



January 18, 2007

The Hon. William D. Euille  
City of Alexandria  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street / BAR CASE #2006-0213, -0214

Dear Mayor Euille:

I am writing on behalf of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to express our strong support for the careful preservation of historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which is located within the Old and Historic Alexandria District. We understand from the Old Town Civic Association and local members of the National Trust that on January 20, 2007, the City Council will hear an appeal to a November 1, 2006, decision of the Board of Architectural Review ["BAR"] regarding proposed changes to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The National Trust respectfully encourages the City Council to reverse and remand the BAR decision for further consideration of alternative designs that are not physically attached to the historic buildings, do not require partial demolition of historic fabric, and do not have a visual impact on the historic church or its environs.

In our view, St. Paul's Episcopal Church is one of the most significant historic religious properties in Virginia and the nation. Importantly, St. Paul's is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. It is an architectural gem by one of the nation's great early architects, Benjamin Henry Latrobe. In fact, according to architectural historian Calder Loth, "St. Paul's is the only surviving Gothic Revival building associated with Benjamin Henry Latrobe, America's first professional architect, and is Latrobe's only remaining work in Virginia." According to Mr. Loth, St. Paul's is a "pioneering landmark of American Gothic Revival." [*The Virginia Landmarks Register*, Fourth Edition, p. 28.]

As the City Council is aware, the Applicant is seeking a Permit to Demolish / Capsulate and a Certificate of Appropriateness for alterations in order to enclose an exterior light well, or "garth," between Latrobe's main sanctuary of St. Paul's Episcopal

*Protecting the Irreplaceable*



