



S A V A N N A H   H I S T O R I C   D I S T R I C T  
B O A R D   O F   R E V I E W

January 23, 2019

Mr. Joseph Ervin, Board Chairman  
The Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission  
110 East State Street  
Savannah, GA 31401

Dear Mr. Ervin:

**Re: General Development Plan – 703 Louisville Road 18-006368**

As the Chairman of the Savannah Historic District Board of Review (HDBR), I am writing to express the Board's concern regarding the General Development Plan for 703 Louisville Road. Although the property is not within our purview and the building is not currently designated a landmark structure, we believe that the historic building on the site has intrinsic value to the Louisville corridor especially if this is to be considered a "gateway" project, and strongly oppose its demolition. Our structures outside of the City's historic neighborhoods have little protection except that of public opinion, and we would like to go on record as supporting the building's preservation.

Another element of concern with regard to the General Development Plan is the site plan's proximity to the Savannah and Ogeechee Canal, which is listed as a contributing district in the National Register of Historic Places. Although the City deeded the easement between the subject property and the canal to the project developer, the proposed design shows little regard or buffer to the canal, with a vehicular drive appearing to encroach upon its bank on the north side, with a "proposed canal wall within the canal R/W". We believe this encroachment threatens the integrity of this historic resource, and hope that the Board will not approve the site plan as presented.

We thank you for your consideration of our concerns as you evaluate this General Development Plan.

Sincerely,

Rebecca P. Lynch, AIA, Chairman  
Savannah Historic District Board of Review