Detailed Statement of Existing and Intended Use

The Harvard University facility located on Square 2155, Lot 812 (the "facility") is primarily a research institute of advanced studies where post-doctoral scholars pursue individual research. A fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks offers access to its library and archival collections, an opportunity to study museum objects firsthand and inclusion in a select scholarly community. The museum and a portion of the gardens located on the subject site are open to the public.

Currently, the facility's valuable collection of books and museum objects is stored in conditions incompatible with current archival conservation standards. The facility's library shelves are scattered throughout the main building in a variety of inappropriate spaces. A substantial portion of the collection is stored in the attic where there is a danger of leaks.

Since the late 1960s, the research library has had insufficient space to meet the needs of its users. Researchers are cramped, with almost half of the scholars who use the library forced to work in carrels within the library stacks in the basement.

The proposed project will remedy these storage and work-space problems. First, the proposed project will provide approximately 25,000 square feet of floor area to new library and archival storage space in new underground construction, linked or in close proximity to the existing building. The existing above-grade space will be remodeled to provide a more spacious and appropriate working environment for scholars and staff, taking advantage of ample daylight and views. A small above-grade addition of approximately 2000 square feet will be added to the Music Room on the second floor of the Main Building.

Additionally, the proposed project will greatly improve accessibility of the library facilities to the disabled thereby meeting the Applicant's legal responsibilities.

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16555
EXHIBIT NO.5