

Mark Gabriele, President
Seven Oaks / Evanswood Citizens' Association
Silver Spring, MD 20910

November 5, 2007

Mr. Royce Hanson, Chair
Montgomery County Planning Board
8787 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910
VIA FACSIMILE to (301) 495-1320

Dear Mr. Hanson,

On October 30, 2007 the Seven Oaks / Evanswood Citizens' Association (SOECA) passed a resolution strongly in favor of preserving the historic Perpetual Bank building, located at 8700 Georgia Avenue. The concern of SOECA is that the historic character of this building be preserved as a historical resource for Silver Spring. This building, which must have been startlingly modern when it opened in 1958, has many unique architectural features such as marble and brushed aluminum interior details, trapezoidal windows, and limestone on all 4 sides for the upper 3 stories. The most aesthetically pleasing aspect of this building is the red carnelian granite which adorns the street level. The thick slabs of granite have not lost their lustre over the 49 years of this building's history. This building is solidly constructed and it has preserved its aesthetic character over the years without any significant deterioration since its dedication.

The loss or major modification of this building would have a significant negative effect on the historic character and architectural landscape of Silver Spring. We strongly support the efforts of the Silver Spring Historical Society to save this building and to have it designated as an historical structure.

SOECA is an association of homeowners representing approximately 700 households with most members residing in the area south of Sligo Creek Park between Wayne Avenue and Colesville Road, bounded on the south by Cedar Street. At our October 30, 2007 meeting, a resolution passed by acclamation with no dissent requesting that the Association make our views known in support of the historic designation and the preservation of the Perpetual Bank Building. This historic designation will contribute immeasurably to the character of Silver Spring and it will act as a favorable contrast to more recent commercial and residential development.

Thank you very much for allowing us to share the views of the Association.

Sincerely,

Mark Gabriele, President, SOECA