



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
c/o Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015
www.anc3e.org

Resolution Regarding Historic Landmark Application #09-06: **C&P Telephone Cleveland Emerson Exchange**

Whereas, ANC 3E lauds the goals of historic preservation both in the Tenleytown Area and across the District of Columbia. With those goals is the duty to be prudent and discriminating in nominating structures to be added to The National Register of Historic Places to avoid diluting the distinction that accompanies the listing; and

Whereas, prudence is also important because landmark status has adversely affected planning and execution of several neighborhood-serving construction and improvement projects including the Tenleytown Fire Station, Janney Elementary School, Wilson High School and the American University Tenley Campus project; and

Whereas, a finer example of the “Art Deco” style is already listed on the National Register. Specifically, the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company located at 730 12th Street NW which was also designed the firm of McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin Walker (System ID 88001112). Unlike the Emerson Exchange, this building has maintained its original style, unblemished by later additions of different architectural styles that disturb the architect’s original intent. While the Emerson Exchange is a relatively low and unadorned structure, utilitarian in its facade, the C&P Telephone Company building soars in height and is a visual delight of “Art Deco” details. This fact is reflected in its nomination, satisfying both Criterion A by being representative of the development of the C&P Telephone Company and Criterion C, being designed by the corporate architects for the Bell system, McKenzie, Voorhees & Gmelin Walker as well as being a noteworthy extant example of the “Art Deco” style. The Emerson Exchange in contrast, was one of the many subsidiary buildings constructed throughout the city to house local telephone switches, lacking most of the intricate design devices and ornately carved motifs as well as the exquisite ironwork apparent at 730 12th street; and

Whereas, ANC3E notes that Verizon, the owner of the building, may not have received proper notice of the nomination and an opportunity to opine inasmuch as the notice of pending nomination was sent to an incomplete address and referenced William Roberts, former president of Verizon, who retired in 2011. A copy may have also been sent to a P.O. Box in Texas where property tax bills are paid. and

Now, therefore, in recognition of these considerations, ANC 3E adopts the following resolution.

Resolved, ANC 3E does not support Historic Landmark Application #09-06: C&P Telephone Cleveland Emerson Exchange

The resolution passed by a vote of 5-0-0 at a properly noticed meeting held on November 11, 2016, at which a quorum was present, with Commissioners Bender, McHugh, Hall, Quinn, and Wallace in attendance.

ANC 3E

By Jonathan Bender, Chairperson