



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

December 28, 1981

Councillor David A. Wylie
Chairman, Committee on Ordinances
Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Dear Councillor Wylie:

I write on behalf of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to record our enthusiastic support of the proposal of the Cambridge Historical Commission to establish under the Historic District Act a Fort Washington Historic District, consisting of Fort Washington Park and an additional area as described in the Commission's proposal as the Fort Washington Historic District.

M.I.T. welcomes this important and most appropriate step for the protection and preservation of this sole remaining fortification from the seige of Boston. This move is bound to enhance this historic old Fort and secure for it a more fitting future by giving the Fort much more of a public focus and attention.

As the principal owner of that part of the proposed historic district that is not part of Fort Washington Park itself, M.I.T. seconds the recommendation of the Cambridge Historical Commission without reservation. We pledge to make every reasonable effort, as we have in the past, to perserve the open line of sight from the Park to the Charles and thus continue to preserve this symbolic historic view. We hope ultimately in addition, and as a further enhancement of the area, that the Cambridge City Council will find it desirable to have the zoning around Fort Washington Park changed to permit residential use.

M.I.T. would agree that when the zoning had been so changed to landscape attractively and appropriately the land within 20 feet of the streets on either side of the Fort with grass, trees and shrubs, except for walkways to residential structures, and to keep the landscaping perpetually presentable -- and at least as presentable as

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that of the Fort itself-- and with respect to its land between the railroad tracks and Vassar Street, which has been recently cleared of buildings, to keep that proposed section of the District free of buildings and similarly landscaped if the City will recongize the cleared area as the front yard for buildings constructed on either side.

We present this possible addition to the current recommendation as a further future improvement of the Fort Washington Historic District and in no way as a qualification of our support of the Historical Commission's present proposal, which we urge the City Council to adopt.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Walter L. Milne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" being more prominent than the last name "Milne".

Walter L. Milne
Special Assistant

cc: Cambridge Historical Commission
Dr. Gray
Mr. Johnson

Comm. from Walter Milne, Special Asst., M.I.T.
regarding the proposed Fort Washington Dis-
trict.

In City Council,

January 18, 1982