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[www.Landmarks.org](http://www.Landmarks.org)

July 8, 2021

(SENT VIA EMAIL)

Commissioner Mark Simon, Chair  
Evanston Preservation Commission  
Attention: Cade Sterling, City of Evanston

*RE: Proposed Landmark Designation for Second Church of Christ, Scientist, 2715 Hurd*

Dear Commissioner Simon,

Landmarks Illinois is in full support of the proposed Evanston Landmark designation of the Second Church of Christ, Scientist at 2715 Hurd.

In 2006, Second Church of Christ, Scientist, designed by the noted architecture firm Perkins & Will and built in 1946, was identified and documented in the Recent Past Survey of Suburban Cook County, which is an ongoing program and database co-administered by Landmarks Illinois and the School of the Art Institute's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation. A page dedicated to the church building can be found in the survey database on Landmarks Illinois' website.

We came to learn of the threat to the church building earlier this year and were very disappointed to learn that the potential purchaser was not willing to reuse the existing building. Its clean, modern expression of Classical Revival design makes it an excellent candidate for continued religious use for any denomination or to be reused for a community-oriented gathering space, educational and classroom space, performing arts space and multiple other reuses dependent on zoning. We also know of many successful examples of residential conversion of houses of worship.

Larry Perkins, architect and senior partner of Perkins & Will and life-long resident of Evanston, oversaw the design, concept, programming and construction of the building and acknowledged it as one of his firm's prominent Evanston projects.

I hope the Commission will agree the Second Church of Christ, Scientist meets criteria for landmark designation and is worthy of recognition and protection by the city of Evanston.

Sincerely,

Lisa DiChiera  
Director of Advocacy