



Hyattsville Preservation Association, Inc. P.O. Box 375, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781

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The HPA board of directors has taken up as a topic the pending prospect of redevelopment at the WSSC Building at 4017 Hamilton Street.

The Board has found that taken collectively or individually, the three built structures that comprise the facility are preservation worthy. The degree to which preservation of the character of the community as it exists, or as a return to a prior state of community composition, as expressed through the underlying zoning, has also influenced the Board's deliberations.

The Board would look most favorably upon future proposals which included adaptive reuse of the facility, but understands that current development & economic conditions may dictate some form of partial take down of the extant facility. The degree to which a future owner of the site was able to preserve the 1939, 1953, and 1964 structures or some combination of them, would determine in detail the degree of support or opposition to a proposal that HPA would be likely to pursue. We urge our elected officials, developers, neighbors, and future owners of the property to consider the irreplaceable architectural character and cultural history that is eliminated in full or partial demolition redevelopment scenarios.

The voluntary preservation of all or some of the building is an ideal and idealistic scenario: but one worth seriously pursuing before raising a community debate encompassing strongly held conflicting values around land use and the elimination of blight.

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (Architectural Inventory) is contained within, *Medusa*, Maryland's Cultural Resource Information System. An excerpt from this document appears below.

"The original building and subsequent additions are architecturally noteworthy as products of their time and exemplify the stylistic evolution from the Art Deco details of the 1939 original building, and the moderne influence of the 1953 addition, with the full-blown modernistic expression of the 1964 addition. While all three additions are distinctive in treatment and clearly expressed, the architects endeavored to create a unified and consolidated building that continued to represent the public identity of the WSSC. In an area that traditionally erected more conservative buildings, the WSSC's -decision to erect an Art Deco building and the subsequent more moderne styled additions projected a modern, progressive image. The multiple facets of WSSC's corporate identity are well represented by the combination of monumental and modern architectural elements."

The complete document can be found here:

<https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/PrinceGeorges/PG;68-10-82.pdf>