

JOHN MILNER ARCHITECTS, inc.

104 Lakeview Drive, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania 19317 • (610) 388-0111 • fax: (610) 388-0119
www.johnmilnerarchitects.com

Principals

John D. Milner, FAIA
Mary Werner DeNadai, FAIA
Christina H. Carter, AIA
Christopher J. Miller, AIA

Senior Associates

Edward P. Wheeler, AIA
Patrick S. McDonough, AIA
J. Scott O'Barr, AIA

August 25, 2011

Mr. Richard Chakejian
100 Commonwealth Drive
Spring City, PA 19475

Re: Pennhurst

Dear Mr. Chakejian:

I am writing to you to state my concerns about the proposed zoning changes that East Vincent Township is considering for the Pennhurst site and the negative impact that it will have on the feasibility for preservation of this important property.

My concerns come from over 35 years as a professional architect involved, primarily, with preserving historic structures, especially through the process of compatible re-use. This is also a very "sustainable" intervention and it has been vastly successful and achievable in most of our communities throughout the Country. I am, however, most concerned about protecting and preserving our heritage right here in Pennsylvania. To this end, I have represented the Commonwealth as a Trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Chaired the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's, Historic Preservation Board; served two terms as President of Preservation Pennsylvania; and as a member of the National Historic Landmarks Committee of the National Park Service. As you may be aware, Pennhurst is not only an eligible candidate for designation as a National Historic Landmark (of which there are only about 2,400 in the entire Country), but it is also being considered for inclusion on the World Monuments List. To sacrifice such an iconic resource should not fall on the shoulders of officials here in Chester County, needless to say.

The recent studies by Urban Partners and by the Community Design Collaborative justify careful consideration of a residential reuse of the historic core of the complex, in addition to other mixed use components on the site. With such supportive documentation as this, I am asking that you give serious thought to including a residential zoning component for the significant central core of the Pennhurst structures.

Very truly yours,

Mary Werner DeNadai, FAIA

cc: Chester County Planning Commission
Chester County Historical Preservation Network

Philadelphia Office

Crane Arts Stable • 1431 North Cadwallader Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122
(215) 763-8093 • fax: (215) 763-8098