

## **Weller's & Taylor Elementary School's Master Plan Designation**

### **Testimony by George French & Marcie Stickle, County Council Hearing April 25, 2023**

We support placing the Googie Style Weller's Dry Cleaning structure with its insignia, floating, free-standing Sign, and the Taylor ES on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation. Both meet the criteria for inclusion as put forward by the HPC staff and agreed to by all of the experts in this field.

The experts supporting Weller's trace back to 2002 when Architectural Historian firm Potomac Engineering singled out Weller's for special consideration when it turned 50. 2020, another AH firm Traceries agreed to its significance when it determined that Weller's is National Register eligible. Our MC HPC staff, made up of career expert historic preservationists, concurs, and determines Weller's to be worthy of Master Plan designation.

Another former County career preservationist Clare Lise Kelly touts Weller's in her book, "Montgomery Modern," and vividly also on MNCPPC online preservation sites.

Our esteemed HPC voted overwhelmingly with only one dissension to list on the Master Plan. Alan Hess, an author and expert in Googie style architecture testified on Weller's behalf. Planning Board Chair Zyontz and one other commissioner who understands the Historic Preservation Ordinance voted listing on the Master Plan. The other 3 should have reconsidered their vote and followed suit on the county ordinance based on Weller's meeting two criteria. This Council should do the same.

Many other organizations including Preservation Maryland, Art Deco Society, docomomoc, Montgomery Preservation Inc., Silver Spring Historical Society, consisting of HP experts, and extremely knowledgeable individuals representing hundreds of years of cumulative scholarship vocation and avocation support preservation of Weller's.

For over 30 years we have been intrigued by and enjoyed the strange and whimsical "road-side architecture" of this wondrous structure termed Googie style architecture. There has been much interest over many years from the former Silver Spring Park, now a part of East S.S. to protect and see the building retained for a multi-cultural small independent business district built on a human scale, fast disappearing from the S.S. landscape.

Googie architecture is a rarity in MC and we are so fortunate to have such a stunning example as Weller's to celebrate and enjoy right here in Silver Spring.

We implore the County Council approve an Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation to designate Weller's and Taylor ES as Master Plan Historic Sites.

Thank you, George French & Marcie Stickle, [REDACTED]  
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