

ARTHUR ERICKSON ARCHITECTURAL CORPORATION

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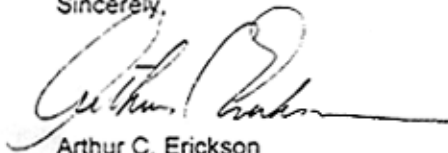
Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Services
1849 C Street, N.W., NC 400
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull,

I am writing regarding Richard Neutra's Cyclorama Building at the Gettysberg National Military Park. It is of concern to all architects and cultural historians that buildings of worth, especially those of landmark significance, require the attention and care that Landmark Designation would achieve for them. Neutra, whose significance as an architect was acknowledged by the award of the AIA Gold Medal, had little representative work in the Eastern States but in the West was a giant in influencing a whole generation of architects to design buildings in harmony with their environment. In this and the device of the extension of building planes into the landscape, he refined the vocabulary of Frank Lloyd Wright, his mentor. He was one of the few of Wright's disciples to break from his authority to develop a style uniquely his own. In turn, on a personal note, the great architect influenced me as an aspiring 17-year-old to follow in his footsteps – even to gaining the AIA Gold Medal in 1986.

In a monument as important as this, well established in the visitor's mind – the designation should not be deterred by its age. Age is of little consequence to significance. The Vietnam monument by Maya Lin is barely a decade old – but who would indifferently rebuild, relocate or otherwise change it? Historical monuments have integrity invested by the architect's devotion to a cause, well underlined by Neutra's letters about his observations and conceptions. Must the National Park Service, having been lauded for their wisdom in choosing a distinguished architect for a respected seminal monument now renege on that promising direction to follow old paths of mediocrity?

Sincerely,



Arthur C. Erickson