



26 April 2007

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

Dear Mr. Boasberg and HPRB Commissioners,

The mission of the Committee of 100 includes preservation of those sites that imbue Washington with historic distinction. We believe that the Danzansky Funeral Home, as the first Jewish funeral home in Washington, and as the home of a person significant in the development of our city, deserves legal protection.

The establishment of the funeral home, which could only be a viable business with a significant Jewish population to support it, is indicative of the dramatic population increase that Washington experienced during and following each war since the Civil War. The ethnic composition of each new wave of immigration was varied and each of group deserves study as to its contribution to the development of the city. And such a study should be an integral part of any plan for preservation of historic sites in our city,

Danzansky's was the first Jewish funeral home in Washington to provide both preparation of the body and a sanctuary for religious service. It was also the longest surviving Jewish funeral home in the city.

Danzansky's is one of several Jewish institutions in the Nation's Capital founded and/or supported by Bernard Danzansky, a central figure in Washington's Jewish community.

Danzansky's is one of the few wxtant sites in Columbia Heights representing the Jewish community that migrated in a discrete time period from Downtown.

The Jewish community that is represented by Danzansky' was significant in the development of Washington.

The Committee of 100 supports the staff recommendation that the Board designate the Danzansky Funeral Home as a District of Columbia landmark, and forward the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The staff report and other supporting material demonstrate clearly that Danzansky's fulfills all the criteria for designation as of local significance. Places of largely cultural significance in Washington have only begun to be added to the Register. The building that was the setting for scores of thousands of Jewish Washingtonians to gather and share their feelings for those they lived their lives with, must be accorded the greatest possible care. A place on the National Register will be assure that its treatment will always be respectful.

Sincerely,

Don A. Hawkins, Chairman

C: Sally Berk
Tim Denee