

Donna Selden
180 Gamewell Road
Silver Spring, MD 20905

Testimony

Preliminary Plan Hearing
Goddard School (Thomas Building) – Case #120090230

January 14, 2010

Good Morning,

My name is Donna Selden. I am Co-Chairman of the Sandy Spring Ashton Rural Preservation Consortium, but am speaking to you as a private citizen and member of the Gamewell Road Association.

I have lived in the area for 25 years and thus have seen many changes in the Ashton –Sandy Spring area. My husband and I have worked hard to preserve the rural historic nature of our community and feel the need to speak out against elements of the Goddard School (Thomas Building), Case Number 120090230.

My specific concerns are 1) the two story parking garage and 2) the massive size of the Thomas Building itself. The parking garage is not rural in character, comes too close to the adjoining townhouse community (within 50 – 60 feet), and will completely ruin the feel of the entire village if built as currently proposed. The Thomas building as shown is, again, just too big for the site. The square footage proposed drives the project to consume too many trees and too much land for parking to support its planned uses.

In closing, I would like to say that my neighbors and I are fiercely committed to this community and would like to re-state our commitment to the Master Plan and the Rural Historic Overlay that protects the rural historic village character of Sandy Spring.