

Despite the Landmark Committee's overwhelming support for the nomination, the Advisory Board refused to forward the recommendation on to the Secretary of the Interior. Of the twenty-one recommendations made by the Landmarks Committee to the Advisory Board during this session, only the Cyclorama Building vote was overturned. No explanation was given; the building was categorically denied NHL status with no review of relevant documentation or the nomination itself.

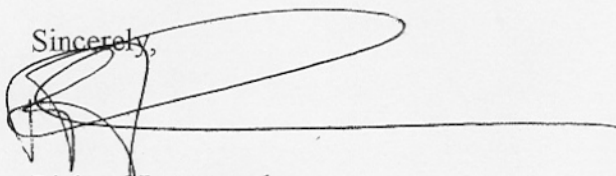
At the urging of the National Landmarks Committee, the Advisory Board reviewed its initial decision to deny NHL status to the Cyclorama Building. This process commenced after the publication of the Park Service study: *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (2000), which analyzes in depth the history of what are presented as the five most significant examples of the type, including the Cyclorama Building. Four of these were nominated for NHL status at the next meeting of the Advisory Board; only three were approved by the Board at that time. Citing inconclusive evidence, the Board once again refused to pass the Cyclorama Building nomination on to the Secretary of the Interior.

The failure of the National Park Service to recognize this building as a National Historic Landmark is without foundation. Furthermore, the loss of this building, which is scheduled for demolition in the foreseeable future, would constitute an impairment of the first order, in direct violation of the Park Service's stated mission.

Review of the nomination of the Cyclorama Building is justified on the basis of it being: 1) one of the most sophisticated, fully developed examples of the non-residential work of Richard Neutra, an international leader in modern architecture during the twentieth century; 2) a federal building of exceptional design distinction realized during the post-World War II period; 3) among the most ambitious and most distinctive examples of the first generation of visitor centers and one of only five (out of over one hundred) visitor center commissions awarded to prominent private-sector architects during the Mission 66 program; and 4) a major landmark of the Park, intended to impart the lessons of the battle and of the war to the challenges of world leadership during the Cold War. Furthermore, the building possesses a high degree of integrity. Though suffering from neglect, the building's fabric and site have sustained no significant alterations or additions since the dedication ceremonies in 1962.

The Society hereby requests that a full review of the NHL nomination be conducted and that the building be listed as a NHL based on the content of the nomination and the conclusions reached by the National Park Service in its own study of Mission 66 visitor centers.

Sincerely,



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