Hanson
Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I was pleased to learn that the Grosvenor estate was recommended by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission for inclusion on the county's Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

I am familiar with the property, having strolled there from time to time with friends who live nearby. The property should be protected not only because of its important historical association with Gilbert Grosvenor and Alexander Graham Bell, but also because the buildings and grounds convey the atmosphere of a country retreat. In addition to the mansion, I believe that the carriage house and the caretaker's cottage should be protected, along with the lawns and wooded setting. Without these elements, the property would lose its context as the Grosvenor family's country home. More importantly, it would no longer be a splendid example of the country estates that once were found along Rockville Pike.

The Grosvenor estate is an important part of Montgomery County's historical legacy. I urge the Planning Board to protect it for future generations. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
Judith Saks
5713 Mossrock Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20852
301-468-6961

MCP-Chairman

From: Lea Savoji [lsavoji@gwu.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 10:57 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Lea Savoji

MCP-Chairman

From: M.S. Posniewski [posniewski6@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 11:11 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

Dear Montgomery County Planning Board,

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include not only the mansion but the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

I am especially sensitive to properties such as this. My grandmother's house was the house in Montgomery County where Josiah Henson lived (Uncle Tom's Cabin). It was very important to our family that the house be preserved and shared with the public, but at the very least preserved. The Wild Acres property is also an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such and not lost forever. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Robert and Mary Sue Posniewski
Bethesda, Maryland

MCP-Chairman

From: William Wood [wdwiii1@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 11:11 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: support for preserving grosvenor mansion

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

Who doesn't have a "National Geographic" in the closet? The Grosvenor Mansion and grounds should be preserved as a reminder of what for many of us was our first window on the world. It reflects a quest for knowledge that is an example to us all.

Sincerely,
M. C. Mangan and W. D. Wood
William Wood
wdwiii1@earthlink.net
EarthLink Revolves Around You.

MCP-Chairman

From: Birgit An der Lan [birgit.anderlan@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 11:50 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I would like to express my strong support for the designation of the Wild Acres Mansion for historic preservation. The Mansion, together with the Carriage house, Caretaker Cottage and surrounding lawns and woodland, which were an integral part of the original design by the renowned architect Arthur Heaton and are part of the heritage of Montgomery County, deserve to be preserved in their entirety for future generations as a superb example of the country estates of the early part of the last century.

I have lived near the estate, which endows the North Bethesda Grove/Wildwood Manor area with its unique character, since 1984.

Your sincerely,

Birgit An der Lan

9923 Dickens Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Michael Zisk [michael_zisk@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 7:22 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board

Dear Mr. Hanson,

As a resident of the neighborhood next to the Grosvenor Tract, I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of the types of estates that were common in our area during the last century. Without including the grounds, however, the property would not shine as an example of the many estates like it which have been lost already in our county. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Michael Zisk
5902 Kingswood Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Gaby Chidichimo [GabyZeh@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 8:53 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

We support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination and hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. Please support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Brian and Gaby Chidichimo
9910 Edward Ave
Bethesda, MD 20814

May 17, 2008

Royce Hanson
Chairman, Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson:

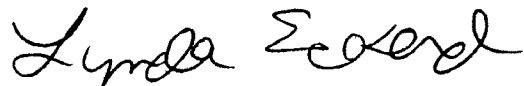
I live in Alta Vista Gardens, very near Wild Acres (the Grosvenor Estate). The reason I am writing is to ask that Wild Acres be designated in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Wild Acres has been a part of our neighborhood for as long as I can remember. As a result, the Grosvenor name is seen and known throughout the area. However, it is only recently that I learned that this property has not yet been designated as an historic site.

It is essential that the buildings (mansion, carriage, and gardener's cottage) be designated now, as well as the environmental setting in which they are situated. I am sure you are aware that these buildings and surrounding area were once part of an early 20th century country estate, which was designed by a prominent local architect.

For all of these reasons, please be certain to designate this property (three buildings and environmental setting) for the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Lynda J. Eckard
5900 Jarvis Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Richard Chipkin [rickchip53@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 9:30 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination
Expires: Friday, May 15, 2009 12:00 AM

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

ROYCE HANSON, CHAIRMAN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

As a resident in the Wildwood neighborhood, I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. Trying to separate which parts of the entire property should be preserved and which doesn't make sense; we should preserve it all. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Chipkin
5816 Cheshire Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Cave, Carol [CCave@cpsc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 9:40 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretakers cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Carol Cave

5715 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

*****!! Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Copies of product recall and product safety information can be sent to you automatically via Internet e-mail, as they are released by CPSC. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this service go to the following web page: <https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx> *****!!

MCP-Chairman

From: Janna Marks [janna@bikethesites.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 9:51 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Janna Marks, a neighbor
5807 Lone Oak Dr.
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: David Marshack [david@marshack.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 10:15 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

RECEIVED
0539
MAY 20 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

David Marshack
10540 Farnham Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: buddyadams@juno.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 10:39 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: wild acres

RECEIVED
0543
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely, Jeff Adams

Wasting money? Stop, now. Click here for top online coupon websites.
<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL2111/fc/Ioyw6iigj6A9WOyMOggDxX9iZX4Mhix3AioN0JHhwwuh6mfeA2lPrN/?count=1234567890>

MCP-Chairman

From: ams@kaleidos-design.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 11:05 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

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MAY 20 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Angelika Meier-Schellersheim

MCP-Chairman

From: Robert Marks [RAMARKS1@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 11:23 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Bob Marks
5813 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

301-897-8153
301-897-9252 fax
703-244-1044 cell

MCP-Chairman

From: Granmoblely@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 12:16 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Preservation of Wild Acres

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

5909 Rudyard Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814
May 20, 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr Hanson:

I am writing in regard to the Grosvenor property in Bethesda. The mansion, original stable and surrounding area on the Wild Acres Estate have been nominated for historic preservation with the Historic Preservation Committee.

Having lived in the Wildwood Manor subdivision for 48 years, I have come to know the importance of this original country estate. Therefore, I request that you support the nomination.

Sincerely,
Claire Mobley

Wondering what's for Dinner Tonight? [Get new twists on family favorites at AOL Food.](#)

MCP-Chairman

From: Annie Shellswick [ashellswick@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 12:37 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation

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MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Annie Shellswick, LCSW-C, LLC
240-678-2722
www.annieshellswick.com

E-mail is not a secure medium of communication. I cannot guarantee privacy.

MCP-Chairman

From: Bowker, Ann (ACF) [ann.bowker@acf.hhs.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 1:00 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Montgomery County Planning Board:

I am writing to support the nomination of Wild Acres (Resource #30/15), Gilbert Grosvenor's estate on Grosvenor Lane in Bethesda, to Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation, including:

- the mansion, the carriage house/garage, and the caretaker's/gardener's cottage, and
- the entire environmental setting shown in the April 16, 2008, Maryland – National Capital Park and Planning Commission staff memorandum recommending designation of Wild Acres on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Wild Acres is a valuable historic, architectural, and natural resource and an important part of our county and our neighborhood. It is a significant example of the country estates built in Montgomery County in the early 20th century by wealthy Washingtonians who were publishers and editors. It was the country estate of Gilbert Grosvenor of the National Geographic Society, a significant historical figure, and it also is associated with other significant persons of his times. The three buildings and much of their former environmental setting still survive and still evoke the country mansion era of the early 20th century.

The three buildings and the full environmental setting are integral parts of Wild Acres and contribute to the historic character and significance of the property and to its context as an important example of early 20th century country estates in the county. These buildings and their environmental setting all qualify for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. They are important to the history of Montgomery County and to the character of our neighborhood. The three structures and the natural environmental setting should be preserved to convey the previous use of the property as a country estate, to retain the character of the property. It is important to preserve the structures and an environmental setting appropriate to the previous use – not just the mansion and perhaps a little grass around it.

N-NCPPC staff (April 16, 2008) found that Wild Acres clearly meets six criteria for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and has historical significance, architectural significance, and environmental setting and landscape significance. The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission unanimously voted to recommend designation of this resource on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, on April 23. The Maryland Historical Trust and the State Highway Administration previously found that Wild Acres is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

I have lived on Grosvenor Lane for more than twenty years. I have walked by Wild Acres hundreds of times and driven by it many more times. Wild Acres' beautiful setting, historic structures, and association with the Grosvenor family are an important and cherished part of our neighborhood. Designating Wild Acres on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation will help to assure that it won't be reduced to nothing but a mansion left out of context – or to nothing but the Grosvenor name on a street, a metro station, and apartment/condominium developments.

Sincerely,

Ann Bowker

5908 Grosvenor Lane

Bethesda, Maryland 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Alec Kenessey [azzk2022@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 1:23 PM
To: MCP-Chairman

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Royce Hanson, Chairman

Montgomery County Planning Board

8787 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Alec Kenessey
9901 Edward Ave
Bethesda MD 20814

May 19, 2008

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

My husband and I have lived at 10209 Dickens Ave, just off Grosvenor Lane, for 24 years. The Wild Acres property is an important part of our neighborhood. I urge you to agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion and the other original structures and the environmental area surrounding the mansion and support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination.

Sincerely,

Susan L Hurd

Susan L. Hurd, 10209 Dickens Ave, Bethesda, MD
20814

**Elliott M. Seiden
5507 Thornbush Court
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 581-0068**

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

There is pending before the Planning Board a nomination to confer Historic Preservation status on the wonderful Grosvenor Mansion and related grounds (the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination). Please accept this letter as a strong indication of support for grant of this nomination.

The Historic Preservation Commission has recommended Historic Preservation status for Wild Acres and having lived in the neighborhood for some nine years, I can personally attest to the architectural uniqueness and integrity of the property. Sadly, given the break neck speed at which lower Montgomery County has been developed, there are precious few historic structures that remain. This is one of the finest and surely deserves historic preservation status.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely, -



Elliott M. Seiden

MCP-Chairman

From: Brian Chidichimo [BrianChido@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 5:50 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Grosvenor Mansion

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
0551
MAY 21 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MONTGOMERY NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

This is a jewel to our neighborhood. This home of the famous National Geographic editor can be a very nice park and tourist destination. There is no guarantee that the Nations Academy would preserve this structure without protection.

Sincerely,

Brian Chidichimo
9910 Edward Ave
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-564-4024

MCP-Chairman

From: Ann McMullin [AnnMcMullin@UHMS.ORG]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 5:14 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination. I have spent many happy hours exploring the grounds with my children and now, my dog. It is a lovely place to walk and the historic nature of the mansion—the former home of the National Geographic's Gilbert Grosvenor, whose wife, Elsie was the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell. The Montgomery County Historical Society has some photos of events and parties where many famous people were in attendance. Please support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Ann McMullin
5807 Greenlawn Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Cathleen Piemme [cathel2000@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 5:41 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

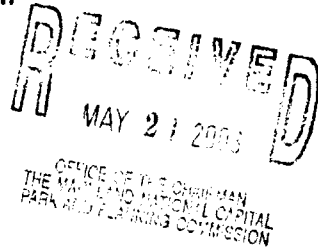
Sincerely,

Cathleen Piemme
5806 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: Debbie Freer [debbie.freer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 5:53 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910



RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I strongly support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I attended the meeting at the Planning Board on April 23rd with many other members of my community and was so pleased to see that the Historic Preservation Commission all agreed that this nomination has both historical and architectural significance. The site is so unique since its buildings and the surrounding grounds, as a whole, convey the original use of the property as a country estate in early 20th century.

This site is so breathtaking. I encourage you, if you have not already, to drive in and take a walk around the property. I bring all of my out of town friends and relatives to the site to see it. They all are fascinated to learn that it was owned by Gilbert Grosvenor and Alexander Graham Bell's daughter. They all comment on the environmental setting including the woods, massive specimen trees and sweeping vistas. In addition, everyone always comments on the tudor style mansion and how unique it is to see a carriage house from that time period in such great condition. I hope the site with the carriage house, mansion, caretaker's cottage and the entire enviromental setting will still be in tact for when I have children so I can have them experience a true country estate from that time period that once appeared along Rockville Pike.

I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and the entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda.. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Thank you very much.

With Appreciation,
Debbie Schneider Freer
Bethesda Resident
debbie.freer@yahoo.com

MCP-Chairman

From: Susan Lewis-Somers [slewis@wcl.american.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 6:09 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Cc: Herb Somers
Subject: Wild Acres Nomination for amendment to Master Plan for Historic Preservation

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2008

Dear Mr. Hanson and colleagues:

We write to urge the Planning Board to approve the draft amendment to designate Wild Acres, located at 5440 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814, to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Wild Acres, the historic estate of Gilbert H. Grosvenor, the Editor of the National Geographic Magazine and President of the National Geographic Society for much of the 20th Century, is terribly significant to our neighborhood. It is our neighborhood's historic and cultural centerpiece.

Wild Acres represents the magnificent historic beginnings of our neighborhood, whose main thoroughfare carries the Grosvenor name. It represents a time in the earlier years of the 20th Century when Gilbert Grosvenor was a cultural and social giant, nationally and within Montgomery County. Many significant political, artistic and cultural figures of the day attended gatherings at Wild Acres, which now serves as a memorial to these events and represents our county's heritage.

In addition, Wild Acres is a significant historic landmark to all residents in our neighborhood. It is the single piece of neighborhood history that remains from our beginnings in the early 20th Century. Neighbors can often be seen walking the beautiful grounds of Wild Acres, with its magnificent architecture and its wooded views, north and south. A person standing near the house can imagine what a peaceful retreat it must have been for the Grosvenor family.

We hope the Planning Board will agree with us that Wild Acres meets the criteria for designation to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Lewis-Somers and Herb Somers
10106 Fleming Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: E Freer [efreer99@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 6:11 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to show my support of the historic preservation nomination of the rare gem that we have hidden among our neighborhood, Wild Acres (Grosvenor estate). The Wild Acres property is central to the character of our neighborhood and its historic roots. Even many of the names of the streets and areas of our community are named after Grosvenor since he was an important part of the history of this area.

The Wild Acres property, including the mansion, carriage house, caretaker's cottage and especially the sweeping environmental setting, meet the criteria for designating a property on the master plan for historic designation.

In addition to being tied to Elsie May Bell and Gilbert Grosvenor, the site possesses high artistic value since the estate includes natural setting, caretaker's cottage and sweeping vistas to the north and south. In addition, it truly represents the cultural, economic, social and political heritage of the county and community since it clearly represents the "town and country" atmosphere of the Bethesda-Potomac region in the early 20th century.

I have visited many of the historic properties in Montgomery County and was surprised when I found out that Wild Acres was not designated historic like the other sites in the area. Please vote to support the nomination of this entire site to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and the entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation. Please allow our future generations to learn more about the history of our area through this unique site and buildings.

Without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,
Robert Elliott Freer III
5705 Lone Oak Dr.
301-257-0054

MCP-Chairman

From: Tammy Dekel [tamard@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 8:38 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Support for Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination


Dear Mr. Hanson,

My husband and I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. We urge you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Tammy Dekel
5710 Kingswood Rd
Bethesda, MD 20814
Tel: (301) 897-8451

**Georgetown
University
Hospital** 

MedStar Health
May 20, 2008

RECEIVED
0571
MAY 20 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
THE MARYLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PARK AND PLAZA BUILDING 6
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

Patrick G. Jackson, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery

Department of Surgery
Division of General Surgery

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

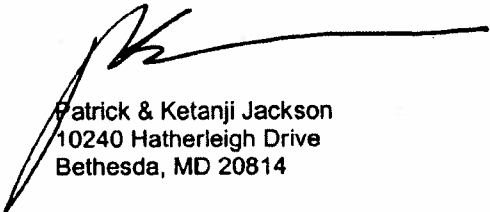
RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,



Patrick & Ketanji Jackson
10240 Hatherleigh Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

MCP-Chairman

From: mary maher [mmaher72@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 6:08 AM
To: MCP-Chairman

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2008
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Mary Maher
5823 Greenlawn Drive
Bethesda, Md. 20814

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,
Mary Maher

MCP-Chairman

From: Catherine Gewertz [catherine.gewertz@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 11:16 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres preservation

Royce Hanson, Chairman

Montgomery County Planning Board

8787 Georgia Avenue

Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I would like to urge you and your colleagues to support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. This property is a tremendous asset not only to my neighborhood, but, I believe, to all of Montgomery County and the Washington, D.C., area.

I was relieved to learn that the Historic Preservation Commission voted to recommend that the mansion and other buildings on the site receive the protective designation, and that the lovely grounds are preserved as well. It would be a pity and deep loss to have the mansion protected, only to see the other buildings replaced with large, new structures, and the leafy grounds cleared for buildings or brand new saplings or manicured lawns. The charm and value of the property lie in PRESERVING IT IN ITS ENTIRETY, not only the mansion.

As urban sprawl gobbles up more and more of our area, it is even more important to preserve the land and buildings in their current state. They offer a glimpse of our history, and protect a fast-disappearing graciousness in design and landscaping. It is a pleasure simply to walk or drive past it as it is now. Keeping them as they are will also help us manage growth and traffic on that parcel.

Please contribute to the quality of life in our neighborhood and our county by helping to place this property on the historic register.

Sincerely,

Catherine Gewertz

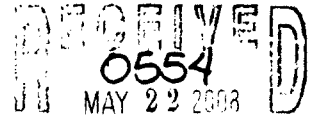
Wildwood Manor resident

RECEIVED
MAY 21 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

5911 Lone Oak Dr.
Bethesda MD 20814
May 16, 2008

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Re: Wild Acres nomination for Master Plan for Historic Preservation

Dear Mr. Hanson;

As you are aware, the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (MCHPC) voted to recommend that the mansion, carriage house, caretaker's cottage, and portions of the estate grounds of the Wild Acres-Grosvenor property be added to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

As residents of the area, we strongly support the recommendation of the MCHPC. The Wild Acre-Grosvenor grounds are open to the public and we have visited this beautiful estate numerous times. This estate is the only remaining property that exemplifies the past history of the town and country environment of the Bethesda-Potomac region in the early 20th century. With its Tudor Revival style mansion house and adjoining carriage house, situated on expansive grounds with beautiful trees, one can be taken back to the past. In our view this estate is a treasure that needs to be preserved so that we retain a small fraction of the heritage left by the Grosvenor family.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Lebowitz

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Lebowitz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

May 21, 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, Md. 20910

RECEIVED
MAY 22 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

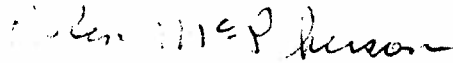
RE : Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I am writing to express my support for the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the other original structures on the property and the environmental setting surrounding the mansion.

The Wild Acres property is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is important that this resource is recognized as such. For that reason I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,



Helen McPherson
5929 Cheshire Drive
Wildwood Manor
Bethesda, Md. 20814

5911 Lone Oak Drive
Bethesda, Md 20814
May 21, 08

RECEIVED
MAY 22 2008

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PLANNING COMMISSION

Re: Wild Acres nomination for Master Plan for Historic
Preservation

Dear Mr. Hanson:

I live near the Grosvenor Wild Acres site, and have long taken great pleasure in walking there, enjoying sights of the beautiful mansion and carriage house, and especially the huge, lovely trees all over the property and the bird habitat on one side.

In fact, the air is alive with bird sounds as I walk there. So I was dismayed to hear that the site might be taken apart. There are so few places left in our area which hold the gracious design of the past and the space for trees and wildlife.

Even as we talk of "going green", trees and historic sites are being destroyed.

I feel Wild Acres should be named a historic site on its own merits, and left for the community—and wildlife—to enjoy. Such resources are few and far between as our area so rapidly changes.

With respect,

Candace Ridington

Candace Ridington

MCP-Chairman

From: Sandy Scott and Lena Morreale Scott [sandylena@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 25, 2008 8:15 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Support for Historic Preservation Designation to Wild Acres

RECEIVED
0558
MAY 27 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

Thank you for your leadership of the Montgomery County Planning Board.

I have been a resident of the county for 12 years and love living here. This is the first time I have ever contacted county leadership with a request.

I am writing to support the designation of the Wild Acres property as a historically significant property, worthy of preservation. I know that some consider it sufficient to simply designate the Grosvenor Mansion as historic. And while I appreciate that step, I would also like to see the other original structures (garage, caretakers house, etc.) and the adjacent lawn and environmental setting designated as part of the package.

In my opinion, the mansion, garage, caretaker's house are distinctive for their Tudor and Craftsman style architecture, designed by nationally-renowned architects. The buildings and lawns also represent a unique part of our county's heritage, given their ownership of Gilbert Grosvenor and his wife, the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell. The buildings and surrounding natural setting were regularly used and enjoyed by Washingtonians influential in government, law, and society in general as they retreated to "the country" to escape city life. And both the structures and the surrounding lawn/vistas are truly beautiful.

Thank you for your consideration. If you or you staff have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lena Morreale Scott
5901 Avon Drive
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
home: 301-564-4408

MCP-Chairman

From: ams@kaleidos-design.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2008 11:05 AM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: RE: Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination

RECEIVED
MAY 20 2008

Royce Hanson, Chairman
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Hanson,

I support the Wild Acres Historic Preservation Nomination. I hope you will agree with the Historic Preservation Commission and vote to include the mansion, the carriage house, the caretaker's cottage and their entire environmental setting in the master plan for historic preservation.

The Wild Acres property, including the Grosvenor Mansion, is an important part of the history of Bethesda. It is a fine example of country estates built in the 1920s. However, without both the buildings and grounds, the property would no longer be as valuable. It is a real jewel for our neighborhood and Montgomery County. I ask you to support the nomination.

Sincerely,

Angelika Meier-Schellersheim

Coleman, Joyce

From: blsavage [blsavage@myway.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 5:08 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres, Resource #30/15, Master Plan

Beth L. Savage
5900 Kingswood Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
May 28, 2008

RECEIVED
MAY 28 2008

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Hanson,

Re: Public Hearing Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: #30/15 Wild Acres (Grosvenor Estate), 5400 Grosvenor Lane

The nomination submitted to the Historic Preservation Commission on March 20, 2008, for Wild Acres, the Gilbert H. Grosvenor Estate, clearly demonstrates the historic and architectural significance of the property in accordance with the criteria codified in Section 24A-3 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance for designating a site on the *Master Plan*. The estate is important as a relatively rare surviving inter-war era suburban estate built by a significant individual. The property retains the c.1913 caretaker's house, the architecturally distinguished 1928 Tudor Revival-style mansion house, the original garage and a significant amount of historically associated acreage to convey the property's semi-rural historic immediate environment. As justified by the nomination documentation and the HPC staff report, I concur with the HPC's conclusion that Wild Acres satisfies six of Montgomery County's nine criteria for designation to the *Master Plan* (1a, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, and 2c), possessing historical and cultural as well as architectural significance.

The historical and architectural significance of the property has been established for a considerable period of time including the following:

- Estate appears in Roger Brook Farquhar, Jr.'s *Old Homes and History of Montgomery County, Maryland* in 1962
- Included as a potential historic property when included in the *Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites*, published in 1976
- Surveyed and documented as significant by Sugarloaf Regional Trails for the Maryland Historical Trust, 1978
- Determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its historical and architectural significance under National Register criteria A (events), B (significant individuals) and C (architecture) by the Federal Highway Administration and the Maryland Historical Trust, 2000
- Historic significance highlighted in an undated manuscript *Wild Acres: A Self-Guided Tour*, prepared by Carol J. McKernon for the Society of American Foresters

The Mansion House, Garage and Caretaker's House constitute a notable ensemble of buildings designed by prolific local master architect Arthur B. Heaton:

- Heaton served as Supervisory architect of the Washington Cathedral, as Associate Architect for George Washington University (GWU), and he also did major work for the prolific real estate developer Shannon & Luchs, designing more than 500 residences for the Georgetown neighborhood of Burleigh and the nationally acclaimed Park and Shop planned neighborhood shopping center in the Cleveland Park neighborhood of Washington, DC
- Heaton is known for a host of buildings as varied as luxury apartment houses, institutional and religious edifices, firehouses and such buildings as the now demolished Capital Garage, one of the earliest commercial automobile parking garages in Washington. Heaton's work is most often expressed in a variety of eclectic academic revival architectural styles.
- Heaton was a founder of the Washington Building Congress and active in the Washington Board of Trade. He served as President of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1935.
- Heaton was honored as a Fellow of the AIA, one of the highest honors an American architect can be afforded by his/her peers.
- Heaton was well known to Gilbert Grosvenor from social connections to GWU and the Cosmos Club. He had designed a building for the National Geographic complex and would complete a second in 1932.

The Historic Integrity of the property:

The historic resources of the property—the mansion house, garage and caretaker's house—contribute to the historic and architectural importance of the property and retain a high degree of historic integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. These resources combined with their intact immediate historic acreage convey the property's significance as a relatively rare Tudor Revival style country estate designed by a master architect and built between the wars in

outlying Montgomery County for a prominent Washington family. Although the extent of the estate's historic acreage has been diminished substantially by the construction of Interstate highways 270 and 495, the sale of a parcel for Fleming Park and another portion for the construction of two modern office buildings, the acreage encompassed by this nomination retains sufficient integrity to convey the estate's historic semi-rural, suburban character. (Although located outside the boundaries of this nomination, the two new office buildings on an adjacent parcel have been sensitively sited and compatibly detailed, thus not detracting significantly from the immediate historic environment of the house. In addition, some of the estate's additional historic acreage has recently been designated as Legacy Open Space.)

As a resident of the Alta Vista Gardens neighborhood for more than 13 years the historic, architectural and cultural significance of the historic Grosvenor Mansion is an invaluable asset to this community that merits historic designation under the local ordinance. The tremendous growth of this area needs to be checked and balanced with preservation priorities that maintain the quality of life for community residents and the public at large.

For the aforementioned reasons, I urge the Planning Board to concur with the HPC's recommendation and designate Wild Acres, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Resource #30/15, on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. I hope that you will add this voice of support to your upcoming deliberations on this matter. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth L. Savage

No banners. No pop-ups. No kidding.

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May 28, 2008

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Hanson,

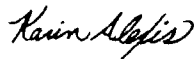
The Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians urges the Montgomery County Planning Board to concur with the recommendation of the county's Historic Preservation Commission and designate Wild Acres, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Resource #30/15, on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*. The chapter agrees with the commission's conclusion that Wild Acres satisfies six of Montgomery County's nine criteria for designation to the *Master Plan* (1a, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2b, and 2c), possessing historical and cultural as well as architectural significance.

Wild Acres is architecturally significant as a design by prolific Washington architect Arthur B. Heaton, a fellow of the American Institute of Architects whose wide-ranging career produced institutional buildings (the National Geographic Society headquarters), shopping centers (Park and Shop, Connecticut Avenue), apartment buildings (the Altamont, Wyoming Avenue), garages (Capital Garage, demolished), portions of Washington National Cathedral, and award-winning private residences (Cleveland Park). The house is an excellent example of Tudor Revival architecture planned for a suburban site. The Tudor Revival manner was unusual for rural houses in Montgomery County, most of which adhered to Colonial Revival forms.

The owner of Wild Acres, Gilbert Grosvenor, was editor-in-chief of *National Geographic* magazine from 1903 to 1954, and was responsible for turning the magazine into the noted publication it is today. Grosvenor and his wife, Elsie May Bell, moved to Wild Acres in 1912, living in the existing farmhouse until their Tudor Revival house was completed in 1929. The Grosvenors were one of several influential metropolitan Washington families who commissioned suburban homes on former farmland in lower Montgomery County in the first third of the twentieth century. This trend paralleled the suburban growth of the county, but is often overlooked and is threatened by continued development. The existence, in close to its original form, of the core of the Wild Acres estate (the mansion, the carriage house, and the caretaker's house in a historic environmental setting of grass and trees), along with the continuity of the relationship of these buildings to Grosvenor Lane and Rockville Pike, embodies this trend and deserves to be cited for its historic significance.

Since 1967 the Latrobe Chapter has been the metropolitan Washington affiliate of the Society of Architectural Historians. We are a not-for-profit organization whose members include architectural historians, architects, and architecture enthusiasts throughout the region. We sponsor a lecture series, tours, and a biennial symposium promoting the understanding of architectural history, historic preservation, design, and related fields. The chapter thanks the Montgomery County Planning Board for the opportunity to comment publicly on this issue.

Sincerely,



Karin Alexis
President, Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

Coleman, Joyce

From: Timothy Kerr [tck4r@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2008 1:20 PM
To: MCP-Chairman
Subject: Wild Acres historic designation
Attachments: Latrobe chapter - wildarcres 05.28.08.doc

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MAY 28 2008

Dear Mr. Hanson,

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL
PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Attached is a letter in support of the historic designation of the Wild Acres estate to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Master Plan. The letter is being submitted by the Latrobe Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. The preservation committee of the chapter has reviewed the designation documentation, and members have visited the site. We feel strongly that Wild Acres should be designated, and we appreciate this opportunity to share the expertise of the chapter with the Planning Board.

Sincerely,
Tim Kerr
Preservation Committee Chair