



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Kate Montague Perry
202-906-9816

Smithsonian's Haupt Garden Declared Historically Significant

The DC Historic Preservation Review Board has unanimously approved the application by the Committee of 100 on the Federal City for local landmark designation of the "Quadrangle Historic District" that abuts the Smithsonian Castle and includes the Enid Haupt Garden, the Renwick Gates, and the entrance pavilions to the Sackler Gallery, the Museum of African Art, and the Ripley Center. The Smithsonian is considering a plan that would demolish all of these structures.

Impressive voices today supported the landmark designation. Richard W. Longstreth (Director, Graduate Program in Architectural History, George Washington University and Past President, Society of Architectural Historians) described the Quadrangle as "an extraordinary ensemble...created over one and a half centuries," and "...the crowning achievement" of Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley. David Maloney (DC Historic Preservation Officer) called the Quadrangle "one of the most important properties in D.C." James M. Goode (retired Curator of the Smithsonian Castle) noted that he is the last living person involved in the design, stone selection, and construction of the Quadrangle's Renwick Gates which are the "keystone" of the Quadrangle.

Others supporting designation included: Rebecca Miller (DC Preservation League); Bill Brown (Association of DC's Oldest Inhabitants); Donna Ari (Director of Individual Giving at the time of Ms. Haupt's gift and endowment); Barbara Freeman (worked with Haupt to create an endowment to fund the maintenance of the Garden); Sylvia Ripley Addison (Ripley's daughter); and Alexandra Graubert (great niece of Enid Haupt).

The Garden Club of America and The Garden Conservancy also have expressed support and their opposition to the Smithsonian's proposed demolition of the Garden. An online petition entitled "Save Enid Haupt Garden" has been signed by about 2500 citizens.
