

FRIENDS of the BARNES FOUNDATION

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Barnes Foundation Eligible for National Historic Landmark Status

(MERION – June 7, 2007) Friends of the Barnes Foundation has received the preliminary report, **National Historic Landmark Eligibility Overview Assessment**, prepared by Cultural Resources Consulting Group.

The report states:

"The Barnes Foundation Property is eligible for listing as a National Historic Landmark for its exceptional value as an unparalleled assemblage of the work of an exceptionally important American architect, manifest in a building purpose-built to house a remarkable art and object collection. This, in turn, was installed in site-specific locations in the building in order to accomplish the ground-breaking integrated education program which both manifested the thinking of and had the direct involvement of John Dewey. The character-defining features of the property include its buildings, arboretum, and art and object collections as installed, which have played a key role to the present in the educational program of the Foundation established at its inception in 1922. In its current state, the property retains the high level of integrity requisite for National Historic Landmark listing.

The Barnes Foundation Property is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History and Education for its association with the racially and gender-integrated, philosophy-based educational program of the Barnes Foundation, which preceded the vast majority of integrated education efforts throughout the country.

The Barnes Foundation Property is also nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an important work of the prominent architect Paul Cret.

The character-defining features and contributing elements of the property include the buildings, the arboretum landscape, and art and objects collections as installed, which have played a key role to the present in the educational program of the Foundation established at its inception in 1922.

The property retains all of the requisite aspects of integrity, including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association."

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