

**SUBMISSIONS TO THE  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION**

**WILD ACRES  
5400 Grosvenor Lane**

Mr. Jef Fuller  
Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Fuller,

We are a residents in the area where the Nations School has petitioned to build it full-scale educational center.

**I fully support the nomination of Wild Acres Grosvenor Estate, Resource #30-15, for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.** I am adamantly opposed to the Nations School being built due to its overwhelming volume of student body and the complete lack of infrastructure to handle same.

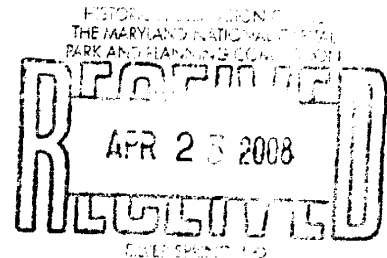
It is my understanding that the Commission's recommendation will be based on criteria set forth in Chapter 24A-3 of the Montgomery County Code. In its review, I am hopeful that the Planning Board, County Executive and the County Council in its evaluation of this precious resource will conclude in favor of this nomination. To lose this resource would be a tragic and sad occurrence that, most importantly, could never be reversed once implemented. The Grosvenor Mansion is an elegant hallmark structure that remains central to our neighborhood's prominent evolution over the last century. Please help us preserve this local treasure.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Leo + Eileen Dimond*

Leo and Eileen Dimond  
5817 Greenlawn Drive  
Bethesda, Md. 20814



April 19, 2008  
10233 Farnham Drive  
Bethesda, MD. 20814

Jef Fuller  
Chair, Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Fuller,

I have lived in Wildwood Manor, Bethesda, for 12 years. My two daughters and I have enjoyed the tranquil, leafy surroundings, and appreciate the very-human scale and old-fashioned charm of our neighborhood.

One of the loveliest sights of our immediate neighborhood is the Grosvenor Mansion. In summer, nearly shrouded by a lovely screen of greenery, you can't see much but a glimpse of old splendor. Even that, though, has enriched our lives: When they were little, my daughters used to imagine that some marvelous king or queen might live in such a grand old place. When you take a walk around the grounds, or in winter, when the bushes lose their leaves, you can get a much more complete picture of the place, with all its old-world architectural details, and lovely sprawling lawns. Its calm and grace are a welcome respite in a busy week.

What a treasure to have right in our own neighborhood! The fact that the mansion has been preserved as it is, and the fact that the grounds and plantings have been left natural – instead of being seen as one more valuable plot to be developed – is something I have been most grateful for.

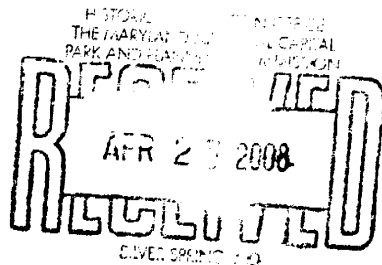
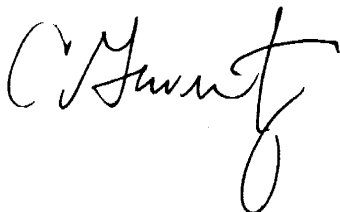
Valuing the mansion and grounds as I do, I would like to express my wholehearted support for making sure the Wild Acres/Grosvenor Estate (Resource #30-15, I'm told) is preserved as a resource of historic value.

In a day when far too many parcels of land are seen only as moneymakers to be razed and crowded with new, overly large buildings, this land and its graceful old home stand as a symbol of something we all need in our lives (and our neighborhoods).

**Please vote to protect Wild Acres/Grosvenor Estate by including it in the historic register!**

Best regards,

Catherine Gewertz



**Jack M. Feldman**

10312 Thornbush Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
(H) 301-897-2818  
(C) 301-704-4800

April 19, 2008

J. Fuller  
Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

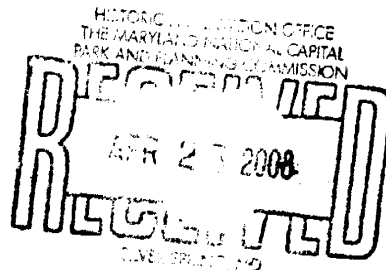
Dear Mr. Fuller:

I support the nomination of the Grosvenor Mansion (a.k.a. Wild Acres) and surrounding buildings, for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,



Jack Feldman



April 18, 2008

To: Jed Fuller, Chrmn.  
Historic Preservation Commission  
3787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

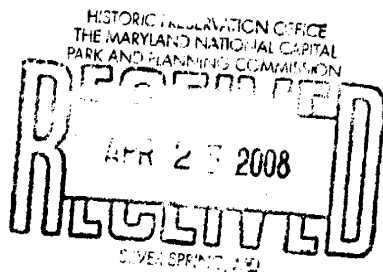
Re: Support for the nomination of the Grosvenor Mansion (WILDACRES -  
Resource # 3015)  
and surrounding buildings in Bethesda, MD to the  
Historic Register

Dear Sir:

As property owners of 9901 Dickens Ave, Bethesda, MD,  
we are writing you today to <sup>finally</sup> <sup>greatly</sup> request / express our support for  
the nomination of WILD ACRES (Grosvenor Estate) in Bethesda, MD -  
Resource # 30-15, for designation on the Master Plan for  
Historic Preservation.

Thank you,  
R. + A. Bethke, II

RONALD A. BETHKE, II +  
ANNABELLA A. BETHKE



6044 Avon Drive  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

April 20, 2008

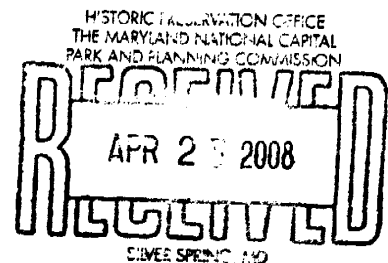
Mr. J. Fuller  
Chairperson  
Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Fuller:

We strongly support the nomination of the Wild Acres Grosvenor Estate, Resource No. 30-15, for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. It would be a sad loss to our community and our county if this valuable asset were not protected.

Thank you,

  
Jeanne and Ron Schellhase



Jeff Fuller  
New York State Historical Association  
27th Avenue Ave.  
Salisbury Springs, NY 12154  
Dr. Mark Fuller,

April 19, 2008

I am writing to express my strong  
support for nominating Wild Horse  
Lagoon as the New York State (Resource #30-15)  
to be designated on the Master Plan for  
Historic Preservation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

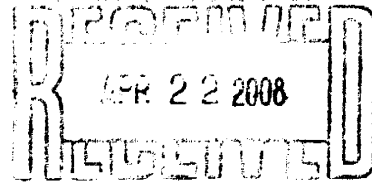
Patricia Robson

3921 Edward Ave.

Bethesda, MD  
20814

201/791-5532

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL  
PLANNING AND DESIGN COMMISSION





5908 Grosvenor Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814  
April 18, 2008

Jef Fuller, Chairperson  
Historic Preservation Commission  
of Montgomery County  
Maryland-National Capital  
Park and Planning Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Fuller:

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Wild Acres, the estate of Gilbert Grosvenor of the National Geographic Society, Resource # 30-15, for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Wild Acres – including the Grosvenor mansion, associated buildings, and their wooded setting – is an important part of the heritage of Montgomery County and of our neighborhood. Wild Acres contains significant historic, cultural, and natural resources. It is a wonderful example of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban estates of prominent publishers and editors, and it deserves to be protected and preserved.

Sincerely,

Ann Bowker



April 19, 2008

**Jeff Fuller**  
**Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission**  
**8787 Georgia Avenue**  
**Silver Spring, MD 20910**

**Re: Wild Acres, Resource #30/15, 5400 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda on Historic Register**

**Dear Mr. Fuller,**

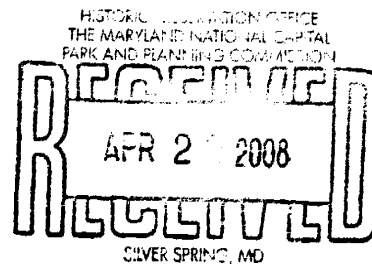
**It is my understanding that the Grosvenor Mansion and surrounding buildings have been nominated for the Historic Register. I am writing to express my support of the Wild Acres Designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.**

**Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.**

**Sincerely,**



**Dr. Robert L. Ingram**  
**5903 Jarvis Lane**  
**Bethesda, MD 20814**  
**Phone: 301-530-0130**



4/19/08

Please consider the zoning on  
the Grosvenor Estate. The Nation  
Academy makes no sense in  
our area. We have the French  
School in our backyard and the  
German School on Bradley Blvd.

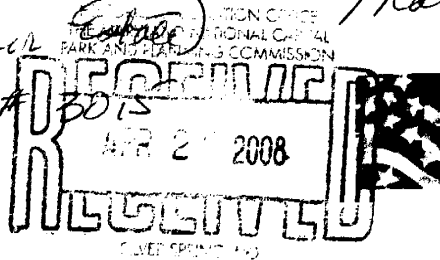
Grosvenor Lane would be the  
only entrance to the complex  
and traffic problems, particularly  
in the morning hours would be a  
problem.

Teachers and high school  
students would also cause  
parking problems in our neighborhood.

Wild Acres  
(Grosvenor Estate)

Mary Ann Fake

Resource # 3015



Mrs. Mary Ann Fake  
9910 Dickens Ave  
Bethesda, MD 20814

April 18, 2008

Jef Fuller  
Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subj: Grosvenor "Wild Acres" estate (Resource #30-15)

Dear Mr. Fuller,

I am writing to voice my enthusiastic support to place the Grosvenor Mansion, its carriage house, and the other buildings associated with the Grosvenor "Wild Acres" estate (Resource #30-15) on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

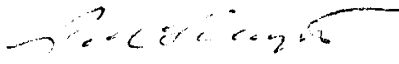
The Wild Acres estate has national significance—it was the home of Gilbert Grosvenor, the first editor of *National Geographic*, president of the National Geographic Society for 55 years, and cousin of President William Howard Taft. Grosvenor lived in the mansion with his wife Elsie Bell, the daughter of Alexander Graham Bell. These individuals were personages of importance, not only to Montgomery County, but also to our nation. The mansion itself is a lovely 1920s Tudor-style building. The carriage house, caretaker's house, and silo are also well worth protecting—as are the massive trees that surround these buildings.

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.

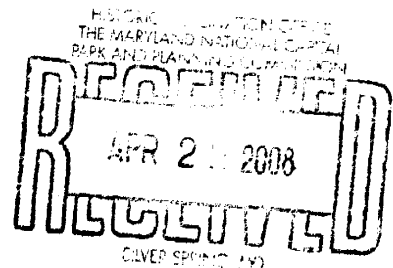
I urge the Commission to help protect the Grosvenor "Wild Acres" estate by adding it to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Many thanks for this opportunity to voice my support.

Sincerely,



Patricia Davenport  
10012 Fleming Avenue  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814



Friday, April 18, 2008

Brian and Gaby Chidichimo  
9910 Edward Ave  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Tel: 301/564-4024


Mr. Jeff Fuller  
Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Re: Grosvenor Estate

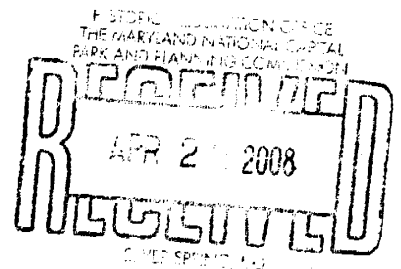
Dear Mr. Fuller,

We strongly support the nomination of  
Wild Acres (Grosvenor Estate), Resource #30-15,  
for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Thank you



Brian and Gaby Chidichimo



## Grosvenor Homeowner's Association


c/o James M. Meister, 5509 Thornbush Court, Bethesda, MD 20814-2156  
301-530-6552; grosvenor@aol.com

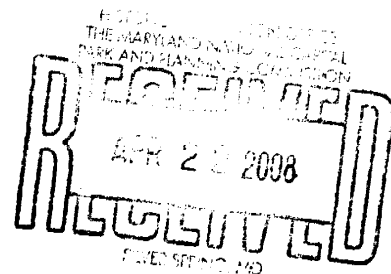
April 18, 2008

J. Fuller  
Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Fuller:

The Grosvenor Homeowners Association strongly supports the nomination of the Grosvenor Mansion (Wild Acres) and surrounding buildings, Resource #30-15, for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

  
James M. Meister  
President, Grosvenor Homeowners Association



Apr. 19 '08

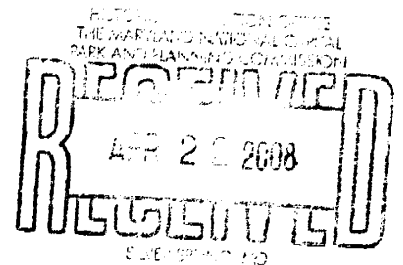
Jeff Fuller, Chairperson  
Historic Preservation  
Commission  
8787 Georgia Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Fuller:

I ~~strongly~~ <sup>strongly</sup> support the nomination of Wild  
Acres, Grosvenor Estate, Resource #30-15  
for designation on the Master Plan  
for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,

Jane Elliott  
10014 Fleming Ave.  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301-530-8591



Birgit C. An der Lan, Ph.D.

---

9923 Dickens Avenue  
Bethesda MD 20814-2105  
Home (301) 493-4541  
Work (301) 215-8975

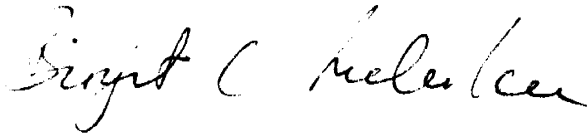
April 18, 2008

Jef Fuller  
Chairperson of the Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

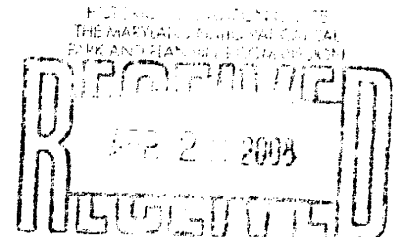
Dear Mr Fuller:

With this letter I would like to express my support for the nomination of Wild Acres (Grosvenor Estate), Resource #30-15, for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Sincerely,



Birgit C. An der Lan

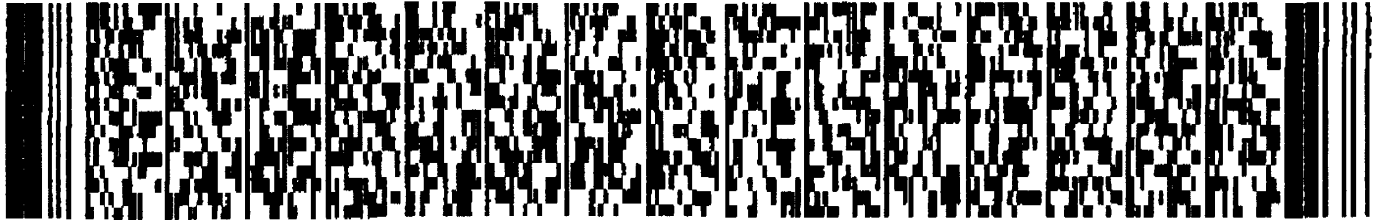




**FAX TO ANY EMAIL ADDRESS**

- 1. Enter email address(es) below
- 2. When hand printing, copy characters EXACTLY as below
- 3. Fax ONLY to your dedicated MongoFAX number below

V13



Underline all boxes that contain numbers

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 . - \_ A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

To:

C L A R E . K E L L Y

@ M N C P P C - M C . O R G

Cc:

@

From: (Identifies Sender, Enables Replies, Provides Confirmation, Tracking Number & Exact Replica Archive Copy to Email)

C L E A H Y

@ A O L . C O M

Subject:

Letters of Support for Wild Acres HP Designation



**Notes:**

Attached are letters of support for the Wild Acres Nomination from local neighborhood associations. Thanks!

Cheryl Leahy  
(301) 370-2484

MongoNet is not responsible for any losses or liabilities arising from the use of this product. By using this product, you acknowledge and agree to the Terms of Service posted at www.MongoNet.net. Protected by U.S. Patents Nos. 6,424,426; 7,079,275; 7,164,488; U.S. and international patents pending. © 2000-2007 MongoNet, Inc. All rights reserved.

MongoNet Customer Service: support@mongonet.net -or- 1 (866) 482-2229

**Fax Only to: Your MongoFAX Number**





**Wildwood Manor Citizens Association  
Bethesda, Maryland**

April 22, 2008

Mr. Jef Fuller  
Chairperson  
Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: **Wild Acres (Grosvenor Estate), Resource #30-15**

Dear Mr. Fuller,

On behalf of The Wildwood Manor Citizens Association I would like to express our support for the nomination of Wild Acres (the Grosvenor Estate) for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

We understand the Commission's recommendation is based on criteria set forth in Chapter 24A-3 of the Montgomery County Code. We have looked at those documents and agree that this property meets the criteria set forth by the code.

As neighbors, many of whom have lived here since the 1950's and earlier, we are well aware of the rich cultural and social significance of the property. Many neighbors tell stories of meeting Gilbert Grosvenor and sharing his love of birds and the environment.

The manor house is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival period from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. We are disappointed the current owners fought to have the property excluded from the Historic Register in the early 1980's and have watched as the property has deteriorated over the years. We feel this is the perfect time to designate the property as historic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Leahy  
President

Wildwood Manor Citizens Association  
(Representing over 600 homes in the Wildwood Manor Community)  
10425 Snow Point Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20814

**Fleming Park Community Association**  
Bethesda, Maryland

Mr. Jef Fuller, Chairperson  
Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

April 21, 2008

Re: Wild Acres (Grosvenor Estate), Resource 30/15, Nomination for Designation on  
Master Plan for Historic Preservation

Dear Chairperson Fuller:

On behalf of the Fleming Park Community Association, this letter expresses our support of the nomination of Wild Acres (Grosvenor Estate), Resource 30/15, for designation on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

The Fleming Park Community Association represents the approximately 470 homes that lie immediately west of Wild Acres. Our geographical limits extend from Fleming Avenue on the east to Old Georgetown Road on the west, and from Grosvenor Lane on the north to the I-495 Beltway on the south. Our membership is very active, with over 50 members attending each of our recent meetings, and others contributing through a lively list serve.

As neighbors of Wild Acres, the membership of the Association is especially pleased by the nomination of this outstanding resource, and the Staff's favorable recommendation. Our members have enjoyed the historic Grosvenor Mansion, carriage house, and caretaker's house for many years. A quiet stroll through the grounds is a lovely way to show off the historic site to out-of-town visitors, listen to the birds, or simply let the children work off a little enthusiasm. We would be delighted by the designation of this unique resource on the Master Plan, and urge the Commission to accept the recommendation of your able Staff.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Diehl, President  
9902 Broad Street  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301.530.1782 home  
301.807.7828 cell

April 18, 2008

Mr. Jeff Fuller, Chairman  
Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Wild Acres Historic Designation

Dear Mr. Fuller,

I am a homeowner living on Grosvenor Lane in Bethesda. My family has lived in the area for several generations. In fact, my grandfather (Maurice Leahy) came from Ireland in the early 1900's and made his way to Bethesda where he was employed by Mr. Grosvenor as the head caretaker for the entire Grosvenor Estate. He lived with his wife and eight children in the caretaker's cottage on the property for many years.

My father, Ed Leahy, was born in that house and raised there until he joined the Army to fight in World War II. His father died while he was at war and when he returned to Bethesda he built a small cottage on Grosvenor Lane. At that time Grosvenor was a dirt road. He, in turn, raised his family there and before his death he was very proud of the fact that he lived on Grosvenor Lane his entire life! After college I, in turn, purchased a home on Grosvenor Lane and I'm now proud to say I have lived my entire life on Grosvenor Lane as well!

My father told many stories of growing up on that property, the most memorable that of shining Alexander Graham Bell's shoes for a penny. Mr. Bell would come to visit his daughter and son-in-law and it always caused great excitement among the kids. Many people passed through there in the course of Ed's childhood, but Alexander Graham Bell was truly the biggest thrill of them all. I guess it would be akin to one of my children meeting the man who invented the iPod!

Ed also spoke of Gilbert Grosvenor and his love of birds. As a young boy Ed was throwing rocks at birds on the property (as young boys do) and was caught red-handed by Mr. Grosvenor. The next day Mr. Grosvenor appeared with a book about birds for Ed. The gesture touched my father, the eighth child of an Irish

- 2 -

immigrant who had few resources and certainly no books! It instilled a life-long love of birds in my father and even in his dying days he was concerned with feeding the birds in his yard.

I understand there are many reasons the property qualifies for historic designation according to Montgomery County Code, but I hope the board looks beyond the "code" to the rich social history of the land and structures on the property. It saddens me to watch as Bethesda is paved over, but Montgomery County has a unique opportunity to preserve a piece of history. Once the opportunity passes it is gone forever. For this reason I encourage you to designate Wild Acres as a historic property.

Sincerely



Debra Leahy O'Reagan  
5808 Grosvenor Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Joan Hurley  
9800 Broad Street  
Bethesda, MD 20814

April 20, 2008

Jef Fuller  
Chairperson  
The Historic Preservation Commission  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Fuller:

I support the designation of Wild Acres (Grosvenor Mansion and surrounding outbuildings) Resource #30-15 as an historic preservation site. The reason for this is that this property is an outstanding example of mid 1920's building. It is unique in our neighborhood and was owned by Gilbert Grosvenor, the founder of the *National Geographic Magazine*.

There is no other property in our neighborhood that is so historic and wonderful. We would be denying our history as a county if we do not designate this as historic property.

I have lived in the same house in Bethesda since 1968. I appreciate your considering this matter.

Sincerely,



Joan Hurley

## Petition

### To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
1	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
2	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
3	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
4	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
5	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
6	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
7	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
8	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
9	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
10	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
11	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
12	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
13	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
14	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
15	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
16	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
17	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
18	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
19	[Handwritten Name]	[Handwritten Address] Bethesda, MD 20814
20		Bethesda, MD 20814
21		Bethesda, MD 20814
22		Bethesda, MD 20814
23		Bethesda, MD 20814
24		Bethesda, MD 20814
25		Bethesda, MD 20814

## Petition

### To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	Devon Smith	10001 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	Rita S...	10001 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	MARC BERGARE	10003 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	Josephine...	10003 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	Poplar Ridge	10004 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	John DeSil	10011 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	Shafiqul D...	10011 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	Christina...	10013 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	John DeSil	10013 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
10	John DeSil	10013 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
11	John DeSil	10013 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	MARILYN...	10013 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	DAVID WANE	10102 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
14	Van Carben	10104 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
15	Campe P...	10103 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
16	Helen Sabzev	10105 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
17	Susan Garabedian	10010 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
18	Jessy Montano	10015 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
19	Sandip...	5404 Grosvenor Ln	Bethesda, MD 20814
20	Washington...	5309 Grace St	Bethesda, MD 20814
21	Mary Ch...	10109 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
22	Beitha Melby	10101 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
23	Anne Sam...	10010 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
24	Dalton...	10015 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
25	John DeSil	10015 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814

## Petition

To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
1	Sutton RA.	9910 Hunt Street
2	A.O. Connell	9909 Hunt St
3	C. Powell	9900 Hunt St
4	Jose Cisneros	9906 Hunt St
5		Bethesda, MD 20814
6		Bethesda, MD 20814
7		Bethesda, MD 20814
8		Bethesda, MD 20814
9		Bethesda, MD 20814
10		Bethesda, MD 20814
11		Bethesda, MD 20814
12		Bethesda, MD 20814
13		Bethesda, MD 20814
14		Bethesda, MD 20814
15		Bethesda, MD 20814
16		Bethesda, MD 20814
17		Bethesda, MD 20814
18		Bethesda, MD 20814
19		Bethesda, MD 20814
20		Bethesda, MD 20814
21		Bethesda, MD 20814
22		Bethesda, MD 20814
23		Bethesda, MD 20814
24		Bethesda, MD 20814
25		Bethesda, MD 20814



## Petition

To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	<i>[Signature]</i>	9300 Old Georgetown Rd.	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	<i>[Signature]</i>	5715 Kingswood Ct.	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	<i>[Signature]</i>	38 Wood Lane, Rockville, MD	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	<i>[Signature]</i>	9300 OLDGEORGETOWN ROAD	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	<i>[Signature]</i>	5715 Kingswood Ct.	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	<i>[Signature]</i>	5608 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	<i>[Signature]</i>	5410 Glenwood Road	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	<i>[Signature]</i>	9905 Avenue Farm Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	<i>[Signature]</i>	10420 Rockville Pike, #101, Rockville	Bethesda, MD 20814
10	<i>[Signature]</i>	5713 Kingswood Court, Bethesda, MD	Bethesda, MD 20814
11	<i>[Signature]</i>	5719 Kingswood Ct.	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	<i>[Signature]</i>	" " "	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	<i>[Signature]</i>	5717 Kingswood Ct., Bethesda, MD	Bethesda, MD 20814
14			Bethesda, MD 20814
15			Bethesda, MD 20814
16			Bethesda, MD 20814
17			Bethesda, MD 20814
18			Bethesda, MD 20814
19			Bethesda, MD 20814
20			Bethesda, MD 20814
21			Bethesda, MD 20814
22			Bethesda, MD 20814
23			Bethesda, MD 20814
24			Bethesda, MD 20814
25			Bethesda, MD 20814

20850

20852

## Petition

### To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	<i>Carol Higgins</i>	<i>9910 Dickens Ave.</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	<i>Brena Jaffer</i>	<i>9910 Dickens Ave</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	<i>Pat Take</i>	<i>9910 Dickens Ave</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	<i>Jane Glano</i>	<i>9910 Dickens Ave</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	<i>Miriam Martin</i>	<i>9915 Dickens Ave</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	<i>Agnes G. Martin</i>	<i>9915 Dickens Ave.</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	<i>Flora M. Bell</i>	<i>9913 Dickens AVE</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	<i>Alko Gaspinus</i>	<i>9909 Dickens Ave.</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	<i>Anthony Gaspinus</i>	<i>9909 Dickens Ave.</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
10	<i>Ryan Tey</i>	<i>9906 Dickens Ave</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
11	<i>Maria Moran</i>	<i>9908 Dickens Ave.</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	<i>Steven Kaplan</i>	<i>9908 Dickens Ave.</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	<i>Andrew Coelho</i>	<i>9904 Dickens Ave.</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
14	<i>Amanda Coelho</i>	<i>9904 Dickens Avenue</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
15	<i>Leanda Legendre</i>	<i>5711 Kingswood Court</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
16	<i>Scott Legendre</i>	<i>5711 Kingswood Court</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
17	<i>Xavier Brock</i>	<i>10,006 Broad Street</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
18	<i>Hedda Brock</i>	<i>10,006 Broad Street</i>	Bethesda, MD 20814
19			Bethesda, MD 20814
20			Bethesda, MD 20814
21			Bethesda, MD 20814
22			Bethesda, MD 20814
23			Bethesda, MD 20814
24			Bethesda, MD 20814
25			Bethesda, MD 20814

## Petition

To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	Arlene K. Polangin	9806 Broad St.	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	Brian Chidichia	9910 Edward ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	Gabriele Chidichia	9910 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	Robert Gorman	1010 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	Jane M. McCole	10101 Edward	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	Cornelia Sarvey	9907 Hurst St	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	Josephine Jones	9910 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	Deborah Feldman	5803 Shuntown Drive	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	Dan McMillan	5807 Greenlan 122	Bethesda, MD 20814
10	Ann Scheele	9917 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
11	Patrick Scheele	9917 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	Thomas J. Carroll	9914 DICKENS AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	Walter P. Piantoni	9915 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
14	Erin J. Gullivan	9912 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
15	John GULLIVAN	9910 Fleming Ave 20814	Bethesda, MD 20814
16	Elle Jordan	10114 Fleming Ave 20814	Bethesda, MD 20814
17			Bethesda, MD 20814
18			Bethesda, MD 20814
19			Bethesda, MD 20814
20			Bethesda, MD 20814
21			Bethesda, MD 20814
22			Bethesda, MD 20814
23			Bethesda, MD 20814
24			Bethesda, MD 20814
25			Bethesda, MD 20814

## Petition

### To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	Lynne Ego	5903 Jarvis Lane	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	Bridget Anderson	9923 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	Wesley Clark	5908 JARVIS LANE	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	Wesley Clark	5908 Jarvis Lane	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	Robert Freer	5705 Lone Oak Drive	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	Elliott Freer	5705 Lone Oak Drive	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	Wendell	5705 Greenlaw Drive	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	Trene Elliott	10014 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	Catherine Robson	9921 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
10			Bethesda, MD 20814
11	David Wind	7102 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	Stephanie Spallan	5803 Greenlaw Drive	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	Andrew	9902 Broad Street	Bethesda, MD 20814
14			Bethesda, MD 20814
15			Bethesda, MD 20814
16			Bethesda, MD 20814
17			Bethesda, MD 20814
18			Bethesda, MD 20814
19			Bethesda, MD 20814
20			Bethesda, MD 20814
21			Bethesda, MD 20814
22			Bethesda, MD 20814
23			Bethesda, MD 20814
24			Bethesda, MD 20814
25			Bethesda, MD 20814

## Petition

### To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	Adam Kocier	9918 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	Tobias	5006 Beckman Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	Carl Zeman	9925 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	John Wilson	9921 DICKENS AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	Rose G. NEWFERRANA	9931 DICKENS AVE.	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	William Chumbach	9973 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	Max Chumbach	9973 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	K. Shuman-Rawley	9920 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	James Kirkland	9914 DICKENS AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
10	Carly Maggry	9914 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
11	Carly Kirkland	9914 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	James Kirkland	9919 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	Ania Bennett	9919 Dickens Avenue	Bethesda, MD 20814
14	James Kirkland	9914 Dickens Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
15	James Kirkland	9924 Fleming Ave.	Bethesda, MD 20814
16	H.C. Kirkland	9924 Fleming Ave.	Bethesda, MD 20814
17	Hilda Kirkland	9928 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
18	James Kirkland	9223 Kirkland Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
19	Gene Schuler	10322 Thornbush Ln	Bethesda, MD 20814
20	Mark Schuler	10322 Thornbush Ln	Bethesda, MD 20814
21			Bethesda, MD 20814
22			Bethesda, MD 20814
23			Bethesda, MD 20814
24			Bethesda, MD 20814
25			Bethesda, MD 20814

## Petition

### To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	<del>JENNIFER</del> FRED MILES	9925 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	FRED MILES	9925 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	RICHARD HSU	9913 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	ROBB L. WYMAN	9914 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	CONRAD BOCK	9916 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	Mac McCord	9920 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	Angy McCord	"	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	Carrie Zimm	9906 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	Matt Zimm	9906 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
10	David Zimm	9906 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
11	Kath DeBow	9916 Edward Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	ESTER	10108 Flaming Ave.	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	Mary Louisa	11948 Featherman Ct	Bethesda, MD 20814
14	Jill Kaplan	11300 Cleverly Terrace	Bethesda, MD 20814
15	H. Klein	45520 Fairfield Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
16	Therese Han	445 Highland Avenue	Bethesda, MD 20814
17	J. Perry	11 Spring Hill Ct Potomac 20854	Bethesda, MD 20814
18	J. Dartnick	203 Caroly Lane Rockville 20852	Bethesda, MD 20814
19	A. Hanin	4409 Highland Ave Bethesda, MD	Bethesda, MD 20814
20	J. Kagan	3321 Highland Ave no, 512	Bethesda, MD 20814
21	E. Arizona	5908 Kensington Rd. 20814	Bethesda, MD 20814
22	Elizabeth	6025 Southport Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
23	Juanita Flick	17127 Woodside Ln Chevy, MD 20815	Bethesda, MD 20814
24	Angie W. Lewis	10304 Rockville Pike #202 Rockville 20852	Bethesda, MD 20814
25	Suzanne Stevens	10300 Rockville Pike #202 Rockville 20852	Bethesda, MD 20814

### Petition

## To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	J. BETH SITADA	5805 LONE OAK DR.	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	Walter Halpern	5803 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	John Halpern	5803 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	David Garrett	5800 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	ROBERT LEE	5804 LONE OAK DR.	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	SALLY LEE	5804 LONE OAK DR.	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	Geoff P. Funn	5806 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	Cathleen Rouse	5806 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	Michael Andrews	5808 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
10	James Andrews	5808 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
11	Mark R. Smith	5814 LONE OAK DR.	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	Anna R. Smith	5814 LONE OAK DR.	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	Jeffrey Blum	5822 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
14	Ann S. Blum	5822 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
15	David Friedman	5910 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
16	Lena Friedman	5910 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
17	JACOB LEBOWITZ	5911 LONE OAK DR.	Bethesda, MD 20814
18	KANDACE RIVINGTON	5911 LONE OAK DR.	Bethesda, MD 20814
19	Fairbank, Mariani	5919 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
20	Michael Narian		Bethesda, MD 20814
21	Lee Ann Tucker	5907 Lone Oak Dr. Bethesda	Bethesda, MD 20814
22	Elizabeth Wiles	5917 Lone Oak Dr. Bethesda	Bethesda, MD 20814
23	Richard Sullivan	5915 Lone Oak Dr. Bethesda	Bethesda, MD 20814
24	Anna Wiles	5913 Lone Oak Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
25	Robert Marks	5813 Lone Oak Dr. Bethesda	Bethesda, MD 20814

## Petition

### To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	J. [unclear]	4403 Chalk Hill Rd	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	Mick Giuliano	4402 EDWARD AVE	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	John [unclear]	4402 EDWARD AVE.	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	[unclear]	4409 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	[unclear]	10431 Belle Ridge Dr. [unclear]	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	[unclear]	[unclear]	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	[unclear]	315 Thayer Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	[unclear]	7005 [unclear] Pl	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	[unclear]	4448 Birchwood Terrace	Bethesda, MD 20814
10	Jerrill [unclear]	14709 Flintstone Pl	Bethesda, MD 20814
11	Merrill Blasko	13400 Crispin Way	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	[unclear]	113 W. Montgomery	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	[unclear]	9734 Wightman Rd	Bethesda, MD 20814
14	[unclear]	1112 Spotswood Dr. Silver Spring	Bethesda, MD 20814
15	[unclear]	1112 Spotswood Dr. Silver Spring	Bethesda, MD 20814
16	[unclear]	14401 Woodcrest Dr, Rockville	Bethesda, MD 20814
17	[unclear]	14402 [unclear] Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
18	[unclear]	5721 [unclear] LA	Bethesda, MD 20814
19	NAEK FRANKLUNDERS	18909 PINEY POINT PL	Bethesda, MD 20814
20	MARIA KAPUTO	11619 [unclear] Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
21	[unclear]	14525 [unclear] Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
22	[unclear]	9807 [unclear] TA-	Bethesda, MD 20814
23	[unclear]	9807 [unclear] TA-	Bethesda, MD 20814
24	[unclear]	9800 [unclear] Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
25	[unclear]	9800 [unclear] Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814

Rockville  
20814  
Rockville, MD  
20852  
Rockville 20853  
Caiters  
20855  
MD 20853  
Rockville MD  
20853  
GERMANTOWN MD  
S.S.M.P.  
BETHESDA  
20814



## Petition

### To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	
1	Cathy White	5716 Greenlawn Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
2	Robert White	5716 Greenlawn Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
3	Ylceya White	5716 Greenlawn Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
4	Melodee Willis	5704 Greenlawn Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
5	John C. ...	10002 Greenlawn Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
6	...	5818 Greenlawn Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
7	...	5818 Greenlawn Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
8	...	7522 Greenlawn Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
9	R.A. Bethke	9701 Dickens Ave.	Bethesda, MD 20814
10	Ceci Villegas	10002 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
11	Edgardo Mosquera	10002 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
12	Sebastian Mosquera	10002 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
13	...	10002 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
14	Robert Bernau	10002 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
15	J. V. ...	10422 Snow Point Dr.	Bethesda, MD 20814
16	Betsy Kingston	10300 Cheshire Terrace	Bethesda, MD 20814
17	Peterson Polanco	9921 Edward Ave.	Bethesda, MD 20814
18	Heather M. Marshall	5604 Lone Oak Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
19	Ann McMullin	5807 Greenlawn Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
20	Robert C. Marshall	5604 Lone Oak Dr	Bethesda, MD 20814
21	Mark ...	10006 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
22	Dennis ...	10006 Fleming Ave	Bethesda, MD 20814
23			Bethesda, MD 20814
24			Bethesda, MD 20814
25			Bethesda, MD 20814

Lone Oak - Old Georgetown → Brook

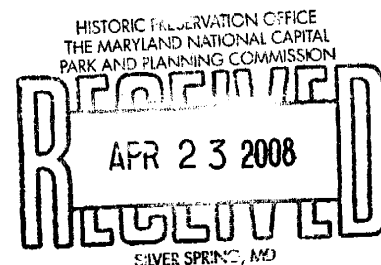
## Petition

### To nominate Wild Acres Estate for Historic Preservation

"I/We support the nomination of the Wild Acres estate, including the mansion, garage and gardener's cottage, for inclusion in the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation."

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>
1	Stephen Marks	5807 Lone Oak Dr
2	Janna Marks	5807 Lone Oak Dr
3	Anne Engel	5805 Lone Oak
4	Juni Engel	5809 Lone Oak
5	LINDA Thompson	5811 Lone Oak
6	Melvin Thompson	5811 Lone Oak
7		Bethesda, MD 20814
8		Bethesda, MD 20814
9		Bethesda, MD 20814
10		Bethesda, MD 20814
11		Bethesda, MD 20814
12		Bethesda, MD 20814
13		Bethesda, MD 20814
14		Bethesda, MD 20814
15		Bethesda, MD 20814
16		Bethesda, MD 20814
17		Bethesda, MD 20814
18		Bethesda, MD 20814
19		Bethesda, MD 20814
20		Bethesda, MD 20814
21		Bethesda, MD 20814
22		Bethesda, MD 20814
23		Bethesda, MD 20814
24		Bethesda, MD 20814
25		Bethesda, MD 20814

Beth L. Savage  
5900 Kingswood Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814



April 23, 2008

Historic Preservation Commissioners:

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 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.

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 Burleith 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.

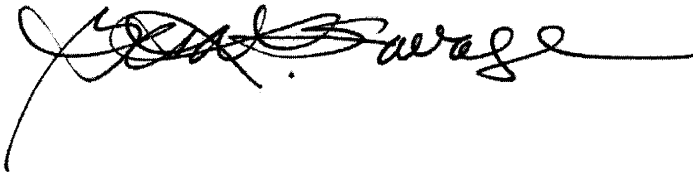
The Historic Integrity of the property:

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.)

Fore the aforementioned reasons, I urge the Commission to support this amendment of the *Master Plan*.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. A. Savage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

## Brief Architectural History Analysis

By

William Lebovich

The former Grosvenor house is architecturally significant as an early twentieth century example of Tudor style domestic architecture done by a prominent D.C. architect, Arthur Heaton.

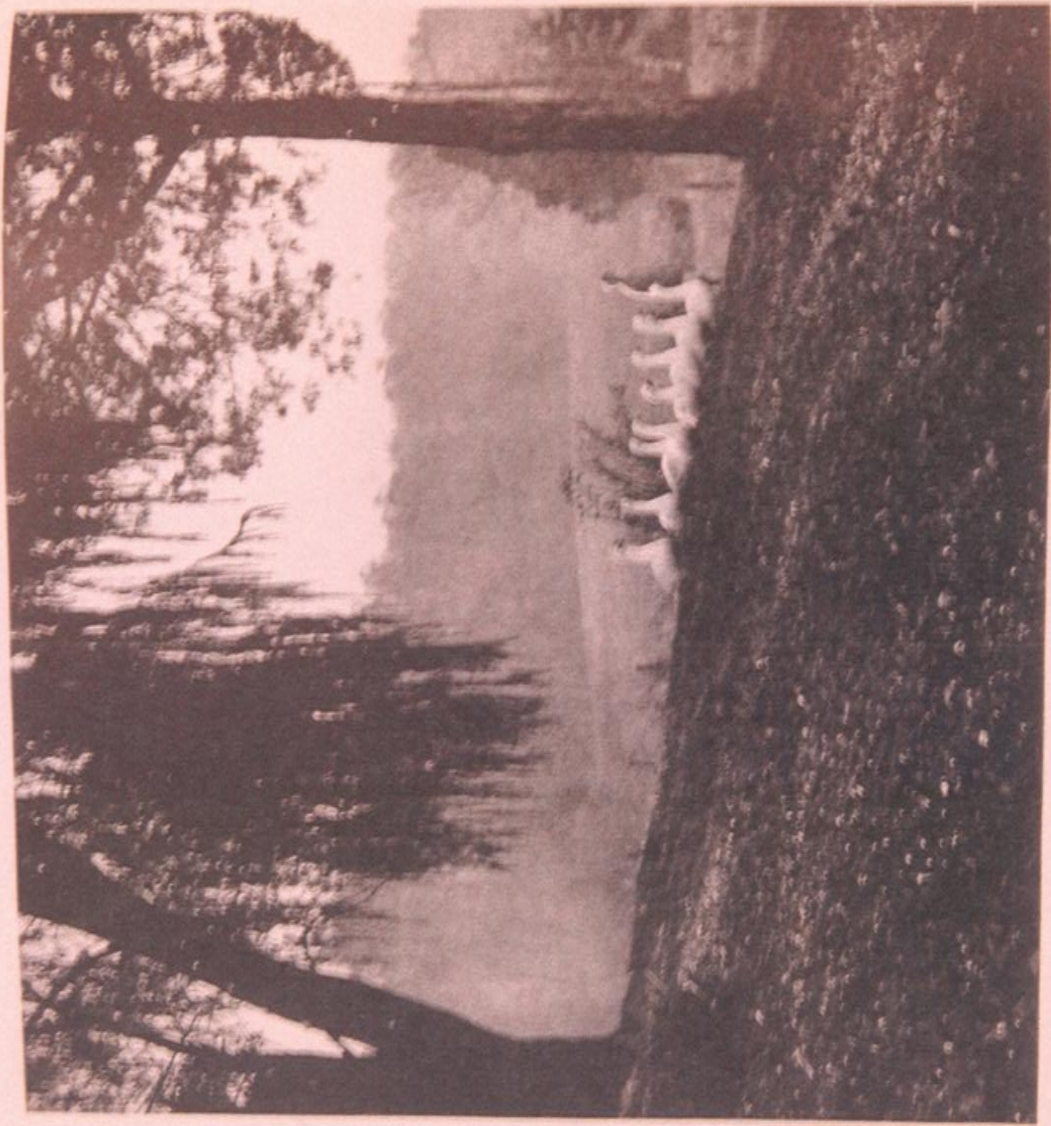
In addition, as the Grosvenors were prominent, arguably of national importance, the house also has significance for its historical associations with the family. This association is limited to the exterior and immediate manicured grounds as the interior is startlingly different than when they lived there. The Grosvenors removed their furnishings when they sold it, and the new owner drastically altered the interior by a renovation that included paneling every surface, even the ceilings. (The addition of large skylights to the house is unfortunate.)

When the Grosvenors bought this farm in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was slightly more than a hundred acres and extended quite far south, towards the estates that became the campus of N.I.H. The sale of land and the construction of the beltway have reduced the remaining acreage to less than 40 % of the original farmlands. Not only does the remaining acreage bear no resemblance to what the Grosvenors purchased in terms of size, **but much more importantly**, the remaining land, except for the grounds immediately around the house and perhaps the land north of the house, bears no resemblance to how the land looked when the Grosvenors owned it. No remnants of the open, rolling fields, farm fields, or

the cultivated fields visible in early photographs survives. Instead, much of the remaining acreage has reverted to forest. There is not, therefore, any survival of the historical associations or visual resemblance to how the Grosvernors treated the fields or how they looked during the family's residency. The setting has been further and substantially compromised by the fairly recent erection of a complex of relatively large, contemporary office buildings immediately southeast of the house, and the building of a county park, with asphalt playing surface, southwest of the house, also on land once part of the Grosvenor holdings.

To respect the significance of the house and its former owners, without creating a false sense of the historical setting, it is necessary to define the boundaries as the immediate surroundings of the house which retain sufficient physical integrity to convey the (1) house's architectural significance, (2) its historical association with the Grosvenors and (3) how the family used the house and its manicured grounds.

April 16, 2008



Photograph by Gilbert Grosvenor

A COUNTRYSIDE IN MARYLAND

Wild Acres, the author's country home in Montgomery County, Maryland, is credited by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as having the densest bird population anywhere recorded, 125 pairs of 24 different species nesting in five acres adjacent to the house.

hand's most celebrated frontiersman, near Rockies from their eastern base. For Cumberland.



THE "BLOODY LA

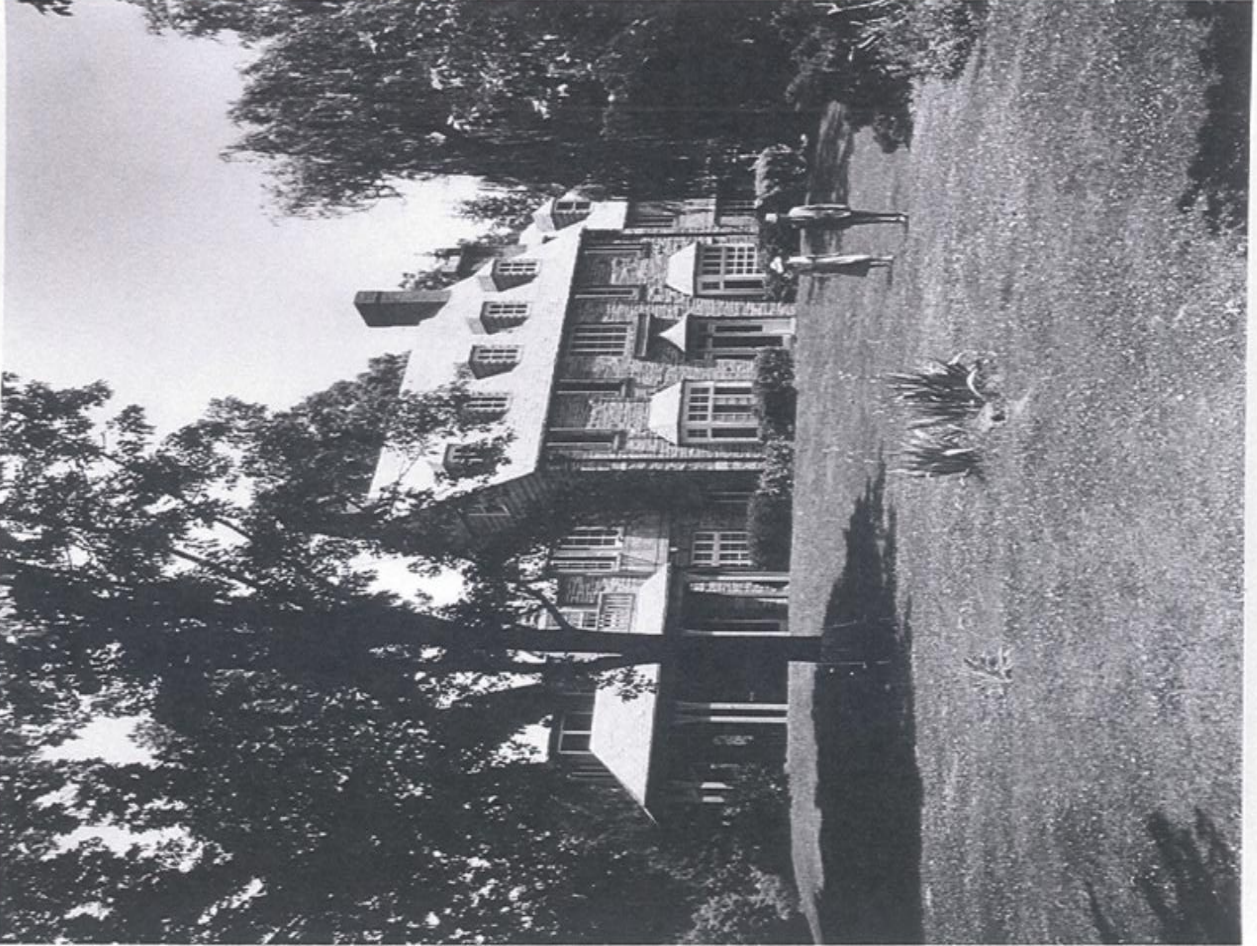
It was only after leaving their dead piled tower built by the United States of courage and are a National heritage

gently to drive the traffic from the Ohio route. Railroads were his day, and he turned us to the problem westward. It finally

Recent



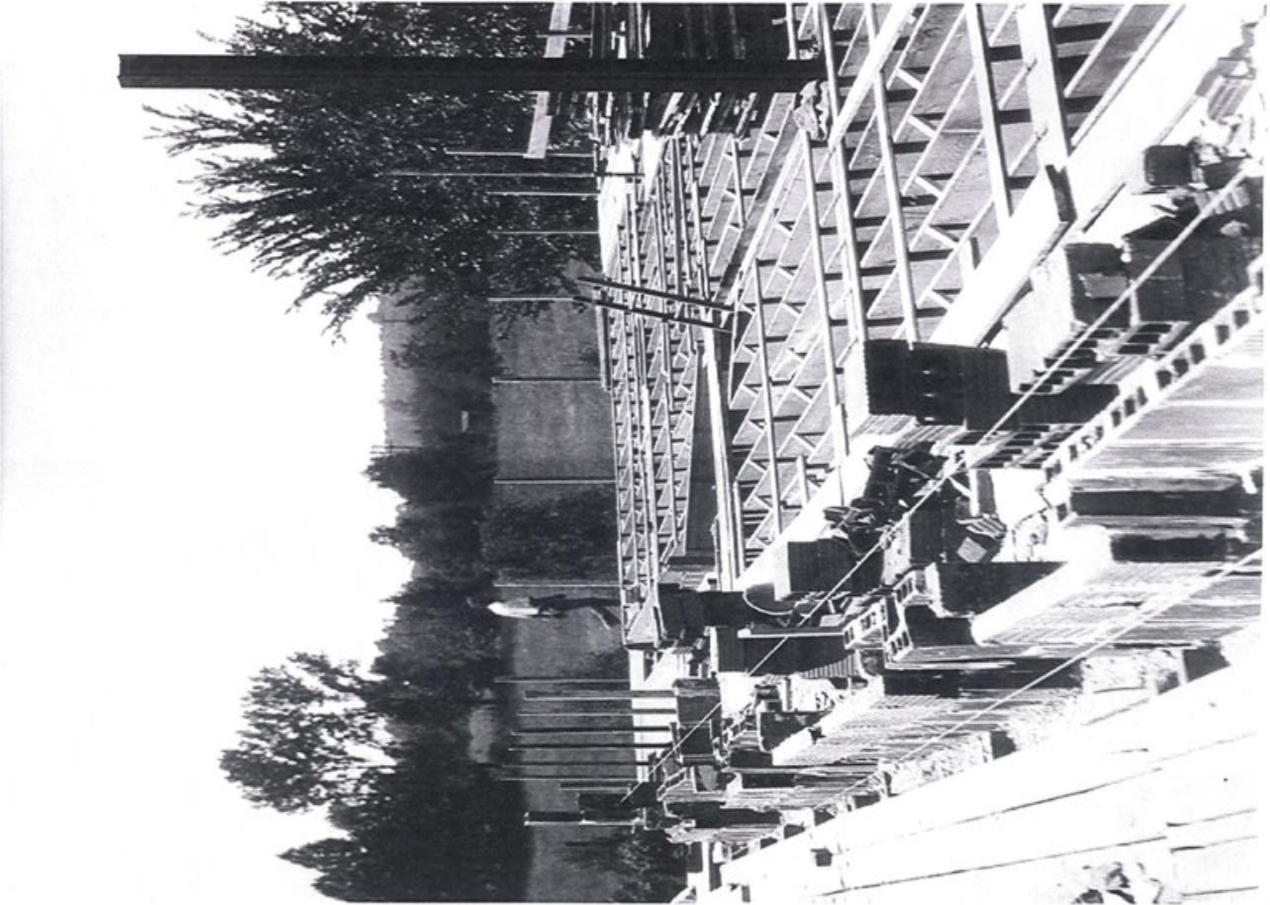
View from Pond



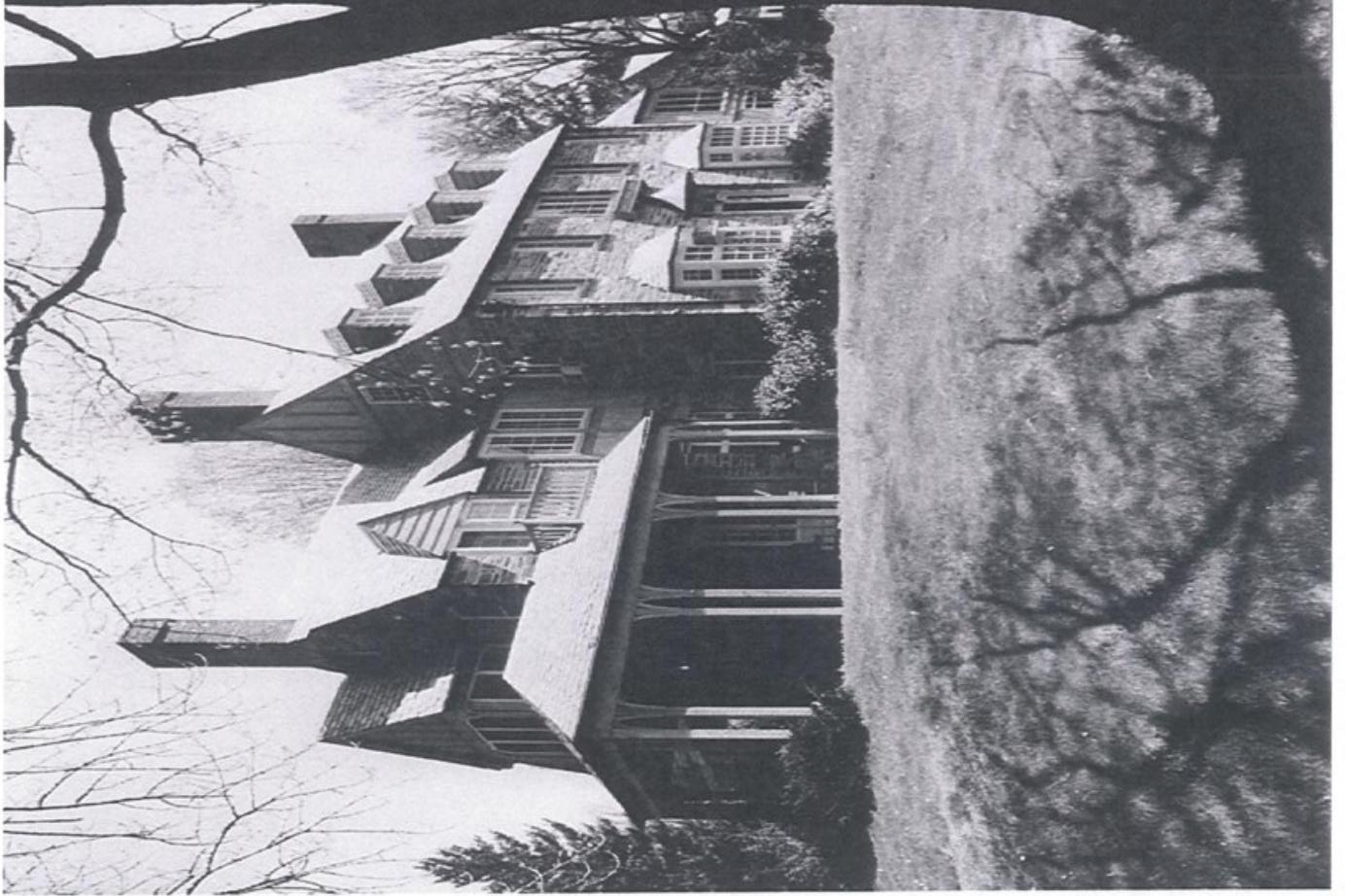
Older



Eastward View



Older



View from back of the House

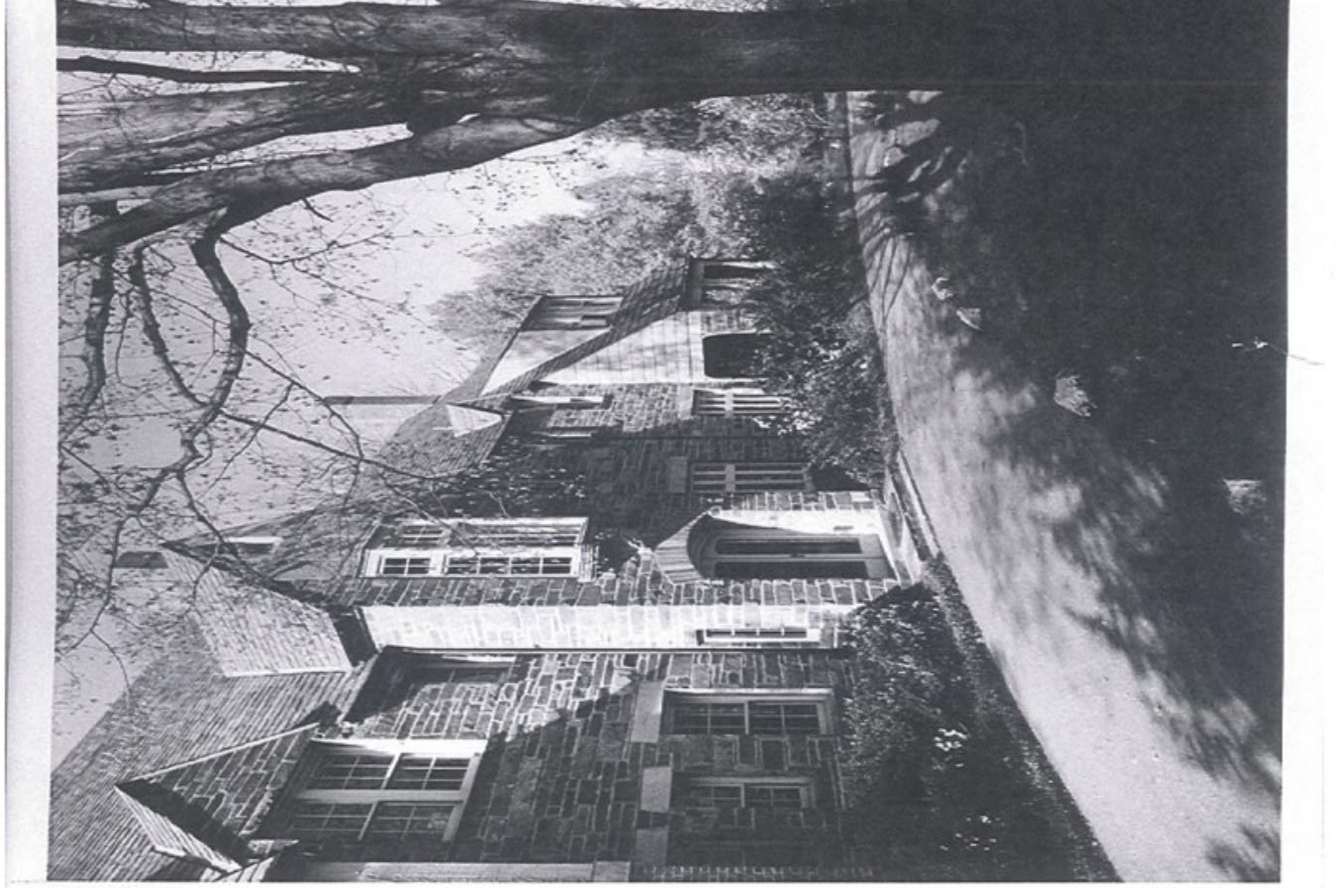


Recent

Recent



Front Drive Way



Older

Older



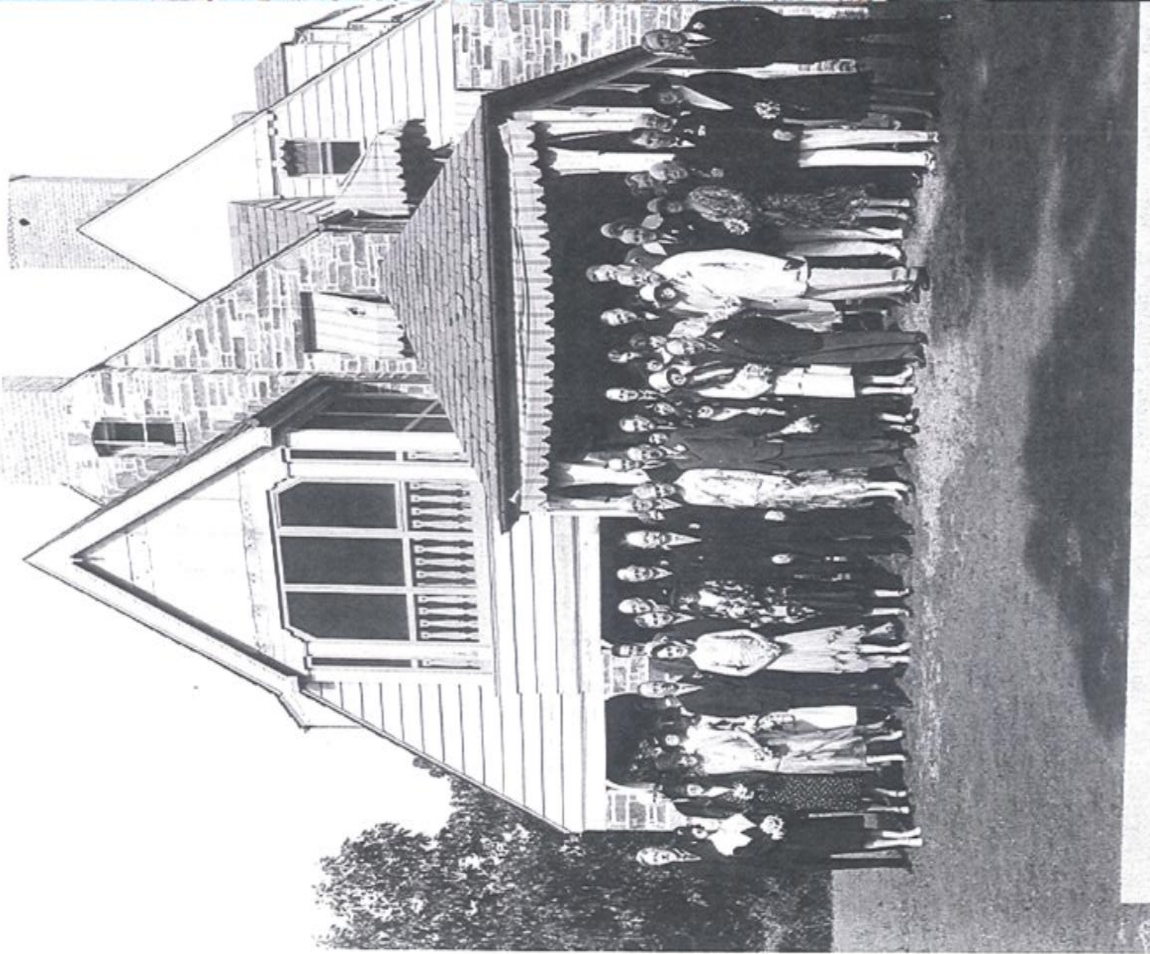
View from Back of House



Recent

The new house nearly ready for occupancy with the original 100-year old farm house at the left.  
© National Geographic Society

West end Porch



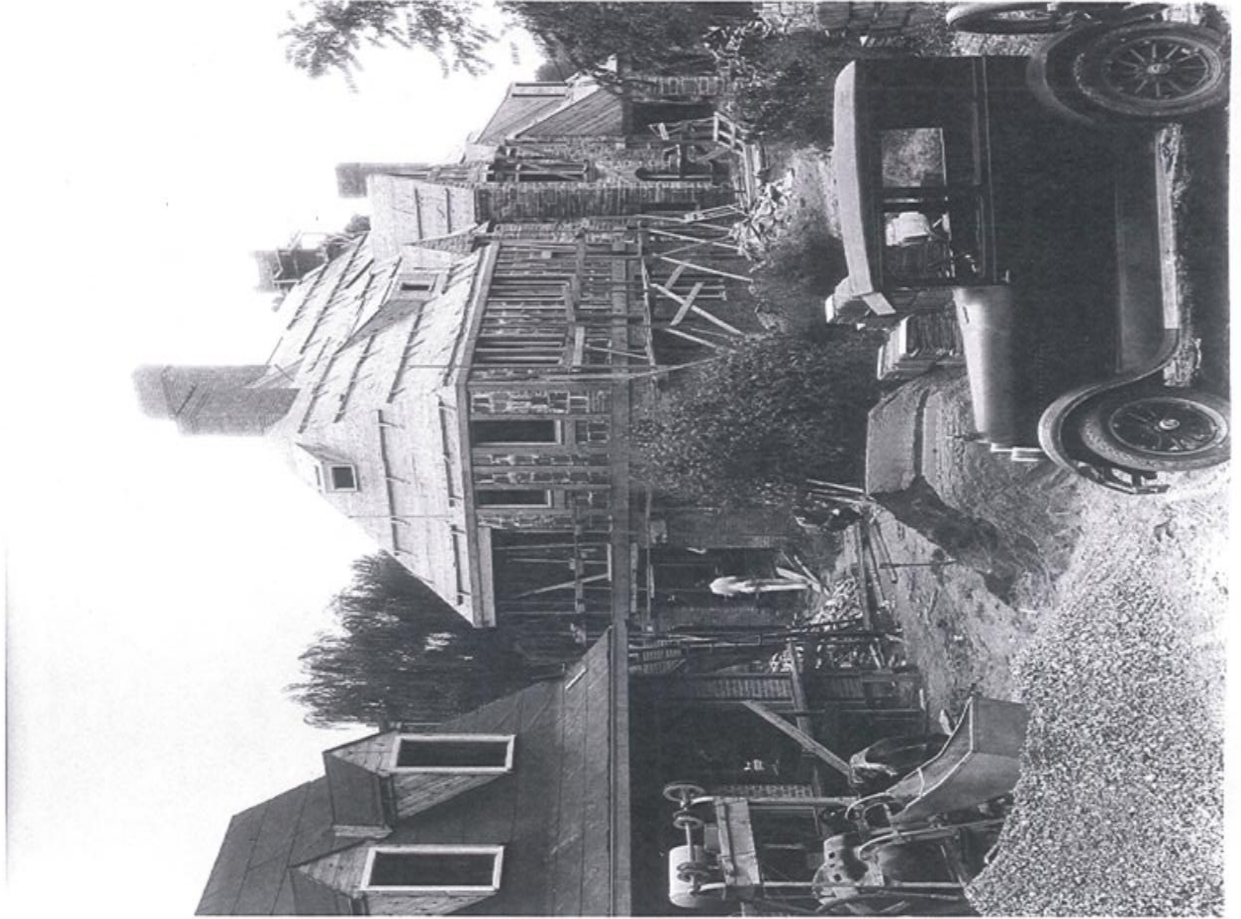
The Chief Justice and Mrs. Taft with other Trustees of the National Geographic Society and friends distinguished in diplomatic and public life, gathered to honor Mrs. Taft's natal day, June, 1929, at Wild Acres, the Maryland home of the President of the Society.

© National Geographic Society

Recent



View of Carriage House



Older

Older



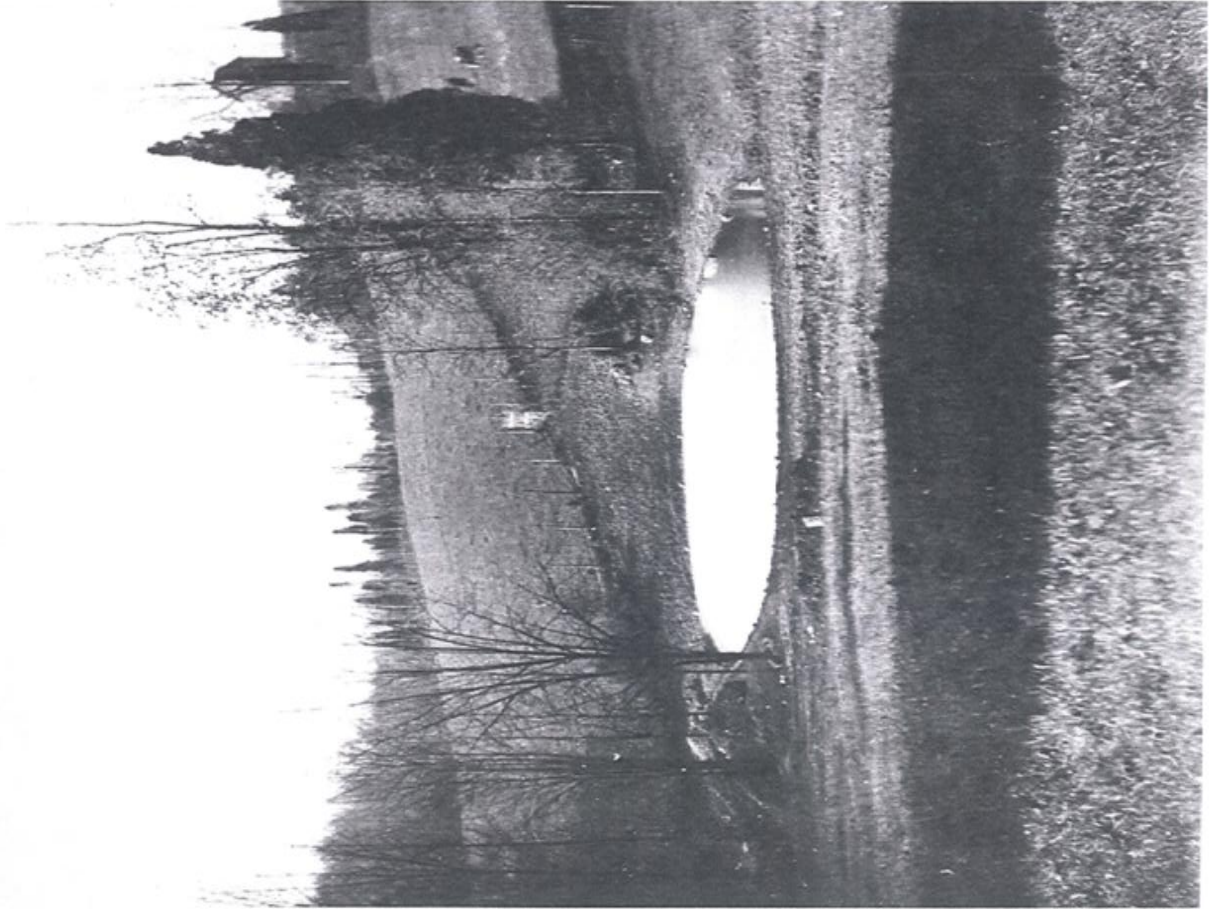
View from Pond



Recent

Older

Vista from the garage looking southwest over the pond to the pastures of Wild Acres.  
© National Geographic Society



View towards Pond



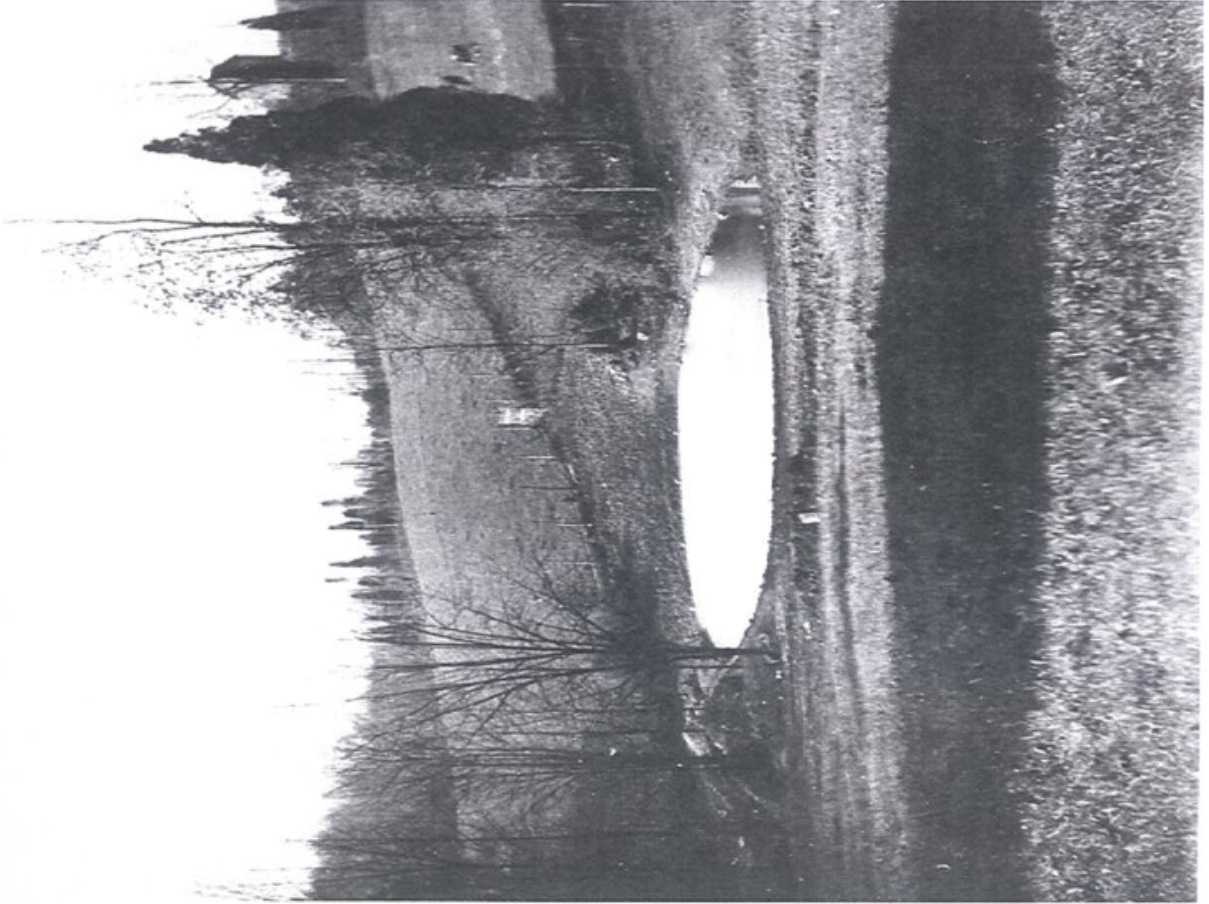
Recent



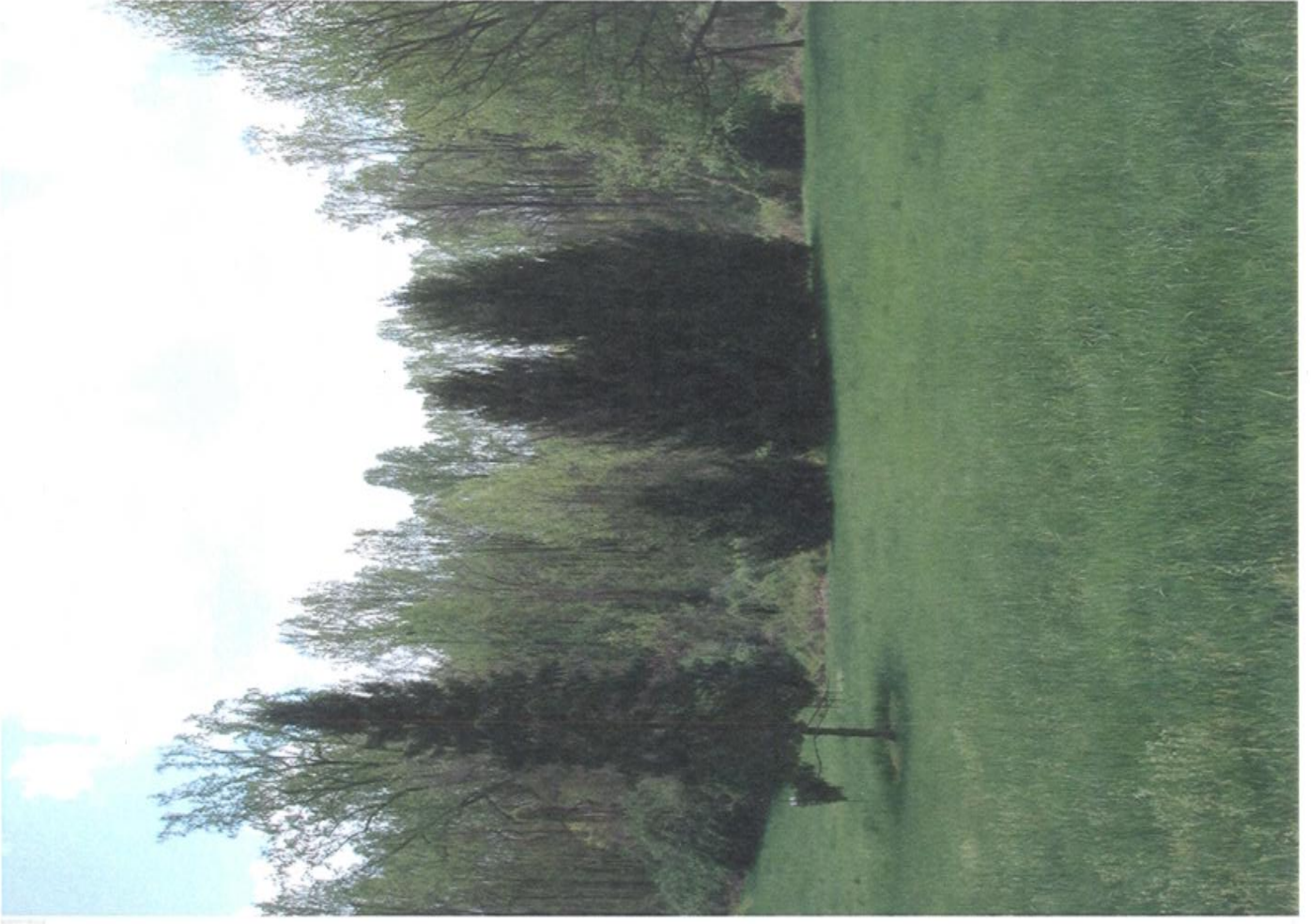


Older

Vista from the garage looking southwest over the pond to the pastures of Wild Acres.  
© National Geographic Society



View towards Pond



Recent

Aerial View



Main Entrance and Parking Lot



**LINOWES** |  
**AND BLOCHER LLP**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

April 23, 2008

**Anne C. Martin**  
301.961.5127  
amartin@linowes-law.com

**Hand Delivered with Hearing Testimony**

Mr. Jef Fuller  
Chairman  
Historic Preservation Commission  
1109 Spring Street, Suite 801  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

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

Dear Mr. Fuller and Members of the Historic Preservation Commission:

On behalf of the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation (“RNRF”), the owner of the existing special exception use on the above-referenced site (the “Property”), we respectfully request that the Historic Preservation Commission (“HPC”) include relevant information regarding the existing special exception approvals and the 1992 North Bethesda Garrett Park Master Plan (the “North Bethesda Master Plan”) recommendations in its consideration of the designation before you today. RNRF supports the position of the owner of the Property, the Society of American Foresters (“SAF”), and the contract purchaser, the Nations Academy, to respect the significance of the Grosvenor house and its former notable owners, but to define the boundaries to only the immediate surroundings of the house. Such a defined boundary is consistent with the historical association with the Grosvenor family and the architecture of the house, and is also consistent with the existing approvals for the development of the property for the RNRF use granted by the Montgomery County Board of Appeals (the “Board of Appeals”) and with the recognition of the development approvals by the Planning Board and County Council in the North Bethesda Master Plan.

As stated in Staff Report, the Board of Appeals originally approved the RNRF special exception use in 1973 for 300,000 square feet of office uses on the Property. However, additional relevant information in the special exception approval and a copy of the current

Mr. Jef Fuller  
April 23, 2008  
Page 2

approved Special Exception Site Plan (the "Site Plan", approved pursuant to the Board of Appeals opinion dated March 21, 1990) are not referenced and should be included as part of the HPC consideration. As you will note from a review of the Site Plan attached hereto as Exhibit "A", the RNRF special exception approval includes removal of the caretaker's house and the addition of almost 100,000 square feet of new non-profit office development and associated parking in the area that is included in the recommendation for a historic setting. This future office development for the RNRF use, referred to as Phase II, was specifically approved by the Board of Appeals by opinion dated March 13, 1991. Further, in 1992, the Planning Board and Council confirmed the RNRF special exception approvals, and specifically supported the expansion, in the North Bethesda Master Plan. The North Bethesda Master Plan excerpts are attached as Exhibit "B". Although the North Bethesda Master Plan excerpts reference the Grosvenor house and the original estate, neither the house nor the Property were designated as historic resources.

All of the opinions issued by the Board of Appeals over the past 35 years for various modifications to the RNRF special exception are relevant to your consideration; however, the opinion dated January 31, 1974, attached hereto as Exhibit "C", is particularly pertinent because it specifically references the conversion of the Grosvenor house to office uses and indicated that the office use was not objectionable to the Wildwood Citizens Association. Additionally, the 1974 opinion noted that the original special exception plans included a new office building in the same location as the house in the later phase of the RNRF development. Therefore, it was "not certain at the time whether the mansion will ultimately be removed." As indicated by the Site Plan and in the Staff Report, RNRF and SAF did subsequently decide to keep the Grosvenor house and incorporate it into the campus of non-profit office buildings. It is important to note that this decision by RNRF and SAF to keep the Grosvenor house was voluntary and was not requested by the community, not recommended by the Planning Board or its Staff, and was not a requirement of the Board of Appeals. Further, it did not alter the nature of the approval of the additional modern office buildings and parking lots on the Property.

Thank you for the consideration of this additional information in your deliberations on the nomination and recommendation before you today. As demonstrated by the approved special exception Site Plan for additional non-profit office buildings and parking on the Property and the confirmation and support of this approval in the North Bethesda Master Plan, the recommendation to include a setting of the entire Property, and not just the former Grosvenor house, is inconsistent with existing government development approvals for the Property. Further, RNRF and SAF, as well as Nations Academy's proposal as contract purchaser, have voluntarily maintained the Grosvenor house as part of the campus and we hope that such efforts

Mr. Jef Fuller  
April 23, 2008  
Page 3

will be recognized and encouraged by the HPC and that collaborative efforts can be made to effectively preserve the house without detrimental impacts to existing or proposed uses on the Property.

Very truly yours,

**LINOWES AND BLOCHER LLP**

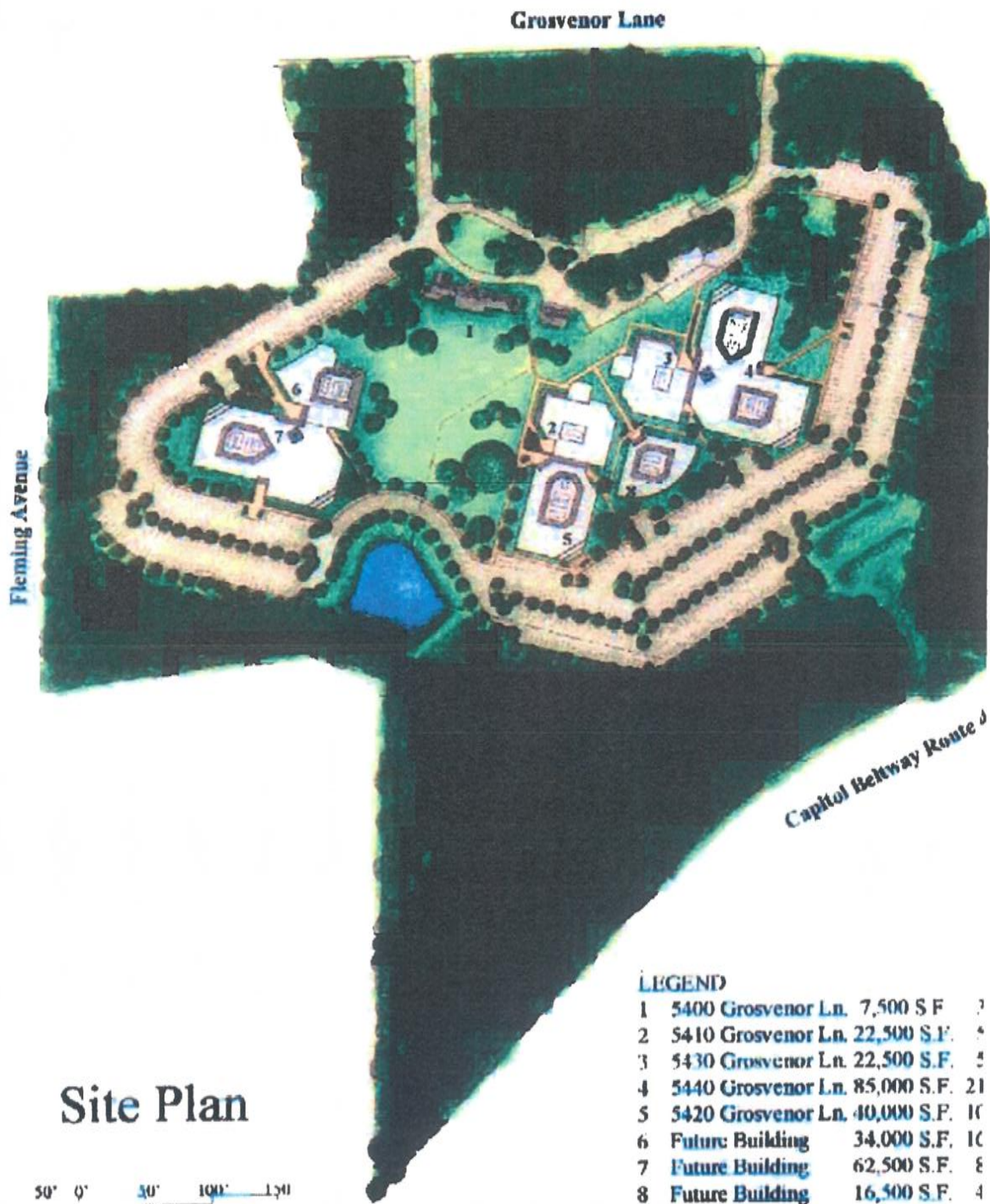
  
Anne C. Martin

Attachments

L&B 991679v1/04003.0024

# RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES CENTER

Bethesda, Maryland



approved  
& adopted  
1992

# NORTH BETHESDA GARRETT PARK





The property has approximately 700 feet of frontage along Democracy Boulevard and 204 feet of frontage along Old Georgetown Road. The site is partially wooded with some very large specimen oak trees.

Uses considered for this site included a park, residential townhouse, commercial townhouse, and retail. The location of the property adjacent to a major intersection, the proximity to a single-family subdivision, special exception and retail uses, the shallow depth of the site, and the possibility of additional right-of-way on Democracy Boulevard were all considered. The property was considered unsuitable for single-family detached homes, while the provision of park facilities and additional retail facilities was considered more appropriate within Rock Spring Park. Accordingly, this Plan confirms the existing R-60 zoning on this property. The property is suitable for development under the R-60 (Cluster) option, with access from Bells Mill Road.

#### **19. RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION**

This property extends to 35.4 acres and is located south of Grosvenor Lane and in between I-495 and I-270. The existing zoning is R-90.

The property owned by the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation and the Society of American Foresters is part of the original 100-acre family estate of the late Dr. Gilbert H. Grosvenor, former president of the National Geographic Society. The estate remained intact until purchase of 40 acres by the State Highway Administration for the I-495/I-270 interchange; the balance went to the Pooks Hill Marriott, Grosvenor Mews townhouses, and the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation, which conveyed a portion to M-NCPPC for Fleming Park.

In 1973, the Board of Appeals granted the petition of the Foundation to operate a scientific society headquarters as a special exception use in the R-90 Zone. The ultimate size of the project was anticipated to be 300,000 square feet, to be developed in three phases. The first two phases, totaling 283,000 square feet of offices, were approved in the 1973 opinion, which included a requirement for review of Phase 1 by the Board before work was begun on Phase 2. A second review of Phases 1 and 2 took place in 1980.

To date, the original Grosvenor mansion has been renovated for use as the Gifford Pinchot Forestry Building, and two office buildings have been constructed (1981 and 1987). The FAR of the existing 44,000 square feet is .02, and the FAR of the final plan will be 0.19, in 2- to 3-story buildings. Ultimate development under the Foundation's approved comprehensive site plan for the entire property will provide 300,000 square feet of office space, including a 16,500 square foot conference and common-services facility, housed in seven buildings. The office structures plus surface parking will occupy 10 acres of the 35.

This Plan supports the planned expansion of the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation and the Society of American Foresters as a special exception approved by the Board of Appeals in the existing R-90 Zone.

COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS

For  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Case No. S-257

REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE  
PETITION OF RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES FOUNDATION  
(Hearing held January 31, 1974)

AMENDMENT TO THE OPINION OF THE BOARD

This proceeding is on a request by petitioners for modification of the Special Exception to allow use of the Grosvenor Mansion for offices prior to and during the construction phases of the proposed project, and for certain other modifications of the Board's original opinion as set forth in this opinion. The petitioners were granted a Special Exception on November 21, 1973, to construct scientific society headquarters at 5500 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland.

Decision: Requested modifications and permission to use mansion granted.

Due to the substantial modifications requested, the Board re-opened this case to consider the requested amendment and modifications in a public hearing. No one appeared to oppose the proposed modifications or proposed use of the mansion.

Petitioners stated that during the original hearing on plans for construction of the Foundation's proposed headquarters building, to be undertaken in three phases, no mention was made of the immediate plans to use the existing mansion for office space by a limited number of the Societies associated with the Foundation.

Condition No. 1 of the Board's Opinion states:

"Before any construction is begun, or the site is occupied as a headquarters for the Foundation or any member Society, petitioner shall submit to the Board of Appeals for its approval complete architectural plans, specifications, exterior design, as well as site plan showing exits and entrances, driveways, parking layout, etc., for phases one and two." The petitioners wish the foregoing condition to be amended to allow some of the Societies to begin using the mansion before the construction plans are completed. Condition No. 2 states: "Before any work is begun on phase two, petitioner shall request the Board for a hearing date to review the special exception." The petitioners also requested that this condition be amended to clarify and define the purpose of such review.

EXHIBIT "C"

Petitioners stated that the use of the mansion had been discussed with the Wildwood Citizens Association both before and after the first hearing. A letter in the file from Mr. G. Masters, President of the Wildwood Citizens Association, states that the association has no objections to the early occupancy of the mansion.

Petitioners described the mansion as a large brick home built in 1929, and located approximately 100 yards south of Grosvenor Lane. The mansion is totally screened from all the roads. The petitioners have purchased and made settlement on the entire tract of land since the original hearing; they have also conveyed an area of 10 or 12 acres to the Park and Planning Commission for development of a park.

Petitioners propose to use the mansion and the adjacent garage-apartment for office space for 35 full time employees and 5 to 15 part time employees. Many of the professional leaders travel and would not be expected to occupy offices all the time. No external modifications to the mansion are proposed. The garage and apartment will require the removal of the garage doors and the filling of the door space with framed walls, windows, and a door.

The mansion will be modified to meet fire safety requirements of the Montgomery County building code, including provisions for safe egress, illuminated exit lights, and fire extinguishers. In addition to available public fire protection, two fire hydrants are located near the mansion and garage-apartment. A caretaker will live in a cottage near the entrance and will provide 24-hour surveillance.

Structural modifications in the mansion will include removal of certain partitions and elimination of two bathrooms, of kitchen fixtures in one of the two existing kitchens, and of the laundry equipment. The existing and proposed floor plans are illustrated on attachments to Exhibit No. 37 in the record.

The modification of the garage-apartment will include elimination of the kitchen in the upstairs apartment and conversion of both ground and upstairs space for office use. The present steam heating system will be converted to an airconditioning system for heating and cooling. A dropped ceiling will be installed in the ground floor area to conceal air ducts. Plans for the garage are also attached to Exhibit No. 37 in the record.

Sewage discharge from the site is estimated to be less than the discharge when the mansion was used as a residence by the Grosvenor family, their guests and employees. A witness for the petitioner, James Bryne, Engineer, stated that office use causes a sewage discharge of less than 25 gallons per person per day, whereas residential use

approximates 100 gallons per person per day. With office use for 35 full-time employees, the sewage discharge from the mansion and garage-apartment will be an estimated 875 gallons per day.

The proposed parking lot will be surfaced with porous gravel and no water run-off is anticipated. The parking will be located in cleared areas among existing trees on the grounds, and will accommodate 35 automobiles. Maximum capacity needed for employees is estimated to be 20 spaces. The additional spaces will be provided in order to accommodate visitors. It was estimated that 5 percent of the employees would reside near the site, that approximately 50 percent would come from the south and would use Grosvenor Lane, and that the others would come from Old Georgetown Road.

The proposed hours for the offices would be staggered from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The petitioners expect a decrease in number of cars when the Metro is constructed and have agreed to supply a shuttle bus between the Metro station and the subject site.

The petitioners propose that the mansion will remain and be used during construction of all of phases 1 and 2, but that the proposed plan would locate the building to be constructed during phase 3 on approximately the same site as the mansion. However, it was pointed out that phase 3 is planned for 10 years in the future and petitioners are not certain at this time whether the mansion will ultimately be removed. In any event, they are requesting to use the mansion and garage for several years.

Based on the additional testimony and evidence presented for the record, the Board finds that the proposed use of the mansion and other modifications requested will not alter the findings of the Board contained in its original opinion. For this reason, the request to use the mansion and garage for office space in the immediate future preceding completion of construction plans, and the requested modifications to the Board's opinion are granted as follows:

1. The mansion and garage may be remodeled in accordance with the testimony and evidence presented with Exhibit 37 in the record, for office space use for 35 full time employees and up to 15 part time employees, with no more than 50 office employees working in these facilities at any one time.
2. On page 2, third full paragraph of the Board's opinion issued November 21, 1973, shall be deleted

and rewritten to read as follows: "The existing mansion will be retained and used by some of the Societies in the Foundation preceding and during construction of phases 1 and 2. A decision will be made prior to construction of phase 3 as to the ultimate use, if any, of the mansion. Petitioner anticipates that a portion of the first phase will be available for use by 1976."

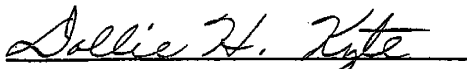
3. Condition No. 1, page 6 of the Board's original opinion, shall be amended to read: "Before any construction is begun, or any new structure is occupied as a headquarters for the Foundation or any member Society, petitioners shall submit to the Board of Appeals for its approval complete architectural plans, specifications, and exterior design, and a detailed site plan showing exits and entrances, driveways, parking layout, etc., for phases one and two."
4. Condition No. 2 shall be amended to read as follows: "Before any work is begun on phase two, petitioners shall request the Board for a hearing date to review the Special Exception relative to the traffic situation existing at that time."

The Board adopted the following Resolution:

"Be it Resolved by the County Board of Appeals for Montgomery County, Maryland, that the Opinion stated above be adopted as the Resolution required by law as its decision on the above-entitled petition."

The foregoing Resolution was proposed by Mrs. Beverly S. Pearson, Chairman, and concurred in by Mrs. Shirley S. Lynne, Mrs. Marjorie H. Sonnenfeldt, Mr. Sheldon P. Schuman and Mr. Joseph E. O'Brien, Jr.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes were officially entered in the Minute Book of the County Board of Appeals this 8th day of March, 1972.

  
Clerk to the Board