



December 31, 2010

Leigh Ivey  
Communications Assistant  
National Trust for Historic Preservation.  
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 200

**Re: Hogan's Fountain Pavilion in Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY  
2011 America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Ms. Ivey:

I am writing on behalf of the Recent Past Preservation Network (RPPN), a national grassroots coalition working to develop greater public appreciation for historic buildings, structures and sites of the recent past, particularly those built during the last fifty years. Residents of Louisville, KY, recently contacted RPPN for support of their efforts to prevent the demolition of the Hogan's Fountain Pavilion in Cherokee Park (the Pavilion). After reviewing materials related to the history, design and significance of the Pavilion, RPPN has determined that it is worthy of preservation based on its association with the history of Cherokee Park and its architectural significance. Because the Pavilion is threatened with demolition by the Metro Parks Department and the Olmsted Parks Conservancy we are submitting this letter of support for nominating the Pavilion to the *2011 America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* list.

Louisville architect Edward Jacob Schickli, Jr. designed the Pavilion in 1964, and since that time it has become a local landmark and been the site of numerous community events, weddings and celebrations. The distinctive design of the Pavilion was specifically selected by the City of Louisville because it departed from the older, more traditional shelters located throughout the rest of Cherokee Park. Now, nearly fifty years after its construction, the Pavilion is significant in its own right as part of the history of the park. The unique form of the Pavilion appears to grow out of the site and is easily adapted for any number of uses. Supported by massive, curved laminated wood beams wrapped in metal and supported by stone abutments, the Pavilion is an excellent example of mid-twentieth century building technology and design principles. The detailing and form of the building are clearly influenced by the organic architectural forms popularized by architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1940s.

Ironically, one of the reasons now being presented for demolishing the Pavilion is that some feel it does not "match" the rest of the Cherokee Park facilities. Designed in 1892 by Frederick Law Olmsted, Cherokee Park is part of an impressive collection of public parks in Louisville. The current proposal, supported by the Metro Parks Department and

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the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, is to demolish the Pavilion and replace it with a new structure that is modeled on other nineteenth century park buildings in the city. This type of revisionist history will result in the loss of a legitimately historic structure and the construction of a new building that is supposed to look old. Ultimately, such actions degrade the overall historic integrity of Cherokee Park while ignoring the fact that cultural landscapes change over time. The importance of acknowledging the evolution of a historic property is clearly identified in Standards #3 and #4 of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

3. Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.

4. Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

It is clear to RPPN that preserving and rehabilitating the Pavilion for continued use is the appropriate course of action, and we support the citizens of Louisville who are working to prevent the demolition of the Pavilion. Advocating for the preservation of a structure that others may consider to be too young, too different or too deteriorated to be considered historic is an extremely difficult task. Inclusion of the Pavilion on the *2011 America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* list will be enormously beneficial, both in terms of raising awareness of the threat of demolition and legitimizing the efforts to save the Pavilion in the eyes of the general public and local officials.

On a larger scale, inclusion of the Pavilion on the 2011 list will highlight the plight of mid-twentieth century park facilities throughout the nation. Built in direct response to the population growth and increased visitation rates following World War II, many of these facilities are now approaching fifty years old, are in need of repair, and are not recognized being historically or architecturally significant. By highlighting efforts to save the Hogan's Fountain Pavilion in Cherokee Park, the National Trust for Historic Preservation can lay the groundwork for preserving other similar park structures throughout the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Colman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Devin A. Colman, President  
Recent Past Preservation Network