

October 17, 2000

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

I was very distressed to learn that the National Park Service is proposing to demolish Richard Neutra's Cyclorama Building. I don't doubt that you will hear many voices of protest against this action, and with this letter, I am registering mine.


Richard Neutra was one of the most important American architects during the Thirties, Forties, Fifties and Sixties of the last century, and he exercised enormous influence on the development of modern architecture worldwide. He was a man of extraordinary talent and vision, and he created buildings of great beauty and clarity.

His home was a mecca for young aspiring architects, and his influence on them, both by his works and his words, can be compared to the influence of that other great contemporary of his - Frank Lloyd Wright.

Unfortunately, he built mostly in the West, and we have but a few examples of his work in the East, of which the Cyclorama Building is surely the most important public building. To think that it would be destroyed and returned to a field in the name of Historic Preservation is preposterous.

Why is it that in a time when even the meanest and most derelict turn-of-the-century outhouse warrants consideration for historic preservation, a mid-century masterwork by one of America's leading architects can be destroyed to create a field? There are enough fields in Gettysburg. Let the building stand and continue to tell its glorious story.

Sincerely,



Kevin Roche
KR:rb

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