



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

July 11, 2018

Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Chair
Prince George's County Planning Board
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
via email: publicaffairs@ppd.mncppc.org

Dear Ms. Hewlett –

On behalf of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of supporters across the state, I write to encourage the reuse and redevelopment of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) headquarters building at 4017 Hamilton Street in Hyattsville, Maryland. The building's unique architectural styles and its relevance to the development of Maryland's suburbs make it a rare historic resource to Prince George's County and well worth saving for current and future generations.

The historical and architectural significance of the WSSC building is well documented in the Hyattsville Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places (NR 04001356), as well as on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (PG 68-10-82) that is managed by the Maryland Historical Trust in the Maryland Department of Planning.

Prince George's County has a long history of protecting and preserving its cultural heritage including unique and challenging historic properties like the College Park Airport, Montpelier Mansion Historic Site, and recently Compton Bassett Chapel and now Compton Bassett House.

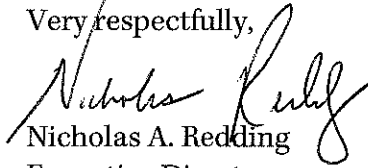
Preservation Maryland encourages the Planning Board to review any zoning variances or possible development or demolition plans with the utmost consideration of the significance of the historic property and with the understanding that the property can be adaptively reused to once again serve the community as it did for decades.

We have also come to learn that the Maryland Historical Trust has conducted a cursory review of the parking lot parcel adjacent to the WSSC building that may hold yet untold archaeological value in telling the story of Maryland's role in the fight to enfranchise America's women with the right to vote. With the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment approaching, there is a national spotlight on sites associated with the fight to enfranchise women, and we believe that Hyattsville and Prince George's County has a unique part of the story.

We understand that the adaptive reuse of a large building such as the WSSC building can present challenges. As Maryland's first and foremost historic preservation organization, we stand ready to assist the Planning Board and to provide technical assistance to current or future owners in support of reuse of the WSSC building.

Preservation Maryland urges the Planning Board to plan for the strategic and sustainable reuse of the WSSC in service of the community and to call upon us for any preservation assistance.

Very respectfully,



Nicholas A. Redding
Executive Director

CC:

The Honorable Candace Hollingsworth, Mayor: chollingsworth@hyattsville.org

Edouard Haba, City Council President: ehaba@hyattsville.org