

April 16, 2007

Emanuel Boasberg III, Chair
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review
Board
801 North Capitol Street, NE, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Boasberg and Commissioners:

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, the city's oldest civic association, supports the inclusion of the Danzansky Funeral Home in the District's Inventory of Historic Sites. Among its goals to preserve and support both the L'Enfant Plan for the District and the McMillan Plan, the AOI also strives to support efforts to preserve structures and institutions that help tell the District's story.

We believe the Danzansky Funeral Home is significant for the following reasons:

Not only was it the only Jewish funeral home in Washington from 1923 until 1945, it was the first Jewish funeral home to provide both preparation of the body and provided a sanctuary for services;

The establishment of the Danzansky Funeral Home was a highly significant event for Washington's Jewish community;

The Danzansky Funeral Home is demonstrative of the migration pattern of Washington's Jewish community during the 20th Century; and,

The funeral home's founder, Bernard Danzansky was a significant figure in the Jewish community of Washington.

We believe adding the Danzansky Funeral Home to the District's Inventory of Historic Sites will acknowledge its historic significance and contribute to the history of Columbia Heights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William N. Brown, President

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants
of The District of Columbia
Established Dec. 7, 1865