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VIA HAND DELIVERY

June 2, 2004

Ms. Carol J. Mitten
Chairman
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Mr. David Maloney
D.C. Historic Preservation Division
801 North Capitol Street, N.E.
3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

Mr. Timothy J. Dennee
D.C. Historic Preservation Division
801 North Capitol Street, N.E.
3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20002

Re: Zoning Commission Order No. 02-20

Dear Chairman Mitten, Mr. Maloney and Mr. Dennee:

In compliance with Condition No. 10 of the above-referenced Zoning Commission Order, enclosed please find the Historic Preservation Element to the Campus Plan prepared by The Catholic University of America.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 02-20
EXHIBIT NO. 75

Yours truly,

Allison C. Prince (sig)

Enclosure

cc: David McGettigan, Office of Planning
James Berry, ANC 5C
Norma Broadnax, ANC 5A

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO 02-20
EXHIBIT NO.75

Historic Preservation Element

The Catholic University of America (CUA) was established by the American bishops of the Catholic Church in 1887 as a research center and graduate school for the study of "all branches of literature and science, both sacred and profane." It is the only institution of higher education founded by the American bishops and the only national Catholic center of learning in this country with a papal charter, which was granted by Pope Leo XIII in 1887. It is also the only American university with ecclesiastical faculties granting canonical degrees in theology, philosophy, and canon law. CUA began offering undergraduate studies in 1904.

During the early decades of the University's development its buildings and activities were focused on what is the core of its current campus. The buildings and spaces within this core area define the history and essence of the University. Caldwell Hall, dedicated in 1888 by Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore and President Grover Cleveland, is the oldest building on the campus. McMahon Hall was dedicated in 1889, also by Cardinal Gibbons. These solid stone buildings established the character and quality of the University's buildings during its early development.

In more recent decades, as the University acquired land and buildings by purchase, gift, or default, the campus has expanded and buildings with no historical link to, or association with, CUA have become part of the school's campus. One of these structures is Saint Bonaventure Hall, which was built in 1923 by Franciscan Friars. This building is located south of Michigan Avenue, separate and apart from the core campus. It was given to CUA by the Franciscans, who could no longer afford to maintain it, in exchange for scholarships to CUA for its seminarians. Although the University has occupied Saint Bonaventure Hall in recent years, there is no significant historical connection between the school and the building.

Indeed, far more significant to the University are some of its more recent construction projects, such as the Pryzbla Center/University Center, the Millennium I and II residence halls, and the rehabilitation of the school's power plant. At the same time, however, CUA recognizes, respects, and has maintained the important buildings and spaces on its core campus. The University has and will continue to focus its resources on maintaining and using those buildings in a manner compatible with their original character. Exterior alterations and additions will be appropriately designed to reinforce the architectural character and special nature of these core campus buildings.

As part of this Historic Preservation Element, and in order to create a body of information relating to above and below-grade resources on the its campus, the University will:

1. Consolidate information relating to the history of the University, its buildings, and identified archaeological sites on the campus in a central location; historic archival information will be retained in the University Archives, located in the Life Cycle Institute, and more current building information will be retained in the Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, located in the Marist Annex.

2. Survey buildings 50 years old or older and the identified archaeological sites on the campus. A status report on this survey was presented to David Maloney and Tim Dennee of the Historic Preservation Office and David McGettigan of the Office of Planning at a meeting on January 4, 2004.

3. Share the final survey information with the Historic Preservation Office.

Upon completion of the final survey, the University will use the collected information as a planning tool as it moves forward with construction/development planning in the future. Additionally, CUA will consider the likelihood of disturbing archaeologically-sensitive areas during any excavation for future new construction and it will consult with Nancy Kassner, the Historic Preservation Office Archaeologist, prior to beginning any such construction. By using this collected information the University will be able to both take into account those buildings and places significant to its past as well as provide a reasonable framework for allowing the CUA to move forward into the twenty-first century.