



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Region

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20242

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18 (NCR-CHOH)

Mrs. Sheila R. Weidenfeld
3059 Q Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mrs. Weidenfeld:

Recently, you wrote Chairperson Carol Mitten of the D.C. Zoning Commission clarifying the position of the C&O Canal Advisory Commission on the proposed land exchange between the National Park Service and Georgetown University. We appreciate you taking the time to clarify that the Commission does not support the size and height of the boathouse as currently designed or the land exchange itself.

As you know, the plans for the Georgetown Waterfront have been under discussion and development for more than two decades. Over this period, many diverse opinions have been expressed and accommodated in the plans and designs that have been approved. Our files include a letter of "general approval to the final draft of the Plan for the Georgetown Waterfront Park and the C&O Canal NHP," dated May 21, 1986, from Commission Chairman, Carrie Johnson.

As the process of the land exchange continues, the remaining step requires the National Park Service to address the differences between the existing Memorandum of Agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the University's proposed boathouse. The National Park Service can maintain the current limitations or, through a consultation process with interested parties, change one or more elements. As Superintendent Kevin Brandt has explained to you, we have chosen to utilize this process as generally described in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as our means of addressing the recently expressed concerns for the size and height of the university boathouse.

As an additional point of consultation and, in recognition of the unique relationship between the National Park Service and the C&O Canal Advisory Commission, we welcome your review and comment on the potential changes to the existing Memorandum of Agreement. The Commission's comment, along with the public input, will be very important to the National Park Service as we make the final decision. You identified several questions in your letter to Chairperson Mitten. If it would be helpful to have John Parsons, Associate Regional Director for Lands, Resources, and Planning or his Deputy, Sally Blumenthal attend your next commission meeting, please let Superintendent Brandt know and he will coordinate their attendance.

We appreciate the hard work that lies before the commission and look forward to receiving your advice and recommendations. If you have additional concerns or ideas, please do not hesitate to call me or Superintendent Kevin Brandt at (301) 714-2201.

Sincerely,

Regional Director, National Capital Region