

March 13, 2007

Dekalb County Board of Commissioners
1300 Commerce Drive, 6th Floor
Decatur, Georgia 30030

RE: Emory Village Proposed Zoning Overlay District

I am writing on behalf of Druid Hills' citizens concerned with the four-story overlay proposed for the Dekalb Druid Hills Historic District. The historic Emory Village is well known to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and we commend the Dekalb Historic Preservation Commission for their years of careful stewardship. We respectfully ask the Dekalb County Board of Commissioners adhere to HPC's tradition of design review and protect Emory Village from an ill-conceived proposal whose implementation will bring irreparable harm to an invaluable collection of historic resources.

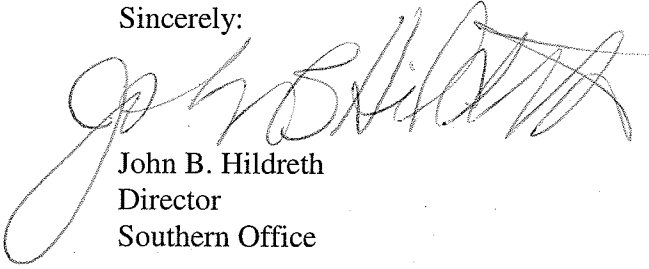
The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to protect the irreplaceable places that tell America's story. Staff at the Washington, D.C., headquarters, six regional offices and 26 historic sites work with the Trust's 270,000 members and thousands of preservation groups in all 50 states.

Emory Village represents an increasingly rare aspect of the American landscape, a human-scaled urban environment whose intertwined residential and commercial components work collectively to create a uniquely defined sense of place. Known throughout Atlanta for its pedestrian access and low-rise design, Emory Village is architecturally distinct – a vibrant area of the city attractive to residential and commercial investors alike. The implementation of the proposed overlay would permit development inappropriate to the Village, destroying the early 20th century rhythms of massing and scale which drew investors to the area in the first place. The National Trust respectfully requests the Dekalb County Board of Commissioners deny the overlay and instead seek a compromise which respects traditional design relationships and protects the Village's incomparable collection of cultural resources.

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Thank you for your time, and the kind consideration given these remarks. I, or members of my staff, are available for further assistance.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Hildreth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John B. Hildreth
Director
Southern Office