

Public comment regarding the nomination for
319 N. 19th St and 312 N. 18th St-
John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

Received by Philadelphia Historical Commission
February-March 2021

KATHERINE GILMORE RICHARDSON
COUNCILMEMBER, AT-LARGE

CITY HALL, ROOM 581
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www.phlcouncil.com/KatherineGilmoreRichardson/



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VIA EMAIL

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Emily Cooperman, Chair Committee on Historic Designation
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Ms. Cooperman,

I am writing to you today to offer my support for historic designation status for 319 N. 19th Street and 312 N. 18th Street, also known as John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School.

As you know, Philadelphia holds a prominent place in American history, including our nation's founding and movements for social equity, such as the abolition of slavery and the women's rights movement. However, we have also overwhelmingly recognized white male experience as the definition of history. As our City confronts this legacy in all its forms, it is crucial that we recognize the significant historical contributions of marginalized people. By designating Hallahan as a historic site, the Commission will be doing just that.

John W. Hallahan is the first all-girls Catholic high school in the country and is on the cusp of celebrating its 120th anniversary. Hallahan has graduated over 43,000 women of all backgrounds and faiths many of whom are industry leaders and public servants. The school was supported by Mrs. Mary McMichan, a woman who was active in business and a champion for her community. Her legacy lives on in all Hallahan women.

In addition to the historical importance of the school, the buildings are also architecturally significant. The school was built in 1911 and 1914, respectively, and the building at 319 N. 19th Street was designed by Ballinger & Perrot, whose work has a significant impact on our City's built environment. The architectural history that would be preserved through historic designation will allow for Philadelphians and visitors to our great City to learn about ecclesiastical buildings and their impact on urban development.

Finally, it is clear that Hallahan holds a special place in the hearts of its graduates, but it also offers significant value to our City. The story of its founding and the buildings' architecture illustrates important parts of our City's history overall, especially the 20th century immigrant experience, the history of the Catholic Church in America, and the movement for women's education. It is my hope that you will designate these buildings as historic, forever preserving these beautiful buildings and the important stories of Hallahan women.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Katherine Gilmore Richardson".

Katherine Gilmore Richardson
Councilmember, At-Large

March 2, 2021

Historical Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia PA

WE support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Kadelski 90'

FRIENDS of the HALLAHAN HIGH

After our Days at Hallahan, All of us will get separated from each other. We will miss our conversations walking the hallways of the Cathedral and Hallahan Buildings. Days Months and Years will pass until we rarely see each other. One Day, Our Children will see our photos and hear our stories and ask who are these people? We will smile invisible tears and say "it was with them and at Hallahan that I had the BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE"

Christie Cole 90'
Stacy Kadelski 86'
Ursula Sheehan- Kadelski 96'
Donna Cheeseman- Carr 87'
Rachel Bentz-Brown 89'
Raylene Arko Shelinsky 89'
Tara Brennan Dougherty 88'
Kathryn Blaney- Brown 97
Kathleen Sullivan 77'
Gerri (Sissy) Bryan 85'
Bridget Coleman Hanna 78'
Maryanne Coleman-Dougherty 68'
Denise Coleman 69'
Claire Coleman 71'
Patty Coleman-Maninski 73'
Terry Coleman Spiotto 85'
Patricia Henry Briscilla 78'
Suzanne Mansfield Mullin 78'
Debra Ditro 78'
Kathy King Gallagher 78'

Jackie Woltjen Hennessey
GiGi Magee Little 75'
Ann McGill 71'
Claire McGill Richery 83'
Maureen McGill Wilson 77'
Patty McGee Miller
Chris McGill 70'
Ann McFall Wilson 90'
Christine Booth 89'
Becky Bradley 91
Trisha Farrer 91'
Bridget Toman 92'
Dawn 92'
Roberta Ditro-Otto 74'
Karen Ditro-Panas 79'
Lisa Ditro-Hodge 80'
Tara Ditro-Ryan 90'
Kay Henry Schilling 76'
Maureen Henry 80'
Colleen Henry Keller 87'
Terry Callahan-Landy 71'
Maryann Callahan-Logan 66'
Kathleen Callahan-Duffy 68'
Bernadette Callahan-Yanni 73'
Barbara King-Killan 83'
Brenda Hesson 90'
Jean Marie Augustino-Farkas 88'
Kathleen Mansfield-Kates 71'
Nancy Mansfield-Kain 74'
Margaret Ann Mansfield 75'
Maureen Mansfield-McHugh 83'
Patricia Mansfield-Radomick 76
Meghan Livingstone-Tustin 99'
Roberta Hofheinz-Ditro 53'
Joyce Haas-Brown 72'
Donna Brown-Fisher 67'
Judy Brown-Sheedy 69'
Quinn Fisher-Olmor 97'
Molly Sheedy 09'
Sara Sheedy 10'
Regina Wilson 17'
Stacie Bryan- Gallagher 90'
Bridget Dougherty-Gentner 91'
Annette Bonner 90'

Maryann Bonner 88'
Gabrielle Cohen 88'
Heather Wodack 90'
Lisa Wodack 87'
Mary Beth Lederer 81
Darlene Mischer 89'
Kimberly Kalup 87'
Kathy Butler Dolan 88'
Michelle Wilk-McDermott 88'
Allison McDermott 17'
Emily McDermott 17'
Roseann Hoke 87'
Lisa Dructor 88'
Jennifer Mullen 88'
Monica Bryan- Bolli 83'
Maryann Grover- Groves 81'
Jennifer Rispo 91'
Dawn Malkowski 89'
Tina Stinson 89'
Jennifer Mansfield 89'
Rita Simonds 89'
Tracy Stine 89'
Maria Wikiera 90'
Christine Hefferon 90'
Kelly Newell 82'
Saramia Suarez 17'
Tricia Schmid 90'
Jeanine Post 82'
Kris Hall 90'
Sherry Post 86'
Lisa Post 90'
Jernarva Wilson 90'
Margaret Morris 90'
Dorothy Bryan 87'
Jennifer Geist 90'
Donna Guarracino 90'
Dr. Maureen Rielly Keller 90'
Maria Taccarone 90'
Celina Rosario 90'
Tracy Greco 90'
Ginny Lindline 88'
Lisa McLaughlin 88'
Candy Warren 85'
Denise Anderson 85'

Dorothy Gift 85'
Susan Kazmierczak 85'
Maggie Reilly 94'
Francine Clark 85'
Chris Sweeney 85'
Anna Pienkowski 88'
Gina Jackson 88'
Jackie Wright 88'
Kelly McNally 90'
Detra Atkinson 90'
Shannon Kelly 90'
Erin Kelly 91'
Kim Brennan 85'
Sandra Barton 85'
Sarah Graham 90'
Beth Galdo 95'
Amy Galdo 91'
Mary Dunbar 66'
Lisa Wood 86'
Regina Borner 86'
Catherine Ziska 85'
Christina Henry 90'
Kathleen Pettit 90'
Stacey McDevitt 88'
Liz Sienko 85'
Dawn Grant 90'
Rosanne Hoffman 66'
Peg McCool 54
Alessia McCool 24'
Jill Springsteen 86'
Patricia Hoffman Mills 81'
Margie Petacchio 63'
Joanne Capute Petacchio 93'
Rosie Neal 86'
Nely Arroyo 86'
Doreen Kozak 86'
Kim Westerfer 88'
Tiffany Hoffman 99'
Jenn Barry 92'
Rose Maguire 85'
Tara White 90'
Danielle Pote 90'
Colleen Golden 86'
Jackie Baker 86'

Marianne Butler 78'
Carol Franklin 77'
Kathy Dolan 89'
Jen Dolan 91'
Kimme Austin 86'
Megan Parson 86'
Kelly McCarron 86'
Jennifer Mieszek 90'
Cheryl Palusak 86'
Bridget Benner 97'
Jaime Kusen 01'
Nicole Orange 01'
Shannon Troupe 98'
Kelly McComb 99'
Sara Krier 99'
Kim Smith 99'
Melissa Anderson 99'
Amy Ladd 99'
Susan Becket 99'
Lorie Gallagher 99'
Tara Slevinski 99'
Deena Slevenski 97'
Michelle McCandles 97'
Nicole Meyer 99'
Jackie Swift 02'
Bridget Kane 99'
Kathy Kane 98'
Diane Lederar 85'
Tara Lagocki 96'
Colleen Lagocki 99'
Christina Swyzack 96'
Jennifer Swyzack 00'
Denise Swyzack 98'
Shena Cummings
Danielle Hart 99'
Maria Cruz 86'
Valarie Fennell 86'
Kate Marie Spera 17'
Patricia Riley
Donna Nucero 89'
Dorianne Hesson 96'
Tracy Paluba 89'
Cindy Goda 93'
Chrissy Bradley 87'

Amada Mino 91'
Sharon Weidenmiller 75'
Donna Weidenmiller 85'
Carolyn Keely 88'
Carol Pytel 90'
Jeanine Loglisci 90'
Jennifer McGovern 88'
Debbie Lewiski 86'
Mary Marliyah 86'
Lois Moleski 86'
Christina Hartnett 89'
Theresa Pinkett 90'
Linda Bianco 88'
Kellie Woodard 86'
Debbie Reynolds 96'
Kerri Shank 96'
Mary Cain 96'
Donna Hamilton 96'
Amy Sodos 96'
Stacey Zemzack 00'
Katie McKinley 98'
Jackie O'Rielly 02'
Rose O'Brien 02'
MaryKate Kilpatrick
Angela Carbone 98'
Susan Becker 99'
Joan Becker 97'
Cathy Curran 90'
Patricia Rosario 85'
Cindy Reda 89'
Lisette Delgado 86'
Linda Bernek 89'
Kristie Trost 91'
Danielle Kiesling 90'
Donielle Naulty 86'
Dee Davis 88'
Sue Wood 88'
Dorothy Toner 88'
Brigid Lavin 01'
Carol Anderson 89'
Nicole McCloskey 90'
Mallory Gorham 01'
Tara Lavin 04'
Lene Lavin 06'

Helene Sinclair 07'
Tamisha Trinnell Lewis 90'
Yolanda McBride 86'
Milissa Gift 86'
Dolores Waclawski 88'
Joanne Farley Cunningham 69'
Denise Cole 91'
April Mills 86'
Cheryl Hodolitz 86'
Mary Hackney 86'
Lisa Edinger 90'
353
Kathy Hadden 86'
Kolleen Loughlin 86'
Valerie Wilmer 86'
Tricia Carey 92'
Pat Harvey 76'
Sue Zimmerman 86'
Nicole Micenec 90'
Donna Post 83'
Michelle Lugs 97'
Kelly Mahon 77'
Deana Slevenski 97'
Lauren Patterson 89'
Susan McCloskey 67'
Lisa Micenec 82'
Cathy Micenec 81'
Alice McFeeley
Cheryl Direso
Marykate Kirkpatrick
Mary Mags
Megan Dowling 97'
Claire Lederar 88'
Catherine Micenec 56'
Nicole Kiesling 87'
Jeanine Graff 90'
Michelle Hession 90'
Diane Kotarba 90'
Maureen Malone 92'
Gina Guidice Haber 92'
Karen McBride 92'
Bridget Stolzer 92'
Jennifer Crumley
Stephanie Capocci 92'

Michelle Camiel 89'
Kim Martin 89'
Karen Anna 89'
Bridget Naulty 84'
Patricia Campbell Quigley 55'
Sr Ida Nicholas 45'
Sue Camiel 90'
Doreen Lelionis 90'
Kate Bailey 93'
Colleen Ash 87'
Joanne Miller 85'
Joanne McGinley 88'
Karen Marco 89'
Remona Law 89'
Gina McFall 02'
Michelle McFall 95'
Colleen Nester 90'
Anne McFall 70'
Noelle Wilson 20'
Karen Bottomley 89'
Betsy Lang 89'
Christina Johnson 94'
Denise Sparks 98'
Lisa Kayy
Mary Ann Buschka 88'
Denise Stanley 88'
Jennifer Graham 88'
Natalie Fox
Marybeth Fox 90'
Lisa Deleo 86'
Kim Ferretti 83'
Frances Gladys 15'
Carol Neal 77'
Lucy Neal 79'
Anna Neal 82'
Laura Neal 87'
Theresa Neal 88'
Megan Hoffman 86'
Kim Neal 88'
Sandy O'Brien 86'
Karen Loughlin 77'
Kelly Ann Collins 90'
Shelly Fitzgerald 90'
Christina Johnson 94'

Marylou Wellein 74'
Anne Wellein 55'
Sue Cerwonka 91'
Jennifer Dzielinski 89'
Judy Dzielinski 69'
Chis Yancer 94'
Kim Collins 84'
Amanda Dolan
Marisa Murphy
Catherine Whatley 64'
Francine Whatley 69'
Beth Owens 90'
Belinda Desher 90'
Belinda Dillenback 90'
Melissa Hart 90'
Donna Lee 86'
Jill Springsteen 86'
Arlicia Payne 86'
Anita Hegarty 86
Geri Devlin 57'
Denise Hall 80'
Christie Bryan 00'
Jill Bryan 01'
Margaret Testa
Arnita DeShields
Jeannette Marks
Julie Newman 91'
Maria Surba 92'
Annemarie Bryan 85'
Virginia Price 87'
Elsie Shaw
Kim Shaw 89'
Alexis McHale 03'
Diana Chan 89'
Theresa Gallagher 88'
Kelsey Broadbent 16'
Jillian Murray 02'
Cheryl Miles 89'
Karen Keough 95'
Kaia Keough 23'
Mary Heiler 01'
Anne Brehony 75'
Joanne Cashman 77'
Sophia Tarpey 19'

Barbara Starrett 88'
Rita Skarbek 68'
Carrie Bannon 96'
Emma Bannon 23'
Rene Ritchie 22'
Jenn Glenn 90'
Kelly McCarron 86'
Kathy McCarron 88'
Jeanette Sanger 86'
Linda Puchalski 69'
Michelle Armstrong 87'
Michelle Graff 87'
Chris Gindhart 91'
Angie Matthews 88'
Michelle Noll 88'
Tracy Kahlert 89'
Anita Perseo 90'
Tara White 90'
Kelly Thurman 90'
Kathy Howley 90'
Tracy Jonas 90'
Michelle Leigh 86'
Beata Stypulkowska 93'
Meg Newsome 99'
Nancy Collins 90'
Gina O Shaughnessy 86'
Emily Gailbraith 13'
Justine Gonzalez 13'
Chris Kulb 87'
Maryann Reda Geist
Delores Reda
Jane Freiling
Melanie Paulik 90'
Regina McCann 88'
Nichole Pomroy 89'
Marybeth Gindle 90'
Alberta Prem
Ann Marie Brown
Colleen Milligan 91'
Michele Igielski 90'
Karen Bond 90'
Mei Ling Wong 90'
Tara Lagocki Maines 96'
Maryann Brady 60'

Nancy Hones O'Connor 66'
Jenn Bass 86'
Margaret Velasquez 86'
Capucine Morris France 86'
L'Tanya Marl
Patricia O' Neill
Dornetta Cone 86'
Toni Scott 86'
Sherry Cheryl Long 86'
Nancy Butterly 86'
Agnes Cavalcante 86'
Janine Solley 86'
Joanne Abel 84'
Sueann Abel 86'
Geraldine Abel 61'
Deborah Ryan 86'
Tracy Ann Ehasz 86'
Suzanne Boyle 86'
Stephanie Gill 86'
Kathy Patterson Evans 86'
Calista Lewis 86'
Michele Jamson 86'
DeShall Hill 86'
Lisa Gauthier 86'
Joanne Bernard 86'
Nancy Kowolik 88'
Kecia Burroughs 90'
Cheryl Kern 90'
Keisha Rowland 90'
Lisandra Gonzalez 90'
Michele Gallagher 86'
Trish Welte 86'
Beth McDermott 86'
Nancy Krier 90'
Roslyn LeMay 88'
Nancy Kowolik 88'
Monque White 88'
Tracy Rhoades 88'
Joan Bailey Burke 74'
Nicole Arnold 89'
Lennelle Johnson 89'
Gina Farabelli 89'
Lisa Ciampaglia 89'
Jacqueline Spino 88'

Regina Malfara 89'
Lisa McGuigan 89'
Kris Carr 89'
Jessica Maugle 12'
Michelle Hettel 89'
Debra Radaszkiewicz 86'
Elizabeth Wright 86'
Ann Marie Dalesandro 86'
Kim Murray 86'
Amy Craven 86'
Denise Fulmer 73'
Barbara Spiotto 82'
Katie Weidenmiller 81'
Sharon Plumley 88'
Patricia Sexton 02'
Lisa Maloney 90'
Patricia Mansfield 76'
Mary Mansfield 81'
Maureen Gallagher 88'
Rachel Bentz 89'
Joanne Shane 90'
Bernadette Zotter 88'
Collette Schmidt 89'
Kathleen Schmidt 80'
Megan Parson 86'
Maura Rafter 86'
Leslie Porter 81'
Elizabeth Booth
Brice Franklin 20'
Alyssa Franklin 21'
Bernadette Zotter 58'
Patty Lederer 84'
Denise Veasey
Mary Kate Parson 88'
Betsy Parson 95'
Maureen O' Connor 81'
Nancy Ayala 88'
Karen Wikeria 88'
Tina Lee 88'
Dana Giangreco 93'
Kara Linus 88'
Helen Sebvda Sullivan 71'
Yvonne Marie Sullivan 90'
Colleen Mullen 91'

Kim McKeage 91'

Monica Noyce 89'

Maureen Appleman 88'

Marcia Appleman Bridges

Maureen Jones Appleman

Sue O'Connor 86'

Theresa Fink 98'

From: Denise Baron <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:41 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Lisa Kahuila
Subject: First Institution of its kind in US - Pope Pius X sends stone to Philadelphia
Attachments: Screen Shot 2021-01-19 at 12.23.32 PM.PNG; Screen Shot 2021-01-19 at 12.14.44 PM.PNG; Screen Shot 2021-01-30 at 9.57.53 AM.PNG; Screen Shot 2021-01-30 at 9.57.41 AM.PNG; Screen Shot 2021-01-26 at 7.43.03 AM.PNG

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Dear Allyson

Thank you for considering John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School historical application.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School building is substantial in size with a dignified design of simplicity. Everyone involved with building our school had the farsighted for the mental and physical well-being of the 20th century young woman.

JWH was the "first institution of its kind in the US" per the Philadelphia Sunday Morning paper back in 1911.

The cornerstone of Milanese granite was blessed and presented by Pope Pius X. On one side is a monogram of the Greek letters Alpha and Omega which passes across on the other side dated 1911 with a symbol of a cross on each side.

The Holy Father's gift was a public acknowledgement at his approval of the work which is being done in Philadelphia for the cause of Catholic education. 6,000 people came out in the rain for the laying of the cornerstone on October 1, 1911.

Did you know that a metallic box was placed in the cornerstone?

Sealed in the cornerstone was a metallic box containing a suitable inscription commemorative to the event. Various articles were placed in the corner stone and sealed including a diocesan centennial metal badge worn by the school pupils, medals of the patron saints of the order that will teach in the school and the official program and description of the escutcheon of the school. Among the articles including a copy of the Catholic Standard and Times and clippings from daily papers relating to the event and coins of the United States state at 1911.

Besides the building being blessed by two Saints (St. John Neumann and St. Pius) Great detail, time and research went into selecting inspiring women for the outside of the building.

The names of the women inscribed on the building were chosen carefully.

Saint Cecilia patron of music

Saint Helena foundress of churches

Saint Brigid of Ireland First Woman educator Saint Gertrude lover of books Saint Margaret of Scotland promoter of Christianity Saint Elizabeth of Hungary devoted to the poor Joan of arc Saint & patriot Isabella of Castile Friends of Columbus Vittoria Colonnade patron of art Saint Teresa seraph of Spain Margaret Roper model daughter Saint Rose of Lima rose of the southern cross Katerina Tekawitha Lily of the Mohawks

Our school building is more than a landmark it a place that has educated 37,000 women in the City of Brotherly Love founded by a generous pioneering woman who empower young women.

I am writing on behalf of my sister Diane Baron Regalbuto Class of 1995, my niece, Antonia Regalbuto Class of 2014 and myself Class of 1985 as well my late grandmother Elizabeth McCullough who attended Hallahan High School.

Super Gratitude

Denise Baron

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Anna Sabine Cress <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Letter to the Alumni about saving Hallahan

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[Letter to Hallahan High](#)

Dear Hallahan Alumni,

Thank you very much for your efforts to save the Hallahan building. It means a lot to me to see the alumni come together and try to save and protect our school. The building is important to so many people and I'm glad we can try to save it. All my memories from all four years at this school are written in these walls and it would be a shame to see it get teared down. I met my closest friends in this building, and I want the same for other girls. This building represents Hallahan's sisterhood and the bonding we have here. Each little quirk or blemish has a story from a Hallahan girl or teacher. The building shows our story, as a community. You can't replace that or destroy it. Hundreds of girls have walked this hallaway, becoming the women they are today. You can't replace it. It's too important, thank you so much for your efforts!

Best,

Sabine

Allyson Mehley

From: Rita Miziorko [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Friends of Hallahan; Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan C.G.H.S. Nomination to Philadelphia Register of Historic Places
Attachments: Silver Sands 1938 Hallahan as The Hub.jpg; Silver Sands 1938 Hallahan as The Hub text.jpg

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Dear Ms. Mehley and Friends of Hallahan,

Thank you for all you are doing to save our historic and beloved Hallahan. As I paged through the Silver Sands Yearbook for the Class of 1938, I thought that you might want to see what the members of that class thought of the importance of Hallahan's legacy and location. My Mother was a proud member of that class.

After more than 80 years, it seems that we may need to honor the wishes of these women as they stated:
"...We the Class of '38, with justifiable pride present a Hallahan ready by reason of tradition and reputation to take its place among the celebrated edifices that face on Philadelphia's historic Parkway. May future generations know her and revere her as we do!"

Sincerely,
Rita McCloskey Miziorko Class of 1967
In Memory of Rita Winters McCloskey Class of 1938

Allyson Mehley

From: Rounbehler, Nancy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:41 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Cc: nrounbehler@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School
Attachments: HH ltr 3.2.21.pdf

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MRS. NANCY M. ROUNBEHLER
450 ORIOLE STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19128
215-482-0588
E-MAIL: NROUNBEHLER@GMAIL.COM

VIA E-MAIL: allyson.mehley@phila.gov;
friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

March 2, 2021

Historic Preservation Planner
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Philadelphia Historical Commission
311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Sirs:

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated a historic building.

Sincerely,
NANCY M. ROUNBEHLER
Class of 1983

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February 25, 2021

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to implore you to grant the J. W. Hallahan Building Historical Designation. Like so many of my Hallahan sisters, I spent the most remarkable 4 years of my life in that building. 40+ years later, the friendships that I forged at Hallahan remain the strongest and most important to me. I often reflect on the good times with classmates, but had to put some thought into the importance of the building.

When I think about the physical structure, what always comes first to my mind is the floors. This may sound odd, but it is true. They are smooth and worn to a shine by the feet of thousands of funky-clad feet. When we had one of our reunions at the school a few years back, that was what struck me as most familiar for some reason. Floors of corridors and classrooms that were walked upon by my mother and her friends before me. Floors that echo the lessons, prayers, songs and laughter of generations of young women.

At 13, I was in awe of how “big” the building was, how confusing to get from one place to the next. How unique the combination of the “Hallahan” and “Cathedral” buildings was, they seemed like one to me! Of course, it would be considered tiny by today’s standards for high school campuses. However, all that we needed existed within the walls of what may seem to “outsiders” to be an unassuming building. Yet, that building looms large in my memories. To this day, when traveling in to and out of Center City, my gaze is drawn always to Hallahan. It is part of the impressive cityscape, nestled among the Cathedral, the Library, the Family Court building, the Franklin Institute, our beloved Fountain and the neighborhood that surrounds them. It evokes the same feelings of familiarity, joy, contentment and happiness that I feel when I drive down the street of my childhood home.

It may seem difficult for some to comprehend how significant that building is to so many. Historically, the building has represented the “home” and starting point of the futures of countless girls and has provided safe haven for them as they grew into women and set out to change the world in countless ways...some big,

some small, but all as part of an incredible and supportive family. For over 100 years this building has stood as a monument/testament to the excellence of a Catholic education and the importance of the development of a support system. The building is significant to the City of Philadelphia as well and needs to be afforded Historical Designation and should remain as the standard bearer for the development of strong, compassionate women, as formidable as the building itself and those time-worn floors that have supported so many dreams and aspirations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Beth (Friel) Snyder

Class of 1978

February 28, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 1959 graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. When I heard of our school closing, I actually sat down and cried.

I spent the four years of my life at Hallahan learning to be a better woman in many ways. Not only my academic learning, but also my Religious beliefs were strengthened.

Please reconsider this decision to close the First Catholic Girls High School in the country. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Judith Schiazza Longo

February 28, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 1986 graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School and the second in my family to attend along with my sister, class of 1990. Believing that our school should be worthy of the distinction of being named a historical building in an understatement. John W Hallahan has paved the way for so many women academically as well as religiously.

The loss and closure of my school hits me personally. "Sisterhood" is probably the word I would use to best describe my experiences during High School, a place where I made life long friends. The four years of Hallahan were some of the happiest day of my life.

The long standing tradition among a diverse population is what makes Hallahan great. Located in Center City there is great advantages for students to explore and develop interests outside the classroom.

Please consider John W Hallahan worthy of being named a Historical builing.

Sincerely

Marybeth Longo Sgrillo
Class of 1986

Patricia Vizzard Malloy



To Whom it may concern:

I attended John W. Hallahan, as a freshman in September 1967; a 13 year old little kid from North Philadelphia. I belonged to Corpus Christi parish located at 28th & Allegheny. It was the first time that I had to take a bus to school; let alone to Center City.

Hallahan drew girls from many areas of Philadelphia; parishes that I had never heard of were feeder schools to Hallahan. Girls from North Philadelphia, Port Richmond, Fishtown, Kensington attended Hallahan. Some of my closest friends, to this day, I met at Hallahan.

Over the years, there have been many changes in our city, in society and our church which led to the fabric of our school.. Feeder parishes to our school were closed which contributed to the reduction in enrollment. When enrollment declines, tuition rises; without financial help (you guessed it) other options must be considered.

When I learned the AOP decided to close "my school", it felt like a kick in the gut. The FIRST Catholic Girls' High School in the country was being canceled out by our church leaders. Yes, the school rests on valuable property; however, the central location to most neighborhoods is what makes this school (where it stands) so special. There are many theories about the reasoning of the AOP; the fact that the AOP will not give an audience to our sisters causes me to wonder what is going on.....

This building and the many treasures within it is more than worthy of attaining historical status.

Please vote in favor to give our school building historical status.

Sincerely,

Patricia Vizzard Malloy
Class of 1971

Jennifer Smith



March 1, 2021

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

To Whom It May Concern,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. I am an alumna of Hallahan, Class of 1996. I believe it is very unjust what the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is doing.

Jennifer Cohen Smith

March 1, 2021

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: 311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,
Lori McCormick
Class of 1993

Also supported by heirs of Kristen McCormick Drueding, Class of 1994



Henry M. Miziorko, Ph.D.
Emeritus Professor of Molecular Biology & Biochemistry
previously Marion-Merrell-Dow Missouri Professor
School of Biological Sciences

February 28, 2021

To: The Members of the Committee on Historic Designation of the Philadelphia Historic Commission

I would like to support the application of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School for Nomination to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

Criterion A in the application for nomination states that the Historic resource “has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past.” It is of great significance that more than 110 years ago Hallahan was established as the first Diocesan Catholic Girls High School in the United States. It was seen as such a significant development that Pope Pius X sent the cornerstone from Rome. Educating young women from the working classes was a significant step in the development of our nation. Over the years since, more than 40,000 young women have graduated and exercised influence over several generations of Philadelphians as members of the legal, medical, scientific, educational and artistic professions.

Criterion E of the application states that the building must be the work of an architect who has significantly influenced the historical, cultural etc. development of the city, commonwealth or nation. It has been well established that the firm of Ballinger and Perrot substantially fulfill that criterion not just with the significance of designing the first Catholic Girls High School in the United States but also with their work on several college and university campuses around the country.

As someone who was born in Philadelphia and educated at St. Joseph’s Preparatory School, St. Joseph’s University and The University of Pennsylvania, I encourage the members of the Committee on Historic Designation of the Philadelphia Historic Commission to grant the Historic Designation to Hallahan.

The Logan Circle/Parkway area of Philadelphia presents many fine examples of municipal architecture. The John W. Hallahan C.G.H.S. building with its exterior architectural attention to detail complements the other structures in the area and should be preserved for its historic importance. As an educational institution uniquely located in the midst of Philadelphia’s museum district, Hallahan should be supported and preserved for future generations.

Thank you,

Henry M. Miziorko, Ph.D.

3/1/21

Dear Ms. Mehley,

My wife, Georgine DeFusco-Fronczak has attended John W. Hallahan (C.G.H.S) and graduated in 1993. I myself, am a graduate of Roman Catholic High School, also in 1993. We hope that you will consider making Hallahan a part of the Historic Preservation Society. Hallahan is Roman's sister school and is so important to the city of Philadelphia. My mom and sisters have also graduated from Hallahan and I have always known of Hallahan growing up in the Port Richmond section of Philadelphia. To me, it is only a natural step for Hallahan to be named as a historical building in the City of Philadelphia.

Thank you,

Edward Fronczak
Roman Catholic High School
Class of 1993

3/1/21

Dear Allyson,

Please consider making Hallahan a part of the Historical Society of Philadelphia. Hallahan is so special to so many and it has earned this honor. I graduated with the Class of 1990 and I have so many memories of Hallahan. I would never trade my experiences at Hallahan for anything in the world. My family went to Hallahan and the fact that the Archdiocese has decided to close Hallahan is heart breaking. Please honor our beautiful building and the history it holds by making it a part of the Historical Society. Please honor Mary Hallahan McMichan; she has put so much work into starting this school. I hope you and the Historical Society will consider putting Hallahan on the Historical register.

Sincerely,

Heather DeFusco-Takakjy
Class of 1990

Jennifer M. Coffey

March 1, 2021

Philadelphia Historic Commission
Committee on Historic Designation
Delivered by email: allyson.mehley@phila.gov

Dear Sirs and Madams:

I write to you in support of the designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. I am a proud Hallahan graduate of the class of 1994.

Founded in 1901 and located at 19th and Wood St since 1911, Hallahan is the oldest Archdiocesan Catholic Girls' School in the country and the oldest continuously operating girls' school in the great City of Philadelphia. Founded with the mission of educating the daughters of immigrants, Hallahan has secured unparalleled status in our nation's history prioritizing the importance of educating young women years before women finally won the right to vote in 1919. Hallahan's living values of educating the daughters of Philadelphia's diverse population lives today with approximately 28 percent Black, 10 percent Latina or Hispanic, and five percent Asian student body.

The Hallahan High School buildings, connected by an internal pedestrian bridge, are architectural examples of early 20th century design that are too quickly disappearing from our Nation's and City's landscape. The buildings are of stone and brick construction, include elements of Greek Revival Architecture with Corinthian Capitals and stained glass accents as well as inlays memorializing women of historical note. The buildings are a rarity, even among the storied and well-preserved City of Brotherly Love, and their character is described at length in the historical application.

I appeal to you, at the beginning of Women's History Month, to please support the inclusion of the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places so that generations to come may remember Philadelphia's leadership in women's education. As you may know, the Archdioceses has announced their intent to close the school. While independent efforts are on-going to save the school, I ask you to please take action now to save this historical place and prevent the potential demolition of Philadelphia's still living history embodied in the buildings that sit on property estimated in the realtor multiple listing services (MLS) at \$40 million.

Thank you for your service.

My sincerest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jennifer M. Coffey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jennifer M. Coffey

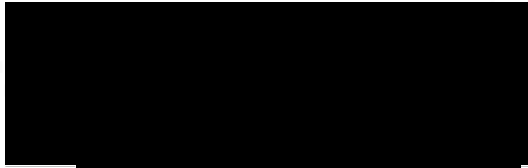
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

I support John w. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated
Historic.

Thank you,

Laura Warneck Gartner
Hallahan Class of 1968

Jean Marie Connors



February 19, 2021

Friends of Hallahan
PO Box 5826
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Attn: Historical Designation

Dear Friends:

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter upon hearing the news that our beloved John W. Hallahan Catholic High School for Girls is going to be closed. I attended Hallahan after my sisters, mom, cousins and aunts attended. It was a tradition in our family. To graduate from the first catholic girls' high school, was a honor! Wow, we were so lucky!

If this must end, I would hope that the beautiful building where Hallahan has resided for so long could be preserved as historical. The amazing brick work and windows alone are just amazing.

I truly appreciate the efforts by the many alumni and current students along with their parents who are taking the charge on this endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jean Marie Connors".

Jean Marie Connors
Class of 1985

Donna Moy

February 22, 2021

Friends of Hallahan
P.O. Box 5826
Philadelphia, PA 19128

To whom it may concern,

My name is Donna Moy. I am a proud graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School Class of 1985. I had the distinct honor of serving as the President of my Senior Class. It breaks my heart to hear of Hallahan's closing at the end of this school year.

When I started at Hallahan in September of 1981, Hallahan opened its doors to many young ladies across the City of Philadelphia from all neighborhoods from west in Roxborough, south from South Philadelphia, north to Fairmount and North Philadelphia, east to Chinatown, Fishtown, Kensington and Port Richmond. One would think there would be race and neighborhood rivalries; but in all my years at Hallahan, I have never witnessed that rivalry. Instead, I observed a sisterhood that did not see differences in skin color and neighborhood rivalries; but embraced and valued the good in each young lady who walked the halls of Hallahan. I firmly believe Hallahan instilled in each of us to focus on the good in every person and not our skin color. Because of this, I am grateful to Hallahan for helping me make and sustain life-long friendships.

Now more than ever, we need Hallahan to remain open and to instill these same values in the young ladies who walk these hallowed halls. If enrollment does not support keeping the school open, the school building itself should be listed as an historic building as the First Catholic Girls' High School in the Nation. That is a very profound fact. That fact in and of itself should automatically designate Hallahan as an historic landmark.

At the turn of the 20th century, it was realized there was an urgent need for equality in Catholic education for women. It may not have been called "Equality" back then; but Hallahan was part of a new revolution for women. In this day and age of "Cancel culture", we must not allow Hallahan to be cancelled and our rich history to be erased. Without Hallahan, the other branches of Catholic high schools not only in the Philadelphia, but Catholic high schools in every city, in every state, across this great country will lose their roots and history.

Please designate Hallahan an historic building to preserve our rich history.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna Moy

Donna Moy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
March 1, 2021

Historic Preservation Center
Philadelphia Historic Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To Whom It May Concern:

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rita DiCicco

March 1, 2021

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
RE:
311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

Dear Historical Commission Members:

My name is Anna Marie Dalesandro-Beech and I'm a proud graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School Class of 1985. I am writing today in support of this wonderful school to be designated historic. I have had the opportunity to create an educational foundation in support of six schools within the school district of where I live in West Newbury, Massachusetts. As part of that work, I spent two years touring schools primarily high schools within several different states. Never in all of that time has any school been as beautiful and have a storied past that is equivalent to the John W. Hallahan High School. The many architectural elements along with the history has rightfully earned its place not only for Philadelphia history but for the United States in general.

I would ask that you strongly consider this request as it would also bring great meaning not only for the current students but for the 40,000 strong alumnae that have walked and lived in those halls. If the walls could talk a 1000-page manuscript could readily be published. Hallahan has always been a true community partner to the City of Philadelphia and many of the graduates have gone on to successful careers within the city and beyond. They have also been able to support many charitable causes within the city as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this request as I can see no better use for this building than education and being able to educate future generations of women for many years to come while preserving the many beautiful architectural elements!

Sincerely,

Anna Marie Dalesandro-Beech

February 25, 2021

Dear Ms.Mehley:

I am a proud alumna of the class of 1960 and first generation in my family to attend John W. Hallahan. Both my daughters graduated Hallahan in 1985 & 1987. I am writing to you because I firmly believe that John W. Hallahan High school is worthy of the distinction of being named a historical building.

I am 78 years old and still meet with my Hallahan sisters every month. Hallahan alumni bonds are stronger than any other school I know. I believe this is rooted in the strong catholic faith and values bestowed on the girls during their high school years.

Hallahan's location in the heart of Philadelphia provides a diverse culture like no other. It allows young girls from all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds to come together and grow together. This provides a unique opportunity for young ladies of different races and backgrounds to share their cultural through learning and education.

Please consider the importance of our country's first all-girls catholic high school. Its history, values, traditions, and most importantly its sense of sisterhood is needed more than ever to educate & empower young girls of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Let the blue and the White... In their radiant light: Alma Mater Glorify... Alma Mater Glorify!!!!

Sincerely,
Kathleen Linus, Class of 1960

On behalf of my family
Christina Linus, Class of 1985
Kara Linus Wall, Class of 1987

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. To me, it's the duty of the commission to preserve this school, rich in history, located in the city of Philadelphia, the birthplace of America. We are the original that all other Archdiocesan all girls' high schools have been modeled. The historical significance of the building has been shown. The traditions such as our end of the year fountain jump draw families, tourists and the press every year.

Hallahan has brought together a diverse student population from all over the city and taught young women tolerance of different races and cultures. This is so needed, especially in today's world. Hallahan provides an environment where all voices are heard.

Philadelphia was the home to the first zoo, library, hospital and fire company. Philadelphia, the city of neighborhoods, NEEDS to remember that Hallahan, too, is one of the firsts and should never be closed or forgotten. It's city of future female leaders depends on it!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, (three generations of graduates)

Barbara McGonagle ,63
Kristen McGonagle MacPherson '88
Jennifer Stankiewicz '21

Angela Quinn

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3/1/2021

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

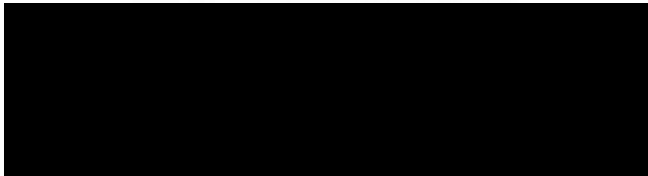
Re: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia PA

To Whom It May Concern:

I support John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,
Angela Quinn

MRS. NANCY ROUNBEHLER



VIA E-MAIL: allyson.mehley@phila.gov;
friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

March 2, 2021

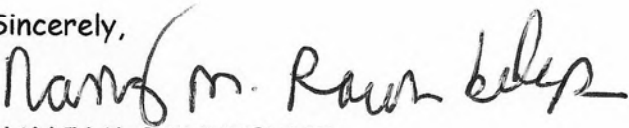
Historic Preservation Planner
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Philadelphia Historical Commission
311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Sirs:

I strongly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated a historic building.

Sincerely,



NANCY M. ROUNBEHLER
Class of 1983

March 1, 2021

Dear Ms.Mehley:

I am a proud alumna of the class of 1998 and second generation in my family to attend John W. Hallahan. My mother is a graduate of 1969 and my sister is a graduate of 2001. I am writing to you because I firmly believe that John W. Hallahan High school is worthy of the distinction of being named a historical building. Hallahan should be recognized as the "Crown Jewel" of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Hallahan sisters share a bond like no other. Their union is rooted in the memories made inside the walls of the school that is strengthened by its history. It is not uncommon for Hallahan alumni of all ages, culture and background to come together and reminisce of their cherished moments in the years they spent there. Often my friends talk of how lucky we are to have received a strong catholic education by some of the most amazing nuns and teachers. Women across generations and of all races share stories of their favorite nun, educator, administrator, cafeteria worker and maintenance staff. EVERYONE that walked those halls is connected by the spirit of Hallahan.

I can't say I know many other graduates that will break into song when they discover another Hallahan sister is in the same room. It doesn't matter if you just met them or if you walked the halls the same years; every woman that wore that blue uniform and saddle shoes has a connection.

The conversation will start off with ... "What year did you graduate?" "Did you have Sister Ida... Sister Margaret Mary... Sister Katherine?" ... "What about Ms. Biello... Anisko... Lockhead...Lobo... Mr. Gambone... Dr. Luschiecki?" "Did you ever jump in the fountain?" "Do you remember who your big sisters were for Hallahan Day?" ... "What year did your mom graduate?" "Were your classes in the Cathedral building or Hallahan building?" Just about every generation has the same memories and traditions to share. Before you even realize, you're sitting at a birthday, graduation or general celebration singing along, with fellow Hallahan sisters, to the greatest alma mater ever written. I smile and feel a sense of warmth when I recall the many times I proudly sang *"O girls of the Hallahan High.... O girls of the Hallahan High... Let the blue and the White... In their radiant light: Alma Mater Glorify... Alma Mater Glorify!!!!"*

Please consider the importance of our country's first all-girls catholic high school. Its history, values, traditions, and most importantly its sense of sisterhood is needed more than ever to educate & empower young girls of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Sincerely,
Marybeth Cooper (Dutill), Class of 1998

On behalf of my family
Bridget Gekas (Dutill), Class of 2001
Mary Dutill (Wormack), Class of 1969

Bridget McLaughlin

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

28 February 2021

Allyson Mehley

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: Historical Designation for John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

Dear Ms. Mehley,

The vitality of Logan Circle sits just beyond the Philadelphia Free Library. John W. Hallahan's brick is distinctly identifiable as you make your way around the Swann Memorial Fountain. Looming behind Hallahan are the economic forces that lead to redevelopment and decrease the well-maintained prestige of historical Philadelphia. Hallahan has many insignias that can only be appreciated up close while it's traditions can be viewed yearly on the news. It is a school with unparalleled traditions, most significantly the fountain jump. The history of the city is unique and Hallahan is a part of the unique fabric this city weaves.

Our school has played a crucial role in our city by educating young women for over 100 years. It is a multicultural, multiethnic melting pot of students who bring diversity, enthusiasm and pride. The greatest achievement of my education at Hallahan was not to see anyone for their race, creed or color but for who they are as a person. Our differences are accepted and celebrated.

Driving into the city from major highways like I-95 or 76 East, or from the famous Kelly Drive, I never miss an opportunity to point out my alma mater as a landmark for those just visiting or those who are unfamiliar with the city. This school has made historical impacts in movies and magazines. It should not succumb to being another location where my alumnae point and say that is where my high school used to be.

Sincerely,

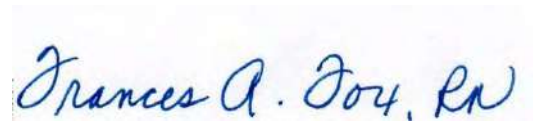
Bridget McLaughlin, M.Ed.

Class of 2002

March 2, 2021

Historic Preservation Planner
1515 Arch Street, 13th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frances A. Fox, RN". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light blue rectangular background.

Frances A. Fox, RN

February 28, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

Dear Commission Member:

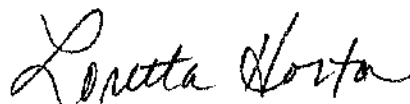
Thank you for considering the application to designate John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School a historical site. Certainly, the time has come to recognize both the architectural beauty of the High School and its significant historical impact as a pioneer of women's education in Philadelphia and the nation.

There is no doubt that the architectural beauty of the building is unique. Its physical structure is an enduring link to centuries past. Between its cornerstone, its awesome stained glass, its significant carvings and its imposing walls, the building is an important reminder of the history of Philadelphia itself. The center city location is historical, as it sits near the Logan Square fountain, the Cathedral, the Free Library and numerous art museums and statues. For the many religious pilgrims that visit Philadelphia, it is a landmark on a path between the Cathedral, the "Pink Sisters on Green Street" then onward to the Shrine of St. John Neumann. This beautiful building is indeed part of a treasured landscape that greets all visitors to Philadelphia.

Hallahan offers something arguably more important than even its architectural beauty alone. That is, it offers the historical reminder of the outstanding cultural accomplishment of educating women in Philadelphia over a tumultuous century. From the time when society rode in horse and carriage and women had no right to vote, to today, when driverless cars and Mars rovers are the rage and a woman sits as Vice-President, Hallahan has prepared women to be leaders in their homes and society. The High School is a reminder of the important contribution of women to the very fabric of our nation. In all contexts, there is no better building to have earned a designation as historical.

Thank you again for your consideration. Please place us on a list for communications concerning hearings, etc. on the future of John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Loretta Horta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

March 2, 2021

Historical Designation Commission

Please consider this letter in support of the application and nomination of the John W. Hallahan Catholic High School for Girls' building as a historical building in Philadelphia. It was the first Roman Catholic high school for girls in the United States, and was built with the approval of the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia and funded by a devout Catholic woman who insisted that the building be named for her brother. In 1930, the Walt Disney Company allowed the school to use Mickey Mouse as its mascot, and Hallahan remains the only school authorized to use a Disney character for its own purposes.

I am a fortunate graduate of the class of 1971. Through my experience at Hallahan, I was introduced to girls of other cultures who spoke other languages. I remain friends with my fellow Chinese and Puerto Rican alumna today and I acquired a deeper understanding of African American traditions while attending my four years with girls from St. Elizabeth, St. Columba and St. Malachy parishes.

I believe Hallahan is committed to its tradition of diversity and cultural exposure and its location provided me with such a wonderful opportunity for art and music. The Free Library was our library and the Philadelphia Art Museum was our personal gallery.

It is my hope that this historical building, home of so much history, can remain a beacon for Philadelphia's unique blend of ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Janice Kelly Bullard

Dear Ms. Mehley and Committee Members,

The historic City of Philadelphia can lay claim to many “First” titles. The title that is nearest and dearest to my heart is that Philadelphia is home to the very first all-girls diocesan Catholic High School, J.W. Hallahan High School. I am Christine Chrostowski, and I am an alumnus of the Class of 2004 and the mother of a heart-broken Sophomore at Hallahan.

I did not start my school days in Parochial School but my late Grandmother Betty, wanted to make sure that I had the best High School education possible. It was her guidance, her immense sacrifices, and her commitment to me that led me through those doors of Hallahan as a Freshman. Little did I imagine that day that this would be the place where I would make lifelong friends of both students and teachers. It gives me such a sense of home and family when I see the teachers who guided me now teaching and guiding my own daughter.

I write this letter today to encourage you to support the application to designate the Building that houses J.W. Hallahan High School as Historical. While the Archdiocese seeks to erase the legacy of this institution, I encourage you to stop them from erasing this great building from the landscape of the City of Philadelphia. This Building must be available to future generations to walk its hallowed halls and admire the architecture and the reverence of those who built it and those who have passed through its great doors.

I thank you for your efforts in helping to keep this part of history alive.

Respectfully yours,

Christine Chrostowski Crutchley

Committee of Preservation

RE: 311 North 19th Street

Philadelphia, PA

Dear Committee,

My name is Frances Segletes Hicks and I am a graduate of the Class of 1985 and a proud Alumna. I am also a resident of the City of Philadelphia and have been for 54 years!!! I am writing this letter asking for your help in designating John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School a historic building.

Over a century ago, a woman named Mary Hallahan McMichan had a dream. A dream, of an All Catholic Girls' High School, that became a reality. This building, this icon has become the reason that so many young women have received a strong catholic education built on values, morals and ethics. Hallahan is the reason so many women have become influential leaders in many roles, here in the City of Philadelphia as well as all across the United States and the World.

The building that stands at 311 N. 19th Street is not just any building. It is the building of the First All Girls Catholic High School in the nation. This building is like no other. It was built with such dedication from so many, including the Pope, who blessed the Cornerstone, that is an integral part of the exterior of the building, brought from Italy. From every brick that was laid, to every sculpture on the exterior, as well as the 15 names, including those of women who are Saints, engraved in the stones around the building has a unique story and meaning which also inspired this iconic building. All of these examples are only a part of the distinguishing characteristics that make this building unique and historic. The building has a story to tell. This building is The Crown Jewel of young women's education in the nation. This building is just as important and influential as the Cathedral, City Hall, The Seven Wonders of the World and I could go on about every influential building that has been marked as important and a part of history. This building has been a part of the City of Philadelphia for over 100 years and should remain as an integral part of the City's History!

There is no reason to extend the continuance beyond 30 days. Everyone is very aware of this building and its history. I urge you to make this decision sooner than October, 2021. Extending the Historic Designation is not necessary. No one can change what the building is. Its exquisite exterior, age and history story will never change.

Today, the world is in such turmoil and it feels as though history is being erased. This building is priceless and deserves a historic designation.

PLEASE DO NOT LET THEM ERASE THIS IMPORTANT PART OF HISTORY.

Respectfully yours,

Frances Segletes Hicks, '85

Friends of Hallahan
P.O. Box 5826
Phila., Pa.

Attention: Historical Designation

Dear Sir,

In my opinion the Hallahan school building should be designated as historical for its contribution towards the education of so many young women.

I am a proud graduate of 1947 - my freshman year was spent at St. Peter's Annex, and I couldn't wait to go to the main building. In my opinion the building should be designated as historical, it is responsible for the education of so many young women in today's busy world.

The building structure and legacy are intertwined, so please have second thoughts about closing this wonderful school.

Yours truly,

Joan Cavanaugh Beckon 1947

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historic Commission
1515 Arch St. 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

March 1, 2021

RE:

311 North 19th Street Phila., PA

I Support John W. Hallahan Catholic
Girls' High School being designated historic

Mary Laureen Acker Su

Maffei Family
[REDACTED]

February 28, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

Dear Commission Member:

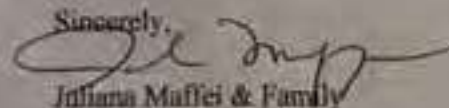
Thank you for considering the application to designate John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School a historical site. Certainly, the time has come to recognize both the architectural beauty of the High School and its significant historical impact as a pioneer of women's education in Philadelphia and the nation.

There is no doubt that the architectural beauty of the building is unique. Its physical structure is an enduring link to centuries past. Between its cornerstone, its awesome stained glass, its significant carvings and its imposing walls, the building is an important reminder of the history of Philadelphia itself. The center city location is historical, as it sits near the Logan Square fountain, the Cathedral, the Free Library and numerous art museums and statues. For the many religious pilgrims that visit Philadelphia, it is a landmark on a path between the Cathedral, the "Pink Sisters on Green Street" then onward to the Shrine of St. John Neumann. This beautiful building is indeed part of a treasured landscape that greets all visitors to Philadelphia.

Hallahan offers something arguably more important than even its architectural beauty alone. That is, it offers the historical reminder of the outstanding cultural accomplishment of educating women in Philadelphia over a tumultuous century. From the time when society rode in horse and carriage and women had no right to vote, to today, when driverless cars and Mars rovers are the rage, Hallahan has prepared women to be leaders in their homes and communities. The High School is a reminder of the important contribution of women to the very fabric of our nation. In all contexts, there is no better building to have earned a designation as historical.

Thank you again for your consideration. Please place us on a list for communications concerning hearings, etc on the future of John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School.

Sincerely,



Juliana Maffei & Family

Allyson Mehley

From: Kristie Bergey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: I support Hallahan High

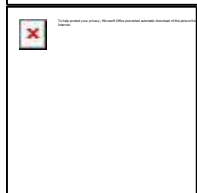
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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you,
Kristie Bergey



"Ideas can't be stolen because ideas don't get smaller when they're shared, they get bigger."

- Seth Godin

Allyson Mehley

From: Ericka Hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:14 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Allyson Mehley

From: Alex McGee [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:46 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save hallahan

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Class of 2011!!!    

From: ELAINE KRADZINSKI [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Friends of Hallahan; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Re: Letter Writing and Historical Designation Public Hearing

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I am writing this letter in support of John W. Hallahan, CGHS.

In 1965 I entered the doors of Hallahan, not knowing much about a brand new school, well, let me tell you, I was thrilled with the experience and education that I received from my now Almamatre. After 4 years of my continuing Catholic education, I graduated with such joy, friendship and love for my Catholic sisters. I can't say enough of the Nuns that taught me, yes some were very strict but well worth it. What a difference 4 years in this wonderful school made on my working experience when I graduated and went to work at my 1st job. It was so easy to get my 1st job thanks to my education at Hallahan.

Please save Hallahan for the girls coming up in this world, so they can have the same experience that made me the person I've been since graduation in 1969! This school is an icon and worth saving. Hallahan is a truly historic building only all Catholic Girls HS in the country. Please do your best at preserving this wonderful school.

Thank You & God Bless,

Elaine Brown Kradzinski class of '69

On Sun, Feb 28, 2021 at 6:21 PM Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com> wrote:



February 27, 2021

Allyson Mehley

From: Annie Brown Simon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:24 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Hallahan historical building

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I'd like to add my favorite places in the Hallahan building as the beautiful auditorium and the blessed mother statue area and add that Hallahan was designed and built by the amazing Phila architects, Ballinger and Perrott. Thank you.

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021, 5:55 PM Annie Brown Simon [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Allyson. Attached please find my letter in support for the nomination of Hallahan High School as a historical building in Philadelphia. Thank you. --Anna Brown Simon.

Allyson Mehley

From: Joan Kuneck [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Catholic Girls' High School

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John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School deserves to be an historic building in the city of Philadelphia. So many women throughout all the Philadelphia area and even beyond have attended this wonderful school. There is so much history and traditions that are from that building.

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Joan Kuneck
Class of 2016

--
null

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:13 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: PLEASE SAVE HALLAHAN!!!

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Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner

Dear Ms. Allyson Mehley,

The historic preservation of the **Hallahan** building is an important way for us to transmit our understanding of the past to future generations. Hallahan's history has many facets, and the historic preservation of the building will help tell the stories of the many fine and diversified young women who have graduated from the first Catholic Girls High School in the nation. The beauty of the saints' carvings on the exterior, the beauty of the stained glass windows, the interior mosaics, and historical nature of the many other parts of the building and invaluable to our history!

It is my sincere hope that the Hallahan building will receive historic designation so it can continue to be a reminder of the history of Philadelphia and our nation. I can't even imagine that anyone or any organization with any faith in the future of Catholicism would even consider closing the school and destroying the building!

With sincere thanks,

Dorothy A. Golden Burton '66

My Mother Anna Theresa White Golden '39

My two sisters '64 and '68

From: Barbara Detreux [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:42 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: SAVE HALLAHAN

Importance: High

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

It is with great sadness that I am writing this letter. I never thought in a million years that the Archdiocese would actually close John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. Hallahan is the first Catholic Girls High School in the country. What an honor it was to attend school. My parents sacrificed a lot to educate their six children. My two sisters and I attended Hallahan. We graduated 1969, 1970 and 1979. It wasn't easy for my parents but it was something that they wanted for us. My mother did not get the opportunity to attend a high school. She attended Nativity Business School and then went to work to support her family. It was an honor for her to send us to high school. We had to take the trolley, the el and the bus in order to get to school but we had a great time doing so. When SEPTA (PTC) was on strike my father would drive us to school and then we walked home. Home was in Port Richmond so it was a long walk but we had fun walking along Delaware Ave with the girls from Fishtown. Nothing would stop us from getting to school.

I thoroughly enjoyed my days at Hallahan, Even with the Nuns (who scared us to death) but deep down we knew they cared and tried to get us ready for the real world. I appreciate everything they did for us. Walt Disney even made history when he gave Hallahan the rights to use Mickey Mouse as our mascot. Imagine the delight it was back in 1930 (I think) to receive such an honor.

As you know on the last day of school we all jumped in the fountain at Logan Square. I wore a wool uniform so needless to say I didn't smell pretty after that but oh what fun we had. That has been a tradition for years especially when the fire department came out during the water shortage. These are the memories that will be missed by not only the girls but the residents of Philadelphia.

I believe our school is historical and should be designated so. It was built in 1911 and has been a staple in Center City. Girls came from all over the city to attend. My class had over 500 girls along with the other 3 grades. Hallahan has a lot of memories and has graduated a lot of successful women. Please help us keep the halls of Hallahan open or save it from destruction. The fact that it is the first Catholic Girls High School in the country should make it historical. I am asking that the committee gives some serious thought when discussing the possibility of "historical designation". We are all praying that a positive outcome may be reached.

Thank you for listening to me along with all the other students and alumnae from such a wonderful school.

Barbara DeTreux
Class of 1970

From: kat [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; Friends of Hallahan
Subject: RE:311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA Historical Designation

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Dear Ms. Mehley:

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated as a historic site. Hallahan is more than bricks and mortar; Hallahan is a living breathing entity. It has a soul, and its heartbeat can be felt beating through every generation of graduates. As we have just passed the Centenary of the celebration of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote I feel it is important to point out what a trailblazer Mrs. Mary McMichan was. Nearly twenty years before, a time when women were given little voice, she stepped up to given young ladies of this great city a place to call home, a place to find their voices, a place to attain a quality education, a place to thrive and she chose to do this in Philadelphia. Mrs. McMichan's vision and faith in young women needs to be respected.

From the very beginning, Hallahan was unique, drawing students from every corner of the city and outlying counties. Exposing her students to the great diversity of race, ethnicity, and culture of the wider world, a true American melting pot, and we all benefitted from this experience. While Philadelphia is a town of neighborhoods that we are fiercely loyal to and proud of Hallahan taught us that we are not so different after all. No matter what neighborhood you were from the bonds of that sisterhood are strong and unbreakable. We can identify each other across a room by the shape of our school rings or the way we layout our napkins in a cafeteria. This may sound trivial, but I have been comforted and consoled by more than one Hallahan sister who happened to be a doctor, nurse, or therapist while caring for a sick and dying parent just by asking or being asked "where did you go to school?" I have been stopped on the street in Ireland and London while wearing a Hallahan sweatshirt only to discover a fellow alumna.

Hallahan graduates have gone on to achieve great things and to make this city proud of its daughters. In a city so steeped in history, a city of first, it would be a great loss to the city to lose this pioneering institution.

I respectfully request that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School be awarded the historical designation that it has been nominated for.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kathleen Dougherty-Gessler'83

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W Hallahan Hugh School

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Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Allyson,

"I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. "

Thank you!
Cathy McMenamin McHale
Class of '78

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Richard Mahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: FriendsofHallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Supporting John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls H.S. as a Historic Landmark

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to support the designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as a historic landmark. As a life-long Philadelphia resident, member of Roman Catholic High School Alumnae, and a master professional in the building trade—serving over 10+ years in my early career with John B. Kelly, Inc., of Philadelphia fame/pride, and now several decades with SEPTA, which include specialized, historical masonry/preservation projects—I can deeply appreciate *with authority* the exceptional skill and craftsmanship required to erect such a magnificent structure as Hallahan High School. It is becoming increasingly rare to find such exceptional structures and Philadelphia would be hard-pressed to replace this beauty with anything close to its intrinsic value. It would be foolish to consider risking the loss of such a gem. I vehemently support historic landmark status to protect John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School and enable all Philadelphians to appreciate its architecture for posterity.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Mahan, Supervisor

and Master Mason/Mason First Class

SEPTA Railroad Division

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: In Support of Historical Designation of Hallahan

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

Thank you for considering the application to designate John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as a historical site. I am writing to you in support of this application and designation.

Since 1911, over 40,000 young girls entered the doors of this building for their very first time. Four years later, they walked out those doors as young women, John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School graduates, diplomas in hand with pride and gratitude, ready to live their lives and make contributions to society. During those four years in this building, they received a solid secondary education, embraced in the Catholic faith, that included not only academics, but also sports, music, the arts and various other student experiences. The building's center city location drew students from across the city – from different parishes, different neighborhoods, different ethnicities, different races – allowing students to live diversity with their classmates – since 1911!

These young women went on to become mothers and grandmothers, proud of sharing generational legacies of attending the first Catholic girls' high school in the United States. They chose numerous and varied career paths, as secretaries, teachers and nurses, doctors and attorneys, policewomen, members of our armed services, to name just a few.

The building has immense historical significance! It is a testament to the recognition in the early 1900's by visionary Mary Hallahan McMichon, and Archbishop McDevitt, that young girls also deserved a secondary Catholic education. The building recognizes notable women through the ages. Their names are carved in stone on the exterior of the building - Esther, Saint Cecelia, Saint Helena, Saint Brigid of Ireland, Saint Gertrude, Saint Margaret of Scotland, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Saint Joan of Arc, Isabella of Castille, Vittoria Colonna, Saint Teresa Seraph of Spain, Margaret Roper, Saint Rose of Lima, Kateri Tekakwitha and Saint Elizabeth Seton.

The Papal Seal of Pope Pius X, now Saint Pius X, can be seen to the left of the front doors to the building. Pope Pius X blessed the cornerstone of this building. The ceremony to lay this cornerstone, on October 1, 1911, was so significant at the time, that 6,000 people showed up in the rain to witness this historic event.

In addition, the building was designed by one of Philadelphia's leading architects of ecclesiastical buildings, the firm of Ballinger & Perrot.

I was one of those young girls walking into the Hallahan building for the very first time, nervous and apprehensive. I walked out those doors with pride and with gratitude. With my John W. Hallahan CGHS diploma in hand, I was able to further my education, and now hold a B.H.S. in Clinical Microbiology and a M.S in Pharmaceutics: Quality Assurance/Regulatory affairs. As a result of my

education, including 16 years of Catholic education, I have enjoyed a rewarding career in the Life Sciences Industry. To this day, I cherish life-long friendships with my classmates, and more recent friendships formed with alumnae who are united in saving Hallahan - a great, century-old legacy to girls' education.

Thank you again for your consideration. I strongly urge members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission to approve the application for historical designation of Hallahan.

Sincerely,

Maryann Fox

From: Colleen McLaughlin [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: John W. Hallahan Historical Designation

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Dear Ms. Mehley

Thank you for accepting John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School's application for Historical Designation.

As you know Hallahan was the first Catholic Girls High School in the country and has been an integral part of the life of the City of Philadelphia since its opening. It provided girls from all backgrounds the opportunity to receive a quality education and for over a century has been producing strong women who have made valuable contributions to our city and the world.

I am a graduate of the class of 1987, my mother was a graduate of 1968 and I was hoping my daughter would be a graduate of the class of 2028. My three sisters are graduates of the classes of 1988, 1989 and 1992, I have nieces who are graduates of the class of 2014 and 2017, and a niece who is in the senior class of 2021, which hopefully is not the final graduating class and every one of my aunts and several cousins are also Hallahan Alumnae.

Being a student and later graduate of Hallahan has always brought me a feeling of being connected to a precious sisterhood of women from different races, creeds, ethnic and economic backgrounds, united by our love for the school and each other. It instilled in all of us an appreciation for the diversity of our city and in fact for many was the first time they made friends from outside their neighborhood.

I think this wonderful institution and building is eminently worthy of being preserved for future generations and is a unique part of the Philadelphia's History. I hope that the building can be preserved as an historic landmark and maybe one day it will even be possible to restore the beautiful stained glass roof over the school's auditorium. The stained glass sky light was tarred over during World War II to prevent any light from escaping during nightly air-raids. You can still catch a glimpse of its beauty from within the auditorium and if it could ever be restored it would shine like a jewel. The thought and obvious care put into the construction of the building stands as a testament to the strength and determination of Mary McMichan and the critical need to value the education of Philadelphia's young women and future leaders.

Thank you,

Colleen McLaughlin
Class of 1987

Allyson Mehley

From: Christina Galbreth [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:19 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historic Preservation

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Christina Galbreth

Allyson Mehley

From: John Hyman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:21 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Re: Endorsing John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls H.S. as a Historic Landmark Inbox

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Dear Ms. Mehley,
Could I impose on you to confirm receipt of my letter of support earlier this morning? I neglected to ask for that verification when I sent my message this morning and would appreciate it. Thanks!

Best, John Hyman

On Tue, Mar 2, 2021 at 9:04 AM John Hyman [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms. Mehley,

My name is John Hyman and I am a life-long resident of Philadelphia. As background, I've been employed in the field of education for over several decades now and only recently retired from the Lower Merion School District. In addition, I've dedicated my adult life (40+ years) to the pursuit of excellence in sports, specifically coaching football and baseball at the high school and Collegiate levels, within the city of Philadelphia and the suburban Philadelphia vicinity, in both the public and parochial school systems. To say that I've seen most if not all the sports complexes and associated high school buildings/related structures within the area wouldn't be a stretch. Those who know me well would say that is a fair characterization. That is why I felt compelled to write to you about John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School when I heard of its threatened closure.

I know a winner when I see one (*this is not hyperbole; see a footnote for an excerpt of my record below***). I've spent years motivating athletes/students and developing talent on and off the football and baseball fields, but there are essential, intrinsic qualities that can't be bought or manufactured, and when manifest within the members of sport's team in the right combination are undeniable. Those ingredients virtually equate with success. Hallahan, the building, and Hallahan, the legacy/mission/students, exhibit those winning qualities with abundance.

First off: Hallahan, the building. In a word? Peerless. In sports parlance? *There's just no contest*. There isn't a high school in the city I've seen that compares to this imposing structure. I can remember my first reaction years ago when I walked down 19th Street by chance with friends approaching Wood Street and caught a glimpse of the building one afternoon. I was *stunned*. The building draws you in.... Fortunately, we weren't in a rush and others with me were equally intrigued.

Hallahan leaves an indelible impression on you—it literally stopped us in our tracks. We spent awhile strolling around the building, gazing gobsmacked, to tell you the truth. Hallahan oozes with architectural character and as passerbys the historic nature of this structure was immediately apparent. I liken my experience that day to spotting innate athletic talent when scouting. As a coach you know real, raw athleticism when you see it. With Hallahan, it's the same thing. Hallahan is unquestionably an authentic architectural jewel. Moreover, the immediate, sudden impact we all felt that afternoon was slowly replaced with the intense realization that this building has a complex story to tell, too. The plethora of tributes to strong, noble women etched in concrete surrounding the building prompted thoughtful conversation as I recall and a curiosity about what was inside the building we didn't get a chance to see closely and wanted to know more about.

Secondly, I want to comment on Hallahan, the legacy/mission/students. Hallahan is a very special place I've since learned after that impromptu visit years ago. It's a rare combination—much like a championship sports team. As a coach you have to balance many variables just right to get a winning outcome. And Hallahan does just that.

Consider this: outside the building, Hallahan's locus within the city offers diverse young women an unparalleled opportunity to mature in a world-class cultural environment all within steps of their school doors. Inside the building, young women are reminded daily to elevate their mindset while the classic beauty of Hallahan's inspiring architecture surrounds them.

If I've learned anything in my decades working as a coach-mentor/educator it's this: motivation and inspiration are keys to driving and shaping outcomes. Believe it or not, I'm convinced that the beauty of Hallahan's architecture and pivotal location can and will continue to motivate and shape, not only the destiny of young women *if you let it*, but can serve as an inspiration to the Philadelphia community at large as well.

I wholeheartedly and emphatically endorse without reservation designating John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as a historic landmark and urge the Philadelphia Historical Commission to vote in favor of this status. Please protect this *exemplary* institution. Don't deprive future generations of the experience I enjoyed. It would be a monumental loss to this city.

Sincerely,

John J. Hyman

Retired Instructional Aide

Lower Merion High School

+++++

**** Coaching History—An excerpt:**

Varsity Football Offensive Coordinator:

LaSalle College High School (multiple winning seasons and Catholic League Titles)

Lower Merion High School

Neshaminy High School (multiple conference championships)

Archbishop Wood High School

Imhotep Institute Charter High School (multiple winning and playoff qualifying seasons)

Varsity Baseball Head Coach

University of the Sciences (post season playoff qualifier, multiple years)

Lower Merion High School (inducted in the LMHS Sports Hall of Fame)

Archbishop Kennedy High School (multiple winning seasons; Bicentennial League Championships; Awarded *Coach of the Year*)

LaSalle College High School (multiple winning, playoff qualifying seasons)

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 5:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Building

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i support the nomination of the HALLAHAN BUILDING FOR HISTORICAL DESIGNATION.

Jo Anne Pyrear Hill (1968)

Thanks

Allyson Mehley

From: Lisa Buccieri [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:29 PM
To: Friends of Hallahan; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Letter

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To whom it may concern,

This letter serves as my plea to designate Hallahan as a historical site. I personally have never had the honor to walk the halls of JW Hallahan but I've met many ladies who have.

I am a Registered Nurse and have had the honor of caring for many seniors who still till this day call Hallahan home. Many of them in their late 80's and still wearing their class ring proudly.

The building is a remembrance to them of past times and fond memories. It was a place where young women were given a voice. A place where women united together. There is rich history there. The oldest all girls Catholic High School it has empowered many women from the early 1900's till present.

My daughter who is a Junior there found comfort in a building dedicated to young women. She will hold these memories forever in her heart as well as the many senior ladies I've had the honor to meet.

Please don't allow a building that has been empowering women for years to be destroyed!! I vote to designate the Hallahan building historic. Please give these women a place to reflect on their amazing journey and sisterhood in the many years to come.

Thank you,
Lisa Buccieri


Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Mariguel Gonzalez [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:46 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Please Designate John W. Hallahan Historic

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

- Mariguel Gonzalez, Class of 2009
#SaveHallahan

Allyson Mehley

From: Marge Kiefski [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:48 PM
To: allyson.mehley@phila.gov <allyson.mehley@phila.gov>
Subject: Historical Commission

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Dear Allyson,

I was looking at the Agenda for the Committee on Historic Designation Philadelphia Historical Commission meeting on WEDNESDAY, 3 MARCH 2021, 9:30 A.M. I had noticed information that I feel is incorrect or maybe typos.

The report lists the address of the school as 319 N 19th Street and 312 N. 18th Street and the name of the school as John W. Hallahan Girls' Catholic High School.

As a graduate of Hallahan and having worked as the Development Director for thirteen years, I have only known the address of the school as 19th & Wood Street and then it was changed by the Post Office to 311 North 19th. Also, the **original name** of the school when established in 1901 was **Catholic Girls' High School** with 5 Centres. The Building was erected in 1911 and the name was still Catholic Girls' High School. However, when the name was changed, it was changed to have the name of Mary McMichan's brothers name added to Catholic Girls' High School and the name of the school became **John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School**. I cannot address the address of the Cathedral Grade School as I never had anything to do with that.

If you find that my information is incorrect, I apologize for taking up your time. But this is what I have know since I graduated Hallahan in 1966 and being the Development Director for thirteen years.

Sincerely,

Marge West Kiefski '66
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Maria [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:06 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Maria Cifelli
Class of 1987

Allyson Mehley

From: CANDIDA MARTINEZ [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:45 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 N 19th street, Philadelphia pa

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I support John W Hallahan Catholic Girls High school being designated historic.

Candida Martinez
Class 1983

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Caitlin D'Angelo [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:48 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save hallahan

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

My name is Caitlin D'Angelo and I am graduate of the class of 2010. Pride has always been a major part of John W. Hallahan High School. Those 4 years were the best years of my life. I come from a family of women who attended Hallahan. I am so grateful for the experience I had and one that I would never forget. I couldn't imagine going to any other high school. Hoping that every girl who wishes to get this same memorable opportunity can do the same.

#savehallahan

 Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Caitlin D'Angelo, Class of 2010

Allyson Mehley

From: Bessie Pikus [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:13 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: 311 N. 19th Street, Philadelphia, Pa 19103

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, Pa 19102

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historical.

Elizabeth Pikus Cooney ('93)
Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Phil Morris [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:53 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

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I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. Please, Please help us in doing what all our Girls of HH are praying for. Thank you
Susan Morris

Allyson Mehley

From: Maureen Ebner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:14 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: JW Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

Thank you for accepting JW Hallahan Catholic Girls High School's request for historical designation.

Hallahan was the very first all girls Diocesan High School in the country. Not only did it bring girls together from all corners of the diverse city of the Philadelphia, but it also built strong passionate women. The idea that this building and school may no longer exist is deeply saddening.

The building itself is such a tremendous part of the city. I was born and raised in Philadelphia and when thinking about the city, or "downtown," I always think Hallahan. It is not only an institution in which learning takes place, but it is also a symbol of faith, passion, determination, and strength. It was behind those walls that helped shape, not only myself, but millions of women around the city and now throughout the country. Ridding the city of such a beautiful landmark of women's accomplishments would be heartbreaking.

The building itself has so much beauty. To think at one point we shared a high school with a primary grade school. We have come such a long way, behind the same four walls. The statues and stained glass windows throughout the building is history in itself.

I am lucky and proud to call myself an alumnae. I hope that this is not just a memory and building we see in the "archives," but rather one future generations will be able to experience in person as well.

Sincerely,
Maureen Ebner
Class of 2007

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Norinda Yancey [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:50 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. It is also the oldest all girls Catholic high school in the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Norinda Rosario Yancey
Hallahan Alumni
Class of 1987

From: Janette [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:46 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historic Designation For The John W. Hallahan Building

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Dear Ms. Mehley:

The John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School building has stood on the corner of Nineteenth and Wood Streets for one hundred twenty years; "she" is formidable. Today I am writing from the heart to strongly encourage the commission to designate the Hallahan building an historic structure. Our "City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection" is recognized globally as the birthplace of liberty and equal rights, and Philadelphia is known by millions as the birthplace of Catholic education. It was, therefore, fitting that first Catholic girls' high school in the nation, Hallahan, should be built in Philadelphia. In declaring the Hallahan building historic, the commission will hold it up to be recognized as a monument to women's rights and independence, as was originally intended.

The roots of appreciation for education run deep in Philadelphia as evidenced, not only by the city's history, but by the continuing expansion and success of the many colleges and universities in the metropolitan area. I am a child of the Sixties and Seventies. A true feminist, I am the granddaughter of a suffragette who had to leave school after the sixth grade to work in a textile mill in Manayunk. My Grandmother Charlotte, widowed in her late thirties, during the Great Depression, worked tirelessly to insure that my Grandfather Theodore's dying wish that his three children graduate from St. John The Baptist Boys' and Girls' High Schools was realized. In contrast to his wife, my grandfather was highly educated man, a proud graduate of St. Joseph's Preparatory School and St. Joseph's University, then college. A devout Catholic with teaching background, my grandfather instilled in his family the philosophy that schools were honored temples of learning to be cared for and preserved.

When my grandmother was marching in Philadelphia for the right to vote, the Hallahan building was already brimming with young women seeking to improve their lives through academics and the study and practice of their faith. The majority of students attending Hallahan at the time were the daughters of immigrants with little or no education or means. Many young women entered the classroom speaking little or no English. Yet they were not deterred from their goals. Generation after generation of Hallahanites of all races and socio-economic backgrounds have contributed greatly to the success of this nation. It may not be possible to honor each of them individually, but the official declaration of the school building as historic will help to shine a light on their collective accomplishments.

Constructed mainly by the hands of common laborers, many new to this country, the exterior of the Hallahan building seems small and plain from the outside when compared to significant nearby structures. It does however, display a magnificent keystone and original, striking crosses over the entrances. If other historically and culturally important buildings in the city were designed and erected to be imposing and attractive, Hallahan was constructed to get a job done and to endure; "she" has succeeded. The former family courthouse, the Free Library, the Franklin Institute, The Philadelphia Museum of Art and The Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul put Hallahan in good historic company further underscoring the school's importance in American history.

The interior of the school building, like the exterior, is meticulously maintained. There are various original features and materials in place and in use. Floors and walls are made of marble, granite, slate, wood and tile. I remember, when I was a student, being able to feel the wear patterns in the stairs through my saddle shoes. I remember being able to feel the wear patterns in the bannisters beneath my hands. Thousands and thousands of young women trod those stairs and

clutched those bannisters before I arrived in 1972. A great deal of original finish carpentry remains, and it is wonderfully preserved. There is a "Bread and Roses" atmosphere about the place. There are skylights, stained glass and lovely artwork, some of which was created by students, including my own sister. The statuary and chapel are sacred and serve to lift the spirit. I used to wish those walls could talk. In a way, they do, and the conversation isn't finished.

The John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School was created by the faith, hope and charity of Mary Hallahan McMichan. She was a visionary who founded and financed a legacy of knowledge and self-sufficiency, confidence and courage for thousands of women. The Hallahan building stands today as a symbol of what one woman can do for so many. Its existence reminds us to keep giving, The Hallahan building additionally reminds us from whence we came, but the journey ahead is still long for young women. The road mustn't stop abruptly on a barren asphalt and cement corner of Nineteenth and Wood streets. Please grant historic designation to the Hallahan building.

My sincerest thanks,

Janette Davis Gass

The John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School Class of 1976

Allyson Mehley

From: Maureen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:22 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Designation letter.

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RE: Historic Designation Letter

To Whom It May Concern:

Reasons to designate J.W. Hallahan
Catholic Girls' High School building as Historical.

1. Built in 1911
2. Cornerstone blessed by
Pope Pius X in 1911
- 3.. Pope Pius X is a Saint
4. First institution of its kind in the US where thousands of young women some generations, and from different social, economic and ethnic backgrounds came together under one roof/building to study, learn and grow into strong women.
5. Most of these young women learned critical business skills and obtained jobs in the City of Philadelphia with the help of the school and most likely Sister Francis Christi.
6. Some of these young women worked to help support their families and earned lucrative careers at large Philadelphia companies.
7. The building and its hallowed halls built in 1911, has helped many many Philadelphia families from generation after generation, including myself.

You MUST designate this building historical and save the history for future generations.

Sincerely,
Maureen Appleman Maida 88'

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Gina Marie Schwoerer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:53 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: John W. Hallahan Historical Designation

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

There are so many reasons John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School should be saved. It is the first all girls catholic high school in the country, which speaks for itself. Hallahan was founded in 1901, and the building was built 10 years later. It was built at a time that women did not have equal rights, and certainly didn't have as many education opportunities. It brought girls from all different backgrounds and from all over the city together to learn, and continues to do so today.

Hallahan means so much to me, and it was my home for 4 years. There is a legacy of sisterhood. I am a member of the class of 2008, my mother is class of 1979, and my grandmother was class of 1950. My great grandmother attended Cathedral Grade School, which is now the "cathedral building" side of Hallahan. I loved getting to participate in the same traditions my mom and grandmom did when they attended Hallahan, as well as my aunts and other family members. The building is just as much a part of Hallahan's legacy as those traditions. Two of my favorite rooms were both on the 3rd floor of the Hallahan building, the art room and the theatre. They were both constants in my 4 years there, having art classes for 4 years and performing in the musicals for 4 years as well. The exterior of the building is unique, with the names of famous women from history surrounding it.

During Women's History Month, it's important to consider saving this building that is so historically important to women's education. I realize that to some the building might seem separate from the traditions, but that's not true. To lose the school and the building would be devastating to anyone who went there. If Hallahan's building is not saved, this historical building would undoubtedly be knocked down for just another city apartment building, which could be built anywhere.

Hallahan empowers women and taught me the importance of using my voice, so now I'm using that voice to ask you to please save the school that means so much to me and so many other women in Philadelphia. Thank you for your consideration.

Gina Schwoerer - Class of 2008

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 12:05 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: save Hallahan

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing this letter to implore you to fight on the behalf of The John W. Hallahan School for Girls. Certainly, there have to be things in life that mean more than just dollars and cents....more than just the bottom line of a ledger sheet. Yes the Hallahan School has monetary value...yes the land on which it sits is valuable, but its true value is not measured in square feet or in real estate dollars. Rather, its true value comes from what it has provided to so many female Philadelphians and their families. The oldest catholic school for girls in the nation has had nearly 40,000 students walk its halls, and in some cases, generation after generation of families. A very dear friend of mine counts her grandmother, mother, and herself as alumni, and I imagine if given the chance, perhaps her daughter(s) one day. It has been a place where intellects have been challenged, passions have been founded, and dreams have been pursued. Please don't let over 100 years of those passions and dreams be bulldozed away in the name of filling the pockets of the Diocese in the short term. No amount of money can replace the untold contributions to society, of future Hallahan students, who only need to be given the chance to partake in its long legacy of educating and inspiring the young women of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Patrick Sutton

high school teacher and friend of Hallahan

Allyson Mehley

From: karen hensler [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 1:23 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

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Dear Allyson Mehley,

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE:

311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Kindest Regards,

Karen S. Hensler
3714 Lilac Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19136

Allyson Mehley

From: Kronmiller, Kathleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 9:41 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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Dear Historic Society,

The significance Of Hallahan falls into the three categories: Historical Landmark, Cultural Landmark and **Architectural Icon.**

It is very important to the Hallahan community we keep our cultural Landmark alive. Thank you very much for listening To us.

“I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.”

Katie Kronmiller
Class of 1999

From: Cheryl Carr [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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Dear Ms Mehley,

John W Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School deserves your approval as a historical landmark in the City of Philadelphia. Countless reasons are stated in the letters you've received, the public outcry by Hallahan students, alumnae, and those who love them, and those who want to see Philadelphia and national history preserved, not demolished and erased.

A spotlight needs to be shined on one --

John W Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School is the first all-girls Catholic High School in the United States and their mascot is Disney's Mickey Mouse.

No other school in US history can make the above statement.

First in one aspect, only in the other. First and only. That defines history.

Walt Disney personally gave Hallahan the privilege to have Mickey Mouse as their official school mascot. His generosity is unheard of in today's world regarding an iconic character representing a company. The value of that gift is beyond calculation and Hallahan has never capitalized on it.

I'm sure the Disney Company, a now multi-billion dollar company know worldwide, would be in full support of preserving this history involving their namesake, creator and iconic character Mickey Mouse, and would also be in full support of Hallahan remaining open to preserve that history and continue to create many more years of it, with Mickey by their side.

Disney knows a little something about creating history and the value that history has. not only financially but how they affect the quality of human life. They bring families together to watch their movies or visit their theme parks, helping create memories that last a lifetime and are passed down from each generation to the next.

Hallahan does that and more. They educate girls, creating a good quality of human life that extends beyond the girl, to their families, their communities. their city. Their fountain jump day on the news every year. The women they become. Their memories are the city's memories and history.

Actress Kim Delaney, a Hallahan graduate from Philadelphia, is currently working on a show airing on ABC whose parent company is Disney. One example of the Hallahan/Disney/Philadelphia connection. I'm sure there are more.

The fact that Walt himself did this for Hallahan is history and the connection between Hallahan and Disney needs to be honored and preserved by the City of Philadelphia.

Now, my personal reason for writing this.

My mother died unexpectedly right before the news announced Hallahan was closing and my first thought was "Thank God she isn't here to hear this."

But then I thought she's gone, my dad's gone, St Laurentius is gone, my parish church is gone, my grade and high school is gone, now Hallahan. They're erasing my family.

I heard stories about her Hallahan years my entire life. My father took her to her prom, they fell in love and married, and her classmate Delores was in their wedding party. I had the privilege of watching their fairy tale, until death did they part. After my dad died, over time a little redecorating was done, and one thing stands out to me today -- her Hallahan yearbook lays in the center of a bookcase shelf with her wedding album on top. I found all things Hallahan immediately. Her class ring, report cards, yearbooks, photos, copies of their Alumnae magazine Footprints. No searching. The important and special things are easy to find.

After suffering the loss of my mom, one of the things I'm searching for is comfort. Some is found looking through 'things' but some of it comes from visiting the places that mattered to my family and created their history, my history. The neighborhood they lived in, the parish church they attended and my parents were married in, the schools they went to. Comfort comes from a chance meeting with people, hearing their stories and sharing mine. Finding out who knows who's family or maybe who's mom went to school with mine. It's being able to walk into a building my family and friends witnessed my parent's get married in, or the hallways my mom spent four years walking through that meant a lot to her as a girl, and helped mold her into the woman she became that I call mom.

My entire family isn't from Philadelphia. They are from foreign countries and they came to Philadelphia with the dream of creating a new and possibly better life here. Their lives created my family's history and those same lives created Philadelphia history. Why do we keep erasing it?

Our country could learn something from those foreign countries our ancestors come from. These countries honor historical landmarks by preserving and restoring them so people who travel to their country can visit them and learn their country's history. And they don't just preserve the pretty and happy history, they preserve the ugly and tragic to serve as a reminder never to repeat them. How many people worldwide watched the Notre-Dame fire on the news? The rebuild is ongoing. If our country continues to demolish the physical buildings that created our history, what will the visitors from foreign countries have to visit here and learn about? What will we have left of our own history to visit?

I didn't want to mention the Archdiocese but need to. Religion is a foundation many communities are built on. It may be uncomfortable to discuss but it plays an important role in history. I was surprised it isn't in your criteria list and it should be. The church's decisions are for their reasons and should have no bearing on the decision regarding a city's historical landmark.

Being the first, and the only, is something Philadelphia takes great pride in bragging about when given the chance. So, here is a prime opportunity for Philadelphia to acknowledge its own history and have something else to brag about.

The city needs to protect its history. It belongs to the city and is what sets it apart from every other city. It needs to give visitors a reason to visit and residents a reason to take care of it.

It's a shame I'm learning all these things about Hallahan because the Archdiocese decided to close it. The women may be sharing their memories of going there but what they're also sharing is its history. And it's interesting. I knew nothing about the founder Mary, or that Disney selflessly shared Mickey to be their mascot, or that the pope blessed a cornerstone of the building, or how all the women helped create this history of the City of Philadelphia. I do now. Personally, I'm sad I don't get to talk about all this with my mom and hear more about this from her. But because of the 34,000 women who've gone

there, and the hundreds of thousand of lives they've touched, the stories are being told and history continues to be shared. Their impact on life and the city continue. They've made history. Let them continue to make more.

I've never been in Hallahan's building but now that my mom is gone, I want to go to the places that were important to her, to feel close to her, comforted. To see what she saw, walk where she walked. Too many of those places are gone. I hope Hallahan will be there for me to visit.

All the passionate stories are important to consider in the decision. But the dispassionate facts regarding Hallahan, both to the city and nation's history, are important, interesting, fit the criteria and make the decision obvious.

I am the daughter of a Hallahan Woman (and the man she loved who loved her)
I write this for her, to honor her life and memory.

Sincerely,
Cheryl A Carr

Thank you for taking the time to read our letters.

Allyson Mehley

From: Diane Warden [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 10:06 AM
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save Hallahan

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Philadelphia is the birthplace of America. Hallahan is the birthplace of Catholic Girls High School. The beauty of Hallahan history is what needs to be maintained. The archdiocese needs to protect the building, its culture, its history and in 2021 how Hallahan empowers women.
Save Hallahan

Diane Warden
Grandmother to a 2021 graduate

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Jacqueline Jewell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:04 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Support for Historic Preservation of Hallahan High School

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jacqueline Jewell** <jjewell484@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 3, 2021 at 11:02 AM
Subject: Support for Historic Preservation of Hallahan High School
To: <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

-Jacqueline Jewell

Allyson Mehley

From: Irene Souder-Coyle [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 11:08 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Saving Hallahan as a historical site

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

As a 1968 graduate of Hallahan, I was dismayed to learn that that wonderful institution of learning for young women was to be closed. Without the foresight of its founder, Mary Hallahan McMichan, girls from working class and immigrant families would never have had the opportunity to be educated and progress in their lives.

My own experiences there were invaluable, even beyond the classroom. I was in orchestra, where I learned to play harp and organ. Those skills profited me throughout my life as did the discipline required. Our annual concerts were at the Academy of Music which was a tremendous learning experience and a thrill. Going to school on center city taught me about all my city had to offer as well as how to get around it on public transportation. I also learned about diversity, and how we can all get along and respect one another. So you see, Hallahan is more than bricks and mortar, classrooms and books, it is a place where lifelong lessons are learned.

Thank you for your kind attention. Please help our cause.

Sincerely,

Irene (Zipeto) Souder-Coyle

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Margaret Oshaughnessy [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan
Subject: Historic designation

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE:

311 North 19th St., Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated a historic building. It's history as the first Catholic girls High School should be there for future years.

Margaret Oshaughnessy
Class of 1963.

Allyson Mehley

From: Beth Yadsko [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:17 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

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I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.
My mother Nora Cox Conway was a student at Hallahan in the 1920's.

Sincerely,
Beth Yadsko

From: Tia Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 12:23 AM
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Re: Save Hallahan

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Hello Allyson,
I'm resending my letter because I noticed a couple of typos. I was emotional writing the letter. It should be good now. Thank you. You have my permission to edit for grammar if needed. Thank you.

To whom it may concern,
As I reflect on my life's accomplishments, I can't help but to pay homage to the fine learning I received and sisterhood formed from attending John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School, the first all girls catholic high school in the nation.

I think of some of my favorite places in the buildings where such connections and learning took place. For example, the time I spent in the auditorium singing Hallahan's song with my sisters, forming a lifelong bond which is so deep that we discuss sending our daughters and nieces to the school in the future. Spending time in the Academic Affairs office to map out life after high school with the counselor. Working in the library for the Hourglass magazine, the school's magazine for creatives like myself to express their work.

I think about how Hallahan is a staple in this community, not just in Philadelphia. When I travel and people learn that I went to Hallahan, they know the reputation of Hallahan and get excited that they know me! I've had people stop me in public when I wear Hallahan gear and tell me what year they graduated with over the hills level of excitement. I have had people tell me what a great school Hallahan is, not was. Many times, people have told my mom, "Your daughter goes to Hallahan?! If she needs a job, let me know!" That's how much of a reputation Hallahan has in this community because they know the standards of this institution. They know that Hallahan girls become Hallahan women who do great things in society.

I'm passionate about this building because Hallahan isn't just a school that girls just go to. Hallahan has a legacy. The building itself is an icon. It's a staple in the academic world, in the hearts of the people who attended, and more. Hallahan represents diversity, a certain standard of learning and community, among other things. That's truly priceless. Walking through the halls of Hallahan is an experience that is actually difficult to put into words because it is something that you have to experience.

Preserving historical buildings is important because honoring the very reason why it exists. Hallahan was created to provide an upstanding education to women, during a time where it was taboo. How groundbreaking is that? That is still needed more than ever. Generations of women, their daughters, sisters, nieces, and the list goes on makes up the family of Hallahan and our house resides on 311 N. 19th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Please, help us save our home, not just for us but for future women who will become leaders. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tia Johnson
Class '03

On Thu, Mar 4, 2021 at 12:02 AM Tia Johnson <tia.johnson888@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you friends of Hallahan! What you are doing is fantastic. I graduated in 2003. Here's my letter below.

To whom it may concern,
As I reflect on my life's accomplishments, I can't help but to pay homage to the fine learning I received and sisterhood formed from attending John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School, the first all girls catholic high school in the nation.

I think some of my favorite places in the buildings where such connections and learning took place. For example, the time I spent in the auditorium singing Hallahan's song with my sisters, forming a lifelong bond which is so deep that we discuss sending our daughters and nieces to the school in the future. Spending time in the Academic Affairs office to map out life after high school with the counselor. Working in the library for the Hourglass magazine, the school's magazine for creatives like myself to express their work.

I think about how Hallahan is a staple in this community, not just in Philadelphia. When I travel and people learn that I went to Hallahan, they know the reputation of Hallahan and get excited that they know me! I've had people stop me in

public when I wear Hallahan gear and tell me what year they graduated with over the hills level of excitement. I have had people tell me what a great school Hallahan is, not was. Many times, people have told my mom, "Your daughter goes to Hallahan?! If she needs a job, let me know!" That's how much of a reputation Hallahan has in this community because know the standards of this institution. They know that Hallahan girls become Hallahan women who do great things in society.

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Preserving historical buildings is important because honoring the very reason why it exists. Hallahan was created to provide an upstanding education to women, during a time where it was taboo. How groundbreaking is that? That is still needed more than ever. Generations of women, their daughters, sisters, nieces, and the list goes on makes up the family of Hallahan and our house resides on 311 N. 19th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Please, help us save our home, not just for us but for future women who will become leaders. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Tia Johnson
Class '03

--

Sincerely,
Tia Johnson

Allyson Mehley

From: Danielle Giangreco [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 10:28 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan; Friends of Hallahan
Subject: John W. Hallahan Building

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Please save the John W. Hallahan building not for the future of the school but the building itself. The history that the City of Philadelphia was built on is slowing becoming lost within a sea of Condos and Office Buildings. We need to realize only a very small amount, around 2% of the historic buildings in the city have been preserved. This building boasts of stain glass windows, intricate wood and stone work, all pieces that cannot be replicated in this day and age. The craftsmen before us took so much pride and energy in their work. It was not rushed to meet deadlines, it was completed to display their works of art. Please think of John W. Hallahan not just as a school but as a building that is a work of art. Not seeing this building as Historical will be a loss for future generations, they will not be able to see the craftsmanship of workers that did it all by hand and was not mass produced.

Danielle Giangreco

Allyson Mehley

From: ADRIENNE WOODBURY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] March 4, 2021 1:30 PM
To: preservation
Cc: Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan High School

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Dear Commission Members,

My name is Adrienne Woodbury. Graduate of the class of 1987 and 2nd generation graduate of Hallahan High school. Please note that I am formally and forcefully opposing the excessive time requested for continuance on the Hallahan building. I request your consideration of a more reasonable time such as 30 days.

Kind regards,

Adrienne Woodbury

Allyson Mehley

From: Dorothea Di Giovanni [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 5:45 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School being designated historic. It has been important in the development and formation of many Philadelphia citizens since the beginning of the 20th century.

Sincerely,

Dorothea DiGiovanni
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Gluten Free [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:40 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern.

I respectfully, submit my opinion that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School ought to be designated historic. It would be a travesty to society and women's history if John W. Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School wasn't designated a historic site. The fact that this first national all Catholic Girl's High School is in Philadelphia the birth place of our nation and isn't already designated and firmly noted in our local and national history is very dissappointing to all those that respect history. It is physical symbol of the importance education is for our young ladies is and how far women in our nation have come.

Respectfully

Pamela C. Gain

Allyson Mehley

From: Alida Padilla [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 1:00 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: SAVE HALLAHAN 💕💕💕💕

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: 311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Allyson Mehley:

This message serves as a letter of support for Historic Preservation for John W. Hallahn Catholic Girls High School Building.

As one of the oldest buildings in Philadelphia that has cultural significance to our community, and that also has been a cornerstone of education for many generations of women in Philadelphia, I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Alida L. Padilla
Class of 1993

Allyson Mehley

From: Anne Hoban [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 7, 2021 2:58 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan.com@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan: Historical Designation

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Allyson,

You are aware of Hallahan's history and how the school evolved alongside the city. As students, we were told the story of the school when we first walked in the door, and reminded of its importance for 4 years.

We represented the school and the city. Our successes reflected on Philadelphia. Key events - proms, ring day, graduation - were held at other landmarks like the Franklin Institute and the Bellevue. Basketball homecourt during my years was in Fairmount Park. Graduation at the old Convention Center.

Our school sits amidst long time neighbors: the Library, the Fountain and Museums. Its history and the generations of young women, who came from all over the city, graduated as lifelong friends. I came from all white Port Richmond and found a totally diverse homeroom. I met and made friends with girls from Chinatown, Black girls and Latinas from Fairmount and other parts of the city. I learned the geography of the city as I visited their homes. I made friends of different nationalities, and learned to love the foods of Europe from pierogis to lasagna to the delights of chinese food and fortune cookies.

Hallahan opened my small world into a wider one. That wouldn't have happened without being the melting pot it was. It prepared me for the variety of people I was to meet in college and the work world. High school is supposed to prepare students to enter the wider world. Hallahan certainly did that for me, and I'm sure for today's students.

Please give strong consideration to granting historical designation to this unique place of learning.

Anne Hoban
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Class of 1971

John W Hallahan CGHS

Carol Bonewicz [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 5:05 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Dear Ms. Mehley:

Thank you for accepting John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School's application for Historical Designation.

Hallahan was the first Diocesan All Girls Catholic High School in the country. It was opened to give girls from all backgrounds the opportunity to receive an education that is steeped in academics and faith. Sadly, our faith is being tested. Our beloved school is closing. Our school, which for many, is where we learned that the world is bigger and more diverse than our childhood neighborhoods.

The building itself is a testament to the strength of the women who came before. They paved the way for future generations by showing us that there is no obstacle that we can't overcome. The opportunities that were afforded to us because of them are countless. Knowing that I walked the same halls as these women is truly humbling.

These women, past and present, are my sisters and I am truly honored to be a part of the legacy that is Hallahan. The pride I feel for being a Hallahan Girl is immense. I hope that this is not the end of our story.

Sincerely,

Carol M Bonewicz-Carlin
Class of 1993

Why John W. Hallahan should be considered as a historical building

Melissa Bressi [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 4:42 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>; Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Cc: samanthabressi13@gmail.com <samanthabressi13@gmail.com>

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Good afternoon Ms. Mehley,

My name is Melissa Milia-Bressi, and my daughter Samantha Bressi is an empowered, strong, intelligent female in her senior year at Hallahan.

This building, its location, and the history behind it were just some reasons my daughter chose John W. Hallahan for high school. This building is special and deserving of historical status because Hallahan is the oldest all-girls high school in the country, founded in 1911.

Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five high schools. This paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. The name was changed to John W Hallahan high school after the death of Mrs. McMichan, this was in honor of her brother.

In the late 1800s, The Archdiocese of Philadelphia began discussing a need to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Currently in Philadelphia it is the only all girls Catholic school left. It sits in a perfect location to help young women spread their wings and fly!

Experiencing the thrill of life in Center City, which remains the epicenter of the history of this nation, as well as the history of the city of brotherly love. Hallahan is rich in traditions that mean so much to so many, the most endeared is the fountain jump in Logan circle on the last day of school, starting way back in the 70's.

Close to 40,000 young women have earned diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as women of faith, purpose, and vision. It needs to stay exactly where it is, it has earned its place in history, in the city that many still call home.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Melissa L. Milia-Bressi and Samantha Bressi, class of 2021

Sent from my iPhone

Designation of Hallahan as Historical

Jillian Burns [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 4:56 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Dear Allyson,

Please seriously consider the designation of the John W Hallahan building as historical. It's more than just a building. It's home.

I am a 2002 graduate of J.W. Hallahan. I am the youngest of three girls. My sisters graduated in 1998 and 2000. My mom is a 1979 graduate. My grandmother graduated in the class of 1944. I have aunts and cousins who attended Hallahan. My niece is currently a junior, hoping to graduate from there next year. It breaks my heart to even think that this may not happen. Growing up, there was never a question as to which high school I would choose. It was embedded in my heart that Hallahan was the place to go.

While a sophomore there in 1999, I was diagnosed with bone cancer. At such an important time in my teenage years, I was faced with a life threatening illness. I can't even begin to describe the amount of support that came flooding from my classmates and other grade levels at Hallahan. The facility, staff, students. Everyone showed their support in one way or another. I was homeschooled for a year due to treatments and side effects but was welcomed with open arms to all school dances and activities. When I was able to come back my junior year, it was as if I never left. I was offered extra support to help me catch up and keep my grades in check, I never felt alone.

Those four years were something special. I made so many friends from all areas of the city, many of which I am still in touch with almost 2 decades later. I have been back to the school for various events, bingo, volleyball games, etc. Every time I step through those doors, I feel like I have never left. There is something about those halls and stairways. They hold stories. They hold the love of a sisterhood. They hold the history of the city. Those walls have seen major milestones in the history of our city. Hallahan is the only high school with Mickey Mouse as our mascot, with special written permission from Walt Disney himself!

I'm sure if you were to look at all the graduates, most have led successive lives and careers after graduation. I, myself, am an Oncology nurse and so very proud to say I graduated from Hallahan. Although I no longer live in the city, I still think of it as home. I would have loved to send my daughter there.

If the walls of Hallahan could talk, the stories they would tell!

Sincerely,

Jillian Wawrzynek Burns, class of 2002

J.W. Hallahan High School

Ciglar, Rachel [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 3:51 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Good Afternoon,

I wanted to share my opinion on Hallahan and why I believe it should be considered a Historical Designation. We all know that Hallahan is the oldest women's Catholic school and was funded by a woman who believed girls should have the advantages that boys did. Mary McMichan was a devout Catholic and she helped make it possible for girls to pursue their education. Does anything else scream our motto more than that? She was truly women of Faith, Purpose and Vision and so are the rest of us "Hallahan Girls".

There is so much history in this school from its start until now. We have many traditions like Hallahan Day and the Fountain Jump and everyone knows our famous mascot, Mickey Mouse. Hallahan is all those things and more. It's not just a building at 19th & Wood. It is a home for the endless number of women who have walked the halls of Hallahan. A place we are proud to say we are from and a place we continue to go back to. I personally have gone to career day and met with young women who are starting to think about college and careers. My cousin who is also a graduate is even the school nurse!

You see, I come from a family of women who have attended Hallahan and our stories have been passed down to one another. My mother who graduated from Hallahan in 1968 had the same history teacher I did in 1999. My older cousins had the same gym teacher (Ms. Biello) and now my youngest cousin is a student and we have shared the experience of knowing Sr. Ida who cares so much for us girls. This school is a part of who we all are.

I am proud to say I am part on the first graduating class of the 21st Century. My classmates and I graduated in June 2001. This was a big deal for us. It was also 100 years since the school was established. It is my hope you will make this a historical designation. There have been lifetimes of memories and a sisterhood made here.

Sincerely,

Rachel Ciglar

Probation Officer II

General Supervision 2

3rd floor

Philadelphia, Pa 19106

Friends of Hallahan

Theresa Flick [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 3:24 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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Hello,

Below please find the letter I sent to Friends of Hallahan a few weeks ago. You have my permission to share. Thank you!

My four years at Hallahan were invaluable. I not only grew in knowledge and faith, but as a person. This was my first experience making friends from outside of my neighborhood. We learned so much about ourselves and each other. Friends I've made since then mostly have terrible memories of their high school years. For me, that couldn't be further from the truth. I could not imagine having spent my high school years anywhere else. I am grateful for not only the incredible Catholic education I received, but the supportive environment I found there during the all too hectic teenage years. You don't realize the value of a sisterhood until you live it, and the sisterhood at Hallahan is like no other. It was amazing to see girls from so many backgrounds and neighborhoods work together in school and become lifelong friends. My sister is a sophomore and my heart breaks at the thought of her not being able to graduate from Hallahan. Even as a kid, she couldn't wait to go to Hallahan because she knows how much I loved it there. I hope and pray for all of those involved that this unfortunate situation works out in our favor. Once a Hallahan girl, always a Hallahan girl.

Theresa (Maiale) Flick, Class of 2010

John W. Hallahan - Save our building!

Danielle Giangreco [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 4:30 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Hello,

I am a third generation graduate of John W. Hallahan, the first in my family to finish college. My grandmother as a graduate was top 10 in her class but because it was a mans' world when she graduated her father did not value a college education for a woman, therefore not letting my grandmother go on to continue her education.

My grandmother later in life developed alzheimer's, she would often forget what day it was or what my name was but if you mentioned Hallahan or sang the Alma Mater she could belt it out and remembered every single word of it. That time in her life at Hallahan was so special to her, she never, ever forgot it.

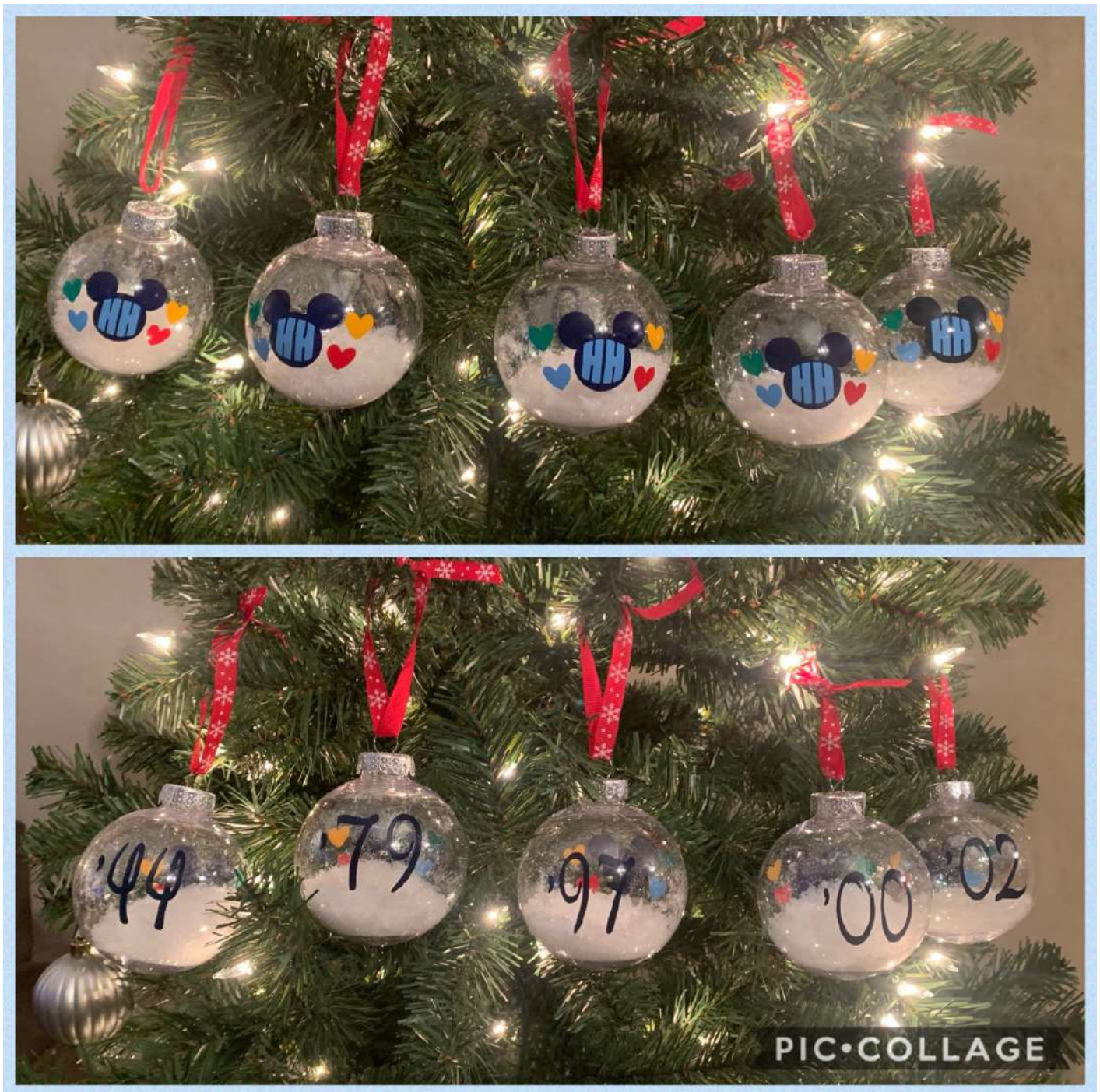
On top of my education I received at Hallahan I also was able to learn about cultural and racial diversity not taught to me in my grade school before. I can honestly admit I was sheltered from cultural diversity growing up, I went to a Catholic grade school in Philadelphia thats was probably 99% middle class white. When I went to Hallahan it was an eye opening experience. Hallahan brought in students from all different parts of the city that had the most diverse backgrounds. I was able to learn more about the real world going to Hallahan in Center City Philadelphia then I could have in books.

Tradition continued after my grandmother graduated in 1944, my mom then graduated in 1979, I along with my step-sister in 1997, my one sister in 2000, another sister in 2002 and we were hoping for my niece to graduate from Hallahan in 2022. Tradition was what made us each choose to go to Hallahan. We each heard the stories from my grandmother and mom, it was a not hard decision to make for each of us when we were in 8th grade.

You are not just closing down a school or a building, you are closing down a legacy built on traditions, values, women empowering women, cultural sensitivity and faith based environment only available at John W. Hallahan. It's not just about a building, it is what is on the inside of those walls.

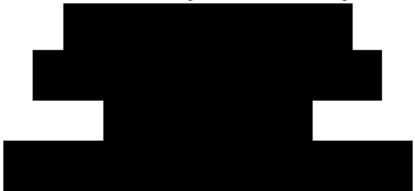
And side note I played volleyball for 4 years at Hallahan, we had the best gym for it! It was called the "Mousetrap" for a reason. Many other schools we played against had large spacious gyms, ours was tiny and had a low ceiling but it was all ours and we used it to our advantage. The other teams dreaded playing us there and some came in not knowing how to play the ball off the pipes or the low ceiling. Best 4 years of my life. We may be tiny but we are mighty!

Danielle Wawrzynek Giangreco
John W. Hallahan Class of 1997





Kimberly A. Kimrey



February 11, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

To Whom It May Concern:

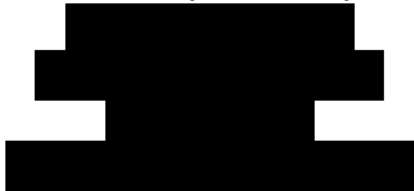
First, thank you for considering the application to make John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School a historical site. Mary Hallahan McMichan was a visionary way before her time. When Mrs. McMichan decided that she wanted to create the FIRST All-Girls' Catholic High School in the United States, she was creating a legacy for tens of thousands of young women that would span over 100 years.

Hallahan sits in the center of Philadelphia, among some of the greatest buildings in our great City. Mary McMichan's dream was to give young women the chance for secondary Catholic education; and her dream came true. There are approximately 40,000 young women who have walked the hallowed halls of Hallahan. My mother-in-law is a graduate of the Class of 1953 and always spoke of her Hallahan days with fond memories. Her stories rubbed off on my daughter, who is currently a junior at Hallahan.

Jill had made her decision to attend Hallahan at the age 12, while in sixth grade. There was no other school for her. Each Spring and Fall Open House that was held from the time she was in sixth grade until eighth grade, she was there. She was soaking in the sisterhood of the people that walked before her and the history of the school. She couldn't get enough of the school and attended the academic summer camps in 2017. It was there that she met some of her best friends. Friendships that were forged in their love of Hallahan, a school that they hadn't even been accepted into at that point.

When it became her time to walk into Hallahan as a freshman in September 2018, she was more than prepared and ecstatic to follow in her grandmother's footsteps and make memories and a history for herself. She jumped right in and became so involved in Hallahan, that we say that she lives more at Hallahan than in our home. She is an athlete, a leader, an honor student; all of which wouldn't be possible without Hallahan. I believe that when you love what you do, all things come easy. With Jill, she thrives at Hallahan. She has such a love for the school, the people, and the history, that she has not missed a single day of school. She truly lives and breathes for Hallahan. She has found her faith, vision, and purpose while at Hallahan. Those are three things that are taught to the girls that enter the school.

Kimberly A. Kimrey

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area, obscuring the name and any handwritten notes.

She took notice of the strong and historical women that grace the façade of Hallahan. Women that Mary McMichan believed were strong and empowering to women as a society and to the Catholic faith. These are women that have been engrained into my daughter's life. The details that went into the building of Hallahan in the early 1900s is something that is awe-inspiring. In today's society, we want to make everything new and modern, but I believe in preserving our history. A history forged by Mary McMichan and her vision.

Today we are striving to preserve her vision and the rich history of Hallahan. Her vision was to give young women the quality education they deserved, even before women were given the right to vote.

In Philadelphia, we take pride in being the City of FIRSTS. We are home to the birthplace of Independence, the first zoo, first medical school, first hospital, first library, first stock exchange, first all-boys' Catholic High School (Roman Catholic) and most importantly, the FIRST all-girls' Catholic High School in our country.

Please help us preserve the legacy of Mary Hallahan McMichan and her vision of Hallahan.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Kimrey

Please ~ Save Hallahan

Eileen Lafferty [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 9:05 AM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Hello Ms. Mehley. I am a 1973 graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. My four years at Hallahan were beyond memorable, and are the basis for the woman I am today. I have a strong faith foundation, unmatched work ethics along with a commitment to live my life modeled after my Christian values and traditions.

The school means so much to me that when I retired from the Montgomery County Office for Health and Human Services in 2016, I volunteered at Hallahan, tutoring and supporting students who academically and socially struggled. It was heartwarming to be back in my 1969 Latin classroom, but this time, on the other side of the desk, to encourage students to find the best in Hallahan, just as I did all those years ago.

Please, do all that you can to ensure that Hallahan is designated as a historical building in Philadelphia!! It will mean so much, to so many and ensure a brighter future for the women of this fine city.

May God bless and watch over you.

Eileen Lafferty '73
[REDACTED]

Historical designation for Hallahan high school building

jmlei [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 12:49 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Good afternoon.

I am writing in reference to the application for historical designation of the Hallahan high school building at 19th and Wood Streets.

As a graduate of the Hallahan class of 1975, I urge you to approve the historical designation of our beloved high school building. This building opened in 1911 and houses the first Catholic Girls high school, not just in Philadelphia, but in the entire country. I passed the 1911 cornerstone every day I entered the building for the 4 years I attended Hallahan.

Since the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is planning on closing the high school at the end of this school year, it is urgent that this designation is approved so the building is not able to be torn down if sold. Our school has always been unique in center city and it would be an atrocity if it was destroyed. Our graduates have contributed to this city, state and country in more ways that can be counted. The building is well known and appreciated building in it's neighborhood. We need to keep the historical structure to appreciate the architectural features. The historical designation is necessary to preserve the history of this all girls school which has provided an excellent education and sisterly experience to thousands of Philadelphia's female residents. Hallahan's current students and thousands of alumnae are trying to save the school to keep Hallahan open, and, at the very least, hope to save the building from demolition or destruction.

I implore you to please approve this historical designation for John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School located at 19th and Wood Streets.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Josephine McCoy
[REDACTED]

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Historical designation of John W. Hallahan building

Lillian Walker Shelton [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 6:13 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: Friends of Hallahan <hallahanbod@gmail.com>

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Dear Ms. Mehley:

I am respectfully submitting a request that you designate the John W. Hallahan building as a historical site.

I am an alumnae of Hallahan and member of the class of 1993. My mother also attended Hallahan and graduated in 1959.

Hallhan is not just a part of Philadelphia's History but it is also part of American history. Our school is the oldest Catholic Girl's High School in the United States. This history has been captured and built upon by my mother, my aunts and my cousins. The school is a legacy for myself and thousands of other women around the world.

Please consider designating the building as a historical site so Philadelphia and America's legacy can live on.

Thank you,

Lillian Walker Shelton

Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan

Christina Yancer [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 12:07 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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February 11, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Christina Dzielinski Yancer and I am a proud Alumna of the John W. Hallahan Class of 1993. More importantly, I am the parent of Paige Yancer, a current student, who is a member of the Class of 2022.

I am writing today to ask that you approve the application for historical designation of the oldest Catholic Girl's High School. Being the oldest all girls school in the country should alone count for something; however what one needs to recognize is that Hallahan is so much more than just a building. Hallahan High School is an icon in Philadelphia more specifically, Center City. Quite frankly, Philadelphia and Center City would not be what they are today without the contributions of the women from Hallahan.

Hallahan spans over four generations in my family not to mention countless other families throughout the city of Philadelphia. Starting as a freshman in 1965 my mother was the first woman in our family to walk the hallowed halls of Hallahan. Fast forwarding almost three decades later to 1989 and 1993 my mother instilled those same values learned from Hallahan's education into my sister and myself as we were both blessed to graduate into this amazing sisterhood. The sisterhood continues today, where my daughter is currently in the 11th grade at Hallahan and hoping to continue this family tradition and graduate from Hallahan as a member of the Class of 2022.

The institution of John W Hallahan has instilled in our entire sisterhood a strong sense of strength and determination. Attending the oldest all girls Catholic High School also instills a sense of pride. Putting into words this sense of pride is difficult, but the emotions that my family and I have when we speak about our times at Hallahan, our second family, our sisters, our second home, is easily seen through the laughs, tears, and fondness of the memories. These memories are even stronger watching my daughter flourish as a student at Hallahan. She is a member of Student Council, Student Ambassadors and most recently was accepted into both the Spanish Honor Society and the National Honor Society. She truly loves her school and honors the traditions that have been so long standing in our family. She spends time at Hallahan when she does not have to, that is true dedication to one's school.

Designating Hallahan as a historical site allows the thousands of women who have graduated from this wonderful school the opportunity to continue the traditions that have made such an impact on the sisterhood of Hallahan and the entire City of Philadelphia. My family is asking that you please approve the application for John W. Hallahan to be designated a historical landmark.

Alma Mater Glorify!

Judith Hughes Dzielinski, Class of 1969

Jennifer Dzielinski Klingenberg, Class of 1989

Christina Dzielinski Yancer, Class of 1993

Paige Yancer, Class of 2022

John W Hallahan High School

ziggy65463 [REDACTED]

Thu 2/11/2021 9:30 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

Thank you so very much for your assistance in helping the Friends of Hallahan with their quest to keep the doors of Hallahan open. The school is definitely a Historical Landmark in the city of Philadelphia but is truly a landmark in the hearts of every girl who enters as a freshman and graduates into becoming a woman. I am a proud graduate and pray that any girl who wishes to enter this beautiful tradition gets a chance to do so. Once again, thank you and you are truly appreciated.

Deborah A. Zaccagni Welte
Class of '77

February 11, 2021

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing on behalf of John W. Hallahan, Catholic High School for Girls. I want to extend my sincere gratitude for the acceptance of the application to the Historical Preservation Society. I know there are still other steps to be taken, but I wholeheartedly believe that Hallahan deserves this recognition as it is truly, an extraordinary institution, with a rich history in the City of Philadelphia.

I am sure you are aware that John W. Hallahan is the oldest Catholic Girls High School in the United States. It has been educating young women of all cultures for 120 years, contributing not only to the community that surrounds it, but to the country and beyond. Women have gone further because of Hallahan. Generations of women have attended Hallahan because of the values it was built on and continues to instill in all her students who attend today.

At a time when women were not considered to be a part of the majority, Mary McMichan saw the potential for this Catholic Girls High School. Her and her team of believers built this school to ensure that women had a fighting chance in this world. At a time when most traveled by locomotive, and automobiles were not the norm, the John W. Hallahan building was standing strong and should continue to stand strong for many years to come. The neighborhood around our beloved Hallahan has changed and modernized in many respects, but Hallahan shows that it still belongs. Hallahan is exactly where it belongs, in the heart of Philadelphia, where many other historical institutions stand. Hallahan is not just a physical building, she is a living, breathing institution. A place, where not only young women have come to love (and I cannot stress love enough), but has become a part of so many women, teachers, and staff from many, many generations.

My own family has been a part of John W. Hallahan for many years. My mother, Class of 1969, my aunts, Class of 1966 and 1970, my sisters, Class of 1990 and 1995, and myself the Class of 1993. My love for education started with Hallahan and continues in my career as a School Administrator. I hope that I can instill the same values in my students that Hallahan has in myself and many others.

I hope that you will continue to move forward with the approval of John W. Hallahan, Catholic Girls High School, in the Historical Preservation Society, it would be far overdue!

Sincerely,



Georgine Fronczak, M.Ed.

Class of 1993

February 12, 2021

Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner at Philadelphia Historical Commission

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing you in full support of the proposed historical designation of John W. Hallahan High School. I grew up in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia during the 1960-1970s and attended St. Francis Xavier grade school and John W. Hallahan High School. For many female members of my family going to Hallahan represents a rite of passage as well as a family tradition. As a child I walked past Hallahan countless times with my mother and grandmother before I actually entered the doors of this hallowed school as a student. Conversations with my aunts, cousins, nieces and friends about their personal experiences are filled with pride and joy that only those that attended Hallahan would feel. Hallahan is an indelible part of our families, neighborhood, city and nation.

Everyone losses if Hallahan should close. The students, faculty, surrounding neighborhood and the City of Philadelphia. During these challenging times we need to restore faith and keep positive traditions alive. I support every effort to preserve Hallahan's glorious historical traditions and perhaps more importantly the crucial role it will play in the lives of so many future young Philadelphians. I respectfully request your assistance in helping us preserve John W. Hallahan School as it has helped so many of its current students and graduates lead happy and productive lives. It is truly part of the fabric of our great city and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Kathryn McBride-King 75

[REDACTED]

Saving not just hallahan but my home

julia sautter [REDACTED]

Fri 2/12/2021 12:34 AM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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Hello

My name is Julia sautter I'm a alumni of hallahan class of 2016 but not just me my mother,sister, both my aunts,cousins and even my great aunt all went to hallahan in there lives. Now most people can say hallahan was the best time of there there lives and it was for me also but not just 4 years. You see I live across of hallahan on that cobblestone street which most mistaken it for an ally yep good old carlton street since literally the day I came home from the hospital 23 years ago. I have caused trouble for the hallahan building even before I was student that building is my childhood I always felt safe because of it looking outside my window I would be looking at building waitingfor the day I'd graduated8th grade and go to hallahan, playing with my friends on the block because we had the room to run back and forth because nothing bad happened on carlton street because of the hallahan building, the teachers were my friends before my high school teachers. It was my second home never my high school and I couldn't be more proud to be living across the oldest all girls catholic high school in the country. But changing or even knocking it down the building wouldn't just fill me with disappointment but the generation of women in my family and others and it would be letting all women down. So please let's save this building my home.

Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan High School

Angela West [REDACTED]

Fri 2/12/2021 3:52 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: Friends of Hallahan@gmail.com <Friends of Hallahan@gmail.com>

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Ms. Mehley:

I am a 1968 graduate of Hallahan High School. When I was accepted to the school in 1964, my family and I were so excited because we believed that this was an outstanding Catholic institution for the education of women. I have to agree. This school is the first Catholic High School for Girls in the United States. When I tell people where I went to high school, inevitably this is the next sentence that I say: It is the **first** Catholic girls high school in the United States...such an honor for me to be part of history.

I am so proud to be a "Hallahan girl." The education I received at Hallahan instilled values that have enabled me to achieve a college degree and guide me to this day.

How wonderful that this is the first institution for the education of Catholic girls and is located in the City of Brotherly Love.

I respectfully request that this architecture which served as the foundation for educating women be designated as an historical site as a tribute to all who have been and will be enriched by its tradition and benefited from its culture.

There are so few institutions in Philadelphia with such history and tradition that represent women.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Angela Baj West

Proud member of the Class of 1968

Historical Designation of John W Hallahan High School

denisefullmer@comcast.net [REDACTED]

Sat 2/13/2021 12:57 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Ms. Mehley:

The beautiful, historical building located at 311 N. 19th Street, was built to educate Roman Catholic women, in the great city of Philadelphia. It was the first of its kind in the Country, it is known as John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. Since 1911 the school has educated and graduated thousands of diverse and talented women. Now the plan is to close and sell the building.

I am a proud graduate of the Class of 1968. In fact, it is a time-honored family tradition, my Mother is a proud graduate of the Class of 1949, my sister is a proud graduate of the Class of 1969 and all of my aunts and female cousins have all graduated from Hallahan.

My very first "grown-up" job was through Hallahan. And the company that hired me told me they only hired from Hallahan because of the quality and education of its Alumnae. It is not only a valued and cherished part of our family's history and culture, but for many Philadelphians, as well.

One of the unique things about Philadelphia is the blend of old and new architecture throughout its neighborhoods. However, I feel that too many of the cherished and beautiful old buildings are being replaced for trendy new and shiny facades, thereby changing the look, culture and history of the city.

Please protect this beloved landmark and piece of pride and declare the building at 311 N.19th Street historical to keep it as part of the charm and tradition of Philadelphia.

Denise M. (Cunningham) Fullmer

Class of 1968

2/13/21



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

RE: Historical Designation for Hallahan

bmg4000 [REDACTED]

Sat 2/13/2021 9:12 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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Dear Ms. Mehley

I forgot to mention in my letter that in addition to my Mom Eleanor C Kearney McGraw and me, my niece Lauren McGraw is a 2000 graduate of Hallahan. She has a career as a Phlebotomist at Jefferson Hospital Methodist and she is a new mother.

Three generations of Hallahan ladies grace our family.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Bernardine McGraw Mann

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: bmg4000 [REDACTED]

Date: 2/13/21 5:11 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov

Subject: Historical Designation for Hallahan

Good day Ms. Mehley

Both my mother Eleanor C Kearney and I attended Hallahan. I graduated in 1968.

My mother attended Hallahan from 1924 to 1927. She studied music and was member of the orchestra playing piano and organ. In 1928 the Archdiocese needed a graduating class for the new girls school West Catholic so several students, my mother among them were transferred to West for her last year in school. Ironically, she received her Hallahan class ring in junior year. Mom was disappointed by the move having spent three (3) happy and productive years at Hallahan.

Hallahan played a significant role in developing Mom's musical skills, she was awarded First Prize for Music and after graduating attended Zekwer-Hahn Music Conservatory. Music played a major role in Mom's life and Hallahan played a major role in developing her talent and confidence.

One of her early jobs was providing piano music for silent movies. A novelty especially for a

woman. Later she devoted herself to music for school events and church services. Eleanor traveled throughout Philadelphia to provide music for over 50 churches in the Philadelphia area, including the opening Mass for the annual St. Patrick's day parade.

I was blessed with following Mom to Hallahan 40 years later. During my time Hallahan was a United Nations....home to girls of varied races and ethnic backgrounds. I recall friendship and unity that shaped my Catholic values and perspectives.

From 1911 to 1928 to 1968 to 2021 Hallahan has been educating and nurturing young Catholic girls of Philadelphia to become the best women they can be.

Mary Hallahan McMichen took a bold, historic step to petition the Diocese of Philadelphia to develop high education for Catholic girl in America. Thankfully, she met a great ally in Bishop McDermott. Together they broke the mold.

It was unheard of to educate women and even more radical to educate Catholic women.

Catholic rights and Women's rights made a huge step forward when Hallahan was opened 1911. I truly believe Hallahan warrants Historic Designation.

Thank you

Bernardine McGraw Mann
HH CI 68



Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Fwd: John W. Hallahan

Elisha Markowski [REDACTED]

Sat 2/13/2021 9:52 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elisha Markowski** [REDACTED]

Date: Sat, Feb 13, 2021 at 9:46 PM

Subject: John W. Hallahan

To: [REDACTED]

Dear Allyson,

I hope I can find the right words to express the love I have for John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. This school is a part of history. It is history making to our city and our country. A structure like this, so prominent and beautiful to our city needs to be protected. You can see the care and love the people had envisioned when building this school. The ornate craftsmanship above the center doors is stunning. Dignitaries from far away knew that this building was special. They knew that it was history making, they felt compelled to go above and beyond to add to the beauty of this magnificent building. The cornerstone, a gift from Italy adds a wonderful touch to the history and the importance that this structure represents. In order for a building to have historical status it must meet certain requirements. Hallahan meets these requirements. The age of the building, and the importance it holds in history. Hallahan is the first in the country. That is history making. Let's protect the legacy that this building represents. This building is strong and built with character. It produced over 40,000 women who hold these traits. There are mistakes in life that can be corrected. If anything were to happen to this building the damage would be irreversible. Pope Pius X, is deceased. The cornerstone on the building that he blessed and sent can never be replaced. I am asking you to please hear our voices. Know that we love this school. This school represents the a first to our city, Philadelphia is known for it's firsts. Please don't change the landscape to our city. This school is what we as Philadelphians represent. Strong and built with character.

I thank you for your consideration in protecting the legacy of John W. Hallahan.

Sincerely,

Elisha Hanson Markowski

Class of 1990

#saveHallahan

Preservation of the John W. Hallahan HS Building

Vicki Giunta [REDACTED]

Sun 2/14/2021 7:46 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: friendsofHallahan@gmail.com <friendsofHallahan@gmail.com>

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

The education of girls has not always been a given in the male-centric society which we are still trying to balance. This would be a perfect time and the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School building would be the perfect place to celebrate the beginnings of institutional education for young women. As an early proponent of general education for young women, Hallahan High School stood out throughout the City of Philadelphia and the nation by offering a spectrum of courses to educate the whole person: history, art, music, higher math, the sciences, English and foreign languages including Latin were available to the students. There were so many schools offering a limited selection of secretarial classes like typing and stenography. Hallahan offered college prep many years before that became the norm. Please designate the Hallahan building as Historic because of its importance in the educational history of women.

My mother graduated in 1935 from Hallahan and she had a life-long relationship with the school and the friends she made there.

Regards,

Vicki Giunta-Abbott

Hallahan High School Historic Designation

Luca, Dana L [REDACTED]

Sun 2/14/2021 6:07 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Dear Allyson,

I'm writing to you today as a proud and faithful alumna of the John W. Hallahan Class of 1993. As a 3rd generation graduate, I was overcome with joy when I learned my niece Ava, a freshman this year, would carry the torch into a new generation. So, the news of the school's planned closing at the end of this school year has weighed heavy on me and my family.

When it came time for me to attend high school, it was never a question of where I'd go—Hallahan was in my blood. My mother and sister as well as aunts, cousins and close friends had already paved the way. Through them I was able to witness the enduring sisterhood and learn about the history and legacy of Hallahan High School. It's nothing short of incredible to have had the good fortune to attend the oldest Catholic all-girls high school, a place that is such an integral part of Philadelphia history. To be a part of a legacy that includes civic leaders, businesswomen, doctors, nurses, teachers, and more fills me with so much pride.

I am humbled to have walked the same halls as many great women leaders—perhaps not famous, but important leaders in their own communities, families, and places of employment. We are connected by a sisterhood and the four years we each spent at 19th and Wood. Some may consider it to be "just a building", but to me, it's much more than that. It's the thread that ties generations together. It was our home. It's where we spent our days learning in the classrooms, chatting by our lockers in the Pit, cheering on the basketball team in the gym, and laughing over cheese fries and milkshakes in the cafeteria.

I can think of no other institution more deserving of historical designation. After 130 years the sisterhood prevails, and we won't sit idly by and watch our home be taken away. For all the sisters that have gone before and for all those who follow, please consider our request.

Sincerely,

Dana Giangreco Luca, class of 1993

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Why Should Hallahan's Building Be Designated as a Historical Building

Ashley McCarrie [REDACTED]

Sun 2/14/2021 2:20 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Historic Building Designation Committee,

My name is Ashley McCarrie Naylor and I am a proud alumnae of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. I am writing to you in the hopes that my letter, and the letters of my fellow Hallahan sisters, are read as we are trying to have our home designated a historical building. Philadelphia is rich in history in a multitude of ways but what has stood the test of time are the buildings, and the building that Hallahan resides in is NO different. The building is important, not only on the outside but on the inside, as well. When it was announced that Hallahan was slated for closure at the end of the 2020-21 school year, to say my heart broke would be understatement. However, my heartache grew to curiosity, confusion, and shock when it was also discovered that the building was not already a designated historical building. To simply put it, a building is not just bricks and mortar, it is the memories, students, and workers that form the history of a building, as well.

For over a century, young ladies from all over Philadelphia, the surrounding suburbs, and even New Jersey have walked those hallowed halls and called the school building their home away from home. As the first all-girls Catholic high school in the country, the history speaks for itself! From the iconic uniform, legendary mascot, and outstanding example set by Hallahan for all-girl Catholic high schools around the country, the history oozes through the pride, virtues, and traditions of the students, graduates, and most important, its buildings. Growing up in Philadelphia, everyone knows who the "Girls in Blue" are, have at least one family member that was a Hallahan sister, and can identify its location because of the recognizable building. In designating Hallahan a historical building, people from outside of Philadelphia and the surrounding areas can visit and immerse themselves in the history the building offers. A lot of people interested in different historical aspects will be able to find something that tickles their fancy at this building, inside or out.

Not only did Hallahan spearhead educating women through Catholic morals and values but Hallahan helped young ladies see there were more opportunities and possibilities in the world other than the home. By choosing to have the building centrally located, this allowed a diverse collection of young ladies from all walks of life to have the right to a quality education.

A top corner of the building can always be seen to help point you in the right direction, as you approach. As you stand outside and look at the building, the dates and names etched in the stones and the towering bricks and stones that intimidate and invite in all at once help allude to the history inside. When you enter the building, heavy doors contradict the light and welcoming stairs that pull you in. Walking into the school as a visitor, as a student, or as an alum, there's a feeling that envelops you. The feeling can only be compared to an immense sense of pride,

nostalgia, and tradition, which in my opinion are key characteristics a historical building must possess. Throughout the school's two buildings, there are exquisite stained glass pieces, especially in the recently renovated chapel. There is a gorgeous shrine to Mary and baby, Jesus, on the first floor of the Hallahan building. The Mouse Trap, or gym, is one of the few school gyms in Downtown Philadelphia that is below ground. The auditorium holds some wonderful art in the form of the organ and some metal art pieces that are hung on either side of the stage. The organ and piping are original and date back to the erection of the building.

I can't even begin to put into words what my time and memories at Hallahan mean to me. I, not only, met some of the strongest, smartest, most amazing women there but I was able to add to my own family history. My mom, numerous aunts, cousins, and extended family have all attended Hallahan. I was able to join their sisterhood and connect with them on another level.

By designating this building historical, not only would United States history, female history, and Catholic history be cemented but the memories, traditions, and sacrifices of all that attended and worked for Hallahan over the last 100+ years old would be preserved, as well.

Alma Mater Glorify!

Best,
Ashley McCarrie Naylor
Class of 2009

SAVE HALLAHAN

rrcrrr17@verizon.net [REDACTED]

Sun 2/14/2021 12:03 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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Good day Ms. Mehley,

My name is Rosemarie (Cunningham) Rahill and I am a 1969 Graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls Highschool, and my sister Denise, is a graduate of the class of 1968, and my mother is a member of the class of 1949. My mother's 2 sisters and my father's 4 sisters are proud graduates, as well as 6 of my first cousins. It is obvious we are members of the great Hallahan family.

Hallahan is part of our family history both physically and emotionally. This great institution has ties that bind. Whenever the name of John W. Hallahan is mentioned, we immediately feel a sense of pride. We know we received a phenomenal education, that lead into many diverse careers. We are indebted to the wonderful faculty and staff at our beloved alma mater.

Our school is the first all-girls Catholic high school in the United States. The City of Philadelphia should take pride in the fact that it is the first city in the country to have a public high school and a Catholic high school dedicated to women. Hallahan if not just a building of brick and mortar, it is alive with our hearts and souls and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

When I think of what the future may hold for the school that is so near and dear to so many hearts, I immediately begin to shed a tear. Please don't let Hallahan become just another building razed and replaced with luxury condos.



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Save Hallahan

Eileen Erikson [REDACTED]

Mon 2/15/2021 2:09 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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Please save our historical building

Sent from my iPhone

Making Hallahan Girls' High School a Historic Site

kathleen walsh [REDACTED]

Mon 2/15/2021 4:08 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: friendsofhallahan@gaill.com <friendsofhallahan@gaill.com>

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To: Committee on Historic Designation

I am writing to let you know how much the Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School means to me and it should be made a historic building and should never be sold or demolished.

The Hallahan Girls' High School made me feel like The Little Engine That Could. There was and still is a voice inside my heart saying keep going and do not give up no matter how difficult it gets. There was so much encouragement at Hallahan on how to overcome those obstacles that you have to face in school and life in general. Especially, in Religious class. Some of the subjects were very hard and I had to rely on the Chapel on the third floor of the Cathedral Building to say a lot of prayers to God about not letting me fail any of those tests after receiving a couple of those failure warnings. I was always in the Chapel on the third floor of the Cathedral Building praying before taking those tests. I would study but kept praying just in case the studying was not enough. Going back to the Chapel on the third floor of the Cathedral Building this is a place where miracles take place because I did not get any red F's on my report for the whole four years at Hallahan. I would say that is a miracle.

Another main feature at Hallahan is the bridge separating the Hallahan Building from the Cathedral Building. This bridge is a life saver. I know for myself, I looked forward to crossing over it everyday. It was a pleasure. On some days, I probably ran over because I was running late for a class or wanted to pray at the chapel.

Please Committee on Historic Designation do not destroy or sell Hallahan, but make our Hallahan Girls' High School an HISTORIC SITE.

Thank you,

Kathleen Walsh, Class of 1962

[REDACTED]

February 16, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you because I firmly believe that Hallahan High school is worthy of the distinction of being named a historical building. Hallahan should be recognized as the "Crown Jewel" of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Obviously, the location is wonderful but the history of how Hallahan came to be is even more impressive.

Over a century ago, a young woman named Mary McMichan realized the importance of dedicating a building in this city to educate women so they could be productive members of society. Imagine in those times having the courage to put your faith into a cause so important and having it come to fruition. Mary accomplished this at a time when women could not even vote. She was a trailblazer! She set the tone for the next generation of women to walk through those doors, and I was one of those lucky women. I have an entire family of lucky women who walked those hallways with a dream in mind of what we would one day become. I made lifelong friends from different neighborhoods and cultural backgrounds. The diversity and culture of the city is evident in the population of the students at Hallahan. This wouldn't have happened if it weren't for Mary being so brave, so generous and so determined.

Fast forward to 2021, the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of our beloved school. It is a well-known fact that Hallahan girls are entrenched in the fabric of this city, and it is all thanks to the dedication and philanthropic gift of Mary Mc Michan. Hallahan graduates are employed in all types of positions in the city. We are the doctors and the nurses in the hospitals, the paralegals in the law offices and the spin instructor at the local gym. Hallahan girls are business owners, educators, journalists, lawyers, day care providers, managers, Presidents and CEO's of major companies, and the list goes on and on. WE are part of the history of the city. Hallahan girls are noticed all over downtown Philadelphia with the iconic navy uniform and blue and white saddle shoes. We are proud to be known as a "Hallahan girl." Mary McMichan knew woman had place in this city and we would one day make our mark. She knew that women deserved a proper education to prepare them for the world. We are Mary's legacy. Honestly, I couldn't imagine passing 19th and Wood and not seeing the building as it is in all of its glory. The beautiful façade, the interior main entrance of marble with the picture of Mary watching over us all. Here we are making our mark in the city just as Mary had planned. We cannot give up on her dream, our dream and our Alma Mater.

I am a proud alumna of the class of 1987 and I am the third generation in my family to attend Hallahan. We were all so excited for my daughter to continue the legacy as a member of the class of 2024. Hallahan has history in my family and we cannot let that history be forgotten. It all started with one woman who was determined. Now, that duty lies on us, the alumnae of Hallahan. We have a deep loyalty to our Alma Mater and we know that the building is priceless! A historic designation is just what Hallahan deserves. We know it's what Mary would do, and we want to make her proud😊

Alma Mater Glorify!

Respectfully yours,
Gina Giangreco Hall '87

On behalf of my family
Carol Rispo '60
Diane De Lizza '62
Marie DeLizza '68
Dana Giangreco '93
Rachel Ciglar 2001
Ava Hall 2024

John W Hallahan Historical Building Designation

Jessica Kelly [REDACTED]

Tue 2/16/2021 2:17 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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To whom it may concern,

First, I want to thank you for your consideration of accepting Hallahan's application for the historical designation of the building. As you probably already know, Hallahan is the first all girls catholic high school in the country. Not only is it historical in the sense of bringing Catholic education to Philadelphia for over 100 years, but it's also empowered so many women to enter the workforce and pursue some amazing careers. Many Hallahan women have gone on to do some amazing things for not only Philadelphia, but for the world and humanity in general.

Hallahan is also the only school in the world with written permission from Walt Disney to use Mickey Mouse as their mascot. That truly was one of my favorite things about Hallahan. Disney, in general, is so successful because of the magic it brings to this world. From their movies to their theme parks, they make people believe in magic and happiness. To me, Hallahan does the same thing. Hallahan teaches young women to trust and believe in themselves. It encourages young women to pursue whatever career path they want to all while teaching the importance of friendship and networking.

The location of Hallahan helps further teach young women how to be independent. Learning how to navigate public transit or just walking through the city helps young women gain skills they need to be independent. The city of Philadelphia has such a rich history tied in with Hallahan. Our field trips took us to the art museum, the Franklin Institute, and other Philadelphia staples that are within walking distance. Many young girls get jobs in center city for after school with various businesses within Center City. Many of these women have gone on to have successful careers with that business or have been linked with other jobs because of the relationship Hallahan has with Philly businesses.

For me, Hallahan has played a huge role in my life and my family's life. My 2 aunts graduated in 58 and 62, I graduated in 2016, and my sister graduated in 2019. Sharing the sisterhood with my family is so special. My aunts love talking about their days at Hallahan, and my sister and I constantly update them with Hallahan news. It was such a cool experience to be at a school that my aunts attended and the building remained identical to when they were there.

I also currently am the assistant volleyball coach at Hallahan. I love still being involved with the sisterhood and helping out the school in whatever way I can. Furthering the volleyball program is such a joy to me. I love watching the girls accomplish their goals for the season while hearing about their current Hallahan experiences.

As you can see, this building is not only rich in history, but also rich in so many women's personal histories. For many, it's a generational building that has provided a unique education to so many women. High school is such a trying time for so many young women, and Hallahan does a great job

helping young women learn to guide themselves through problems and life in general.

Designating this building as historical signifies that Hallahan truly has touched the lives of so many people and the city of Philadelphia. Hallahan needs Philadelphia, just like Philadelphia needs Hallahan.

Sincerely,
Jessica Kelly
Class of 2016

Historical Designation for Hallahan

Lauren McGraw [REDACTED]

Tue 2/16/2021 1 42 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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Good day,

My family is blessed to have many women who graduated from J. W. Hallahan Catholic Girls high school.

I graduated in 2000, but our story starts long before that:

My grandmother Eleanor Kearney attended Hallahan from 1925 to 1927 when she was transferred to West Catholic so that new school would have a graduation class in 1928;

Granddaunts Bernardine Kearney Class 1930 and Frances Kearney Class 1932;

Granddaunts Helen Gallagher Class 1931 and Ann Gallagher Class 1934;

Then my father's sister Bernardine McGraw graduated 1968

I can't tell you how proud we all are to have attended America's first free Catholic girls high school. Our education was as diverse as our classmates and taught us more about life than Math and English. We learned faith, social skills, tolerance, citizenship to name a few.

I am grateful to Mary Hallahan McMichen for her generosity and wisdom in founding our school. I am also grateful that Bishop McDevitt was receptive to her idea. Their efforts were groundbreaking steps to advance education for girls especially Catholic girls. A major initiative in women's right in America.

Hallahan is deserving of Historic Designation.

Thank you,
Lauren McGraw
C/O 2000

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Bernie [REDACTED]
Date: 2/14/21 3:08 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: bmg4000 [REDACTED]
To: Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
Sent: Sat, Feb 13, 2021 9:12 pm
Subject: RE: Historical Designation for Hallahan

Dear Ms. Mehley

I forgot to mention in my letter that in addition to my Mom Eleanor C Kearney McGraw and me, my niece Lauren McGraw is a 2000 graduate of Hallahan. She has a career as a Phlebotomist at Jefferson Hospital Methodist and she is a new mother.

Three generations of Hallahan ladies grace our family.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Bernardine McGraw Mann

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: bmg4000 [REDACTED]
 Date: 2/13/21 5:11 PM (GMT-05:00)
 To: Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov
 Subject: Historical Designation for Hallahan

Good day Ms Mehley

Both my mother Eleanor C Kearney and I attended Hallahan I graduated in 1968

My mother attended Hallahan from 1924 to 1927 She studied music and was member of the orchestra playing piano and organ In 1928 the Archdiocese needed a graduating class for the new girls school West Catholic so several students my mother among them were transferred to West for her last year in school Ironically she received her Hallahan class ring in junior year Mom was disappointed by the move having spent three (3) happy and productive years at Hallahan

Hallahan played a significant role in developing Mom's musical skills she was awarded First Prize for Music and after graduating attended Zekwer Hahn Music Conservatory Music played a major role in Mom's life and Hallahan played a major role in developing her talent and confidence

One of her early jobs was providing piano music for silent movies A novelty especially for a woman Later she devoted herself to music for school events and church services Eleanor traveled throughout Philadelphia to provide music for over 50 churches in the Philadelphia area including the opening Mass for the annual St Patrick's day parade

I was blessed with following Mom to Hallahan 40 years later. During my time Hallahan was a United Nations....home to girls of varied races and ethnic backgrounds. I recall friendship and unity that shaped my Catholic values and perspectives.

From 1911 to 1928 to 1968 to 2021 Hallahan has been educating and nurturing young Catholic girls of Philadelphia to become the best women they can be.

Mary Hallahan McMichen took a bold, historic step to petition the Diocese of Philadelphia to develop high education for Catholic girl in America. Thankfully, she met a great ally in Bishop McDermott. Together they broke the mold. It was unheard of to educate women and even more radical to educate Catholic women.

Catholic rights and Women's rights made a huge step forward when Hallahan was opened 1911. I truly believe Hallahan warrants Historic Designation.

Thank you

Bernardine McGraw Mann
 HH CI 68
 4940 Bachman Road
 Macungie PA 18062
 610 360 0391 cell
 610 965 1999 home

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Historical Designation

Celeste Oliveri [REDACTED]

Tue 2/16/2021 12:10 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to you in reference to the building at 311 N. 19th Street Philadelphia, PA 19103, also known as John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School.

I would like you to consider 311 N. 19th Street as an Historical Building. It is the first and oldest Catholic Girls High School in the Nation. When being built, the cornerstone of the building was blessed and sent by Pope Pius X from Rome to Philadelphia. No other building in the city of Philadelphia is known to have this honor.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School has a long standing in the City of Philadelphia, It educated daughters of immigrant families, and to this day Hallahan is a very diverse school.

This building stands with PRIDE, the pride of every girl that went to Hallahan and attending to this day.

I have Great Aunts that graduated in the 1920"S, my sisters and I graduated in the 1970"s, Niece's that just graduated in 2018 and 2020 and one still attending Hallahan. There are many many families just like mine that have generations of women that went to Hallahan.

Hallahan is not just a name of a school it is that building at 19th and Woods Streets, The halls of that building every inch of it gave us a memory that we shared with our sisters, Mothers, Aunts and Great Aunts.

Please make John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School an Historic Landmark.

Sincerely

Celeste Scally Oliveri
Class of 1978

historical designation of Hallahan building

PATRICIA THOMAS [REDACTED]

Tue 2/16/2021 11:34 AM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

Let me begin by saying I am a proud graduate class of 1968 of Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. What an amazing 4 years I experienced there.

Personally I believe the historical value of this school began in June 1895 with the concept of creating higher education for catholic girls in the Philadelphia area.

The foresight of Mrs. Mary McMichan formerly Hallahan and then Fathers John Shanahan and Phillip McDevitt later bishop are to be revered and commended not destroyed.

To offer higher education at this time to women of working class families was unheard of thereby creating the start of a historical era. Please do not destroy this valuable asset in the City of Philadelphia.

What started then continues today and should not be removed.

Please consider all of this in your decision to declare the building historical.

Let the dreams of the McMichan and Hallahan families continue today in the hearts of all attending now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Patricia Thomas



February 16, 2018

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Friends:

It is with great hope that I write to ask you to consider designating the Hallahan Building as historic. From its beginning and through its many years of its operation, it contributed greatly to the city of Philadelphia and its surrounding areas. Its influence greatly exceeds the boundary of its buildings.

You know that it was the first Catholic girls' high school in the United States. You are familiar with the time period of its planning, construction, and opening during times of great changes in the society: immigrants flocking to the city in great numbers and the anti-immigrant riots; the nativism of the American Protective Society that demanded that Catholics not be allowed to teach in public schools; the desire of many American Catholics who valued the importance of education but wanted religion to be part of it; and, how Hallahan became a vital part of the solution. You also realize, I am sure, that Hallahan ensured that girls could get the same education as boys, a concept not all embraced at that time. Those facts along with the knowledge that Hallahan served as an excellent school for over 108 years seems enough to merit its designation as historic.

Another important consideration to earning the designation is that the building was designed by the prestigious firm of Ballinger and Perrot. By designing numerous Roman Catholic and Methodist Episcopal churches and parish schools which influenced the cultural development of the city.

Knowing that a building with such an honorable and storied history will no longer serve as a high school for girls is tragic to many people, not only those who attended throughout more than a century worth of school years, but also by the city itself. Many Philadelphia area citizens, businesses, and organization respected the traditions and excellent education the venerable building engendered.

What is the worth of a building? Surely is more than the physical plant alone. The building is a powerful link between past and present and that very thing is what generates hope for the future.

In trying to express the importance of saving the building, I looked for help in finding the words. From Richard Moe whom you may already know from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I found this: "There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here or there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody."

I would like to add one more, this one from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis: "If we do not care about our past, we cannot hope for the future ... I care desperately about saving old buildings."

Members of the Historic Commission, thank you for listening. Hallahan has earned its designation, I believe, and I pray that you will agree thus saving this landmark so its remarkable legacy can be preserved and, in that way, continue to influence the future.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Linda M. Toner". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Mrs. Linda Toner



February 16, 2021

Dear Members of The Committee on Historic Designation,

When I graduated from John W. Hallahan High School in 1963, I was impressed that the mothers of many of my classmates were there in graduation gowns to celebrate along with their daughters at Hallahan's 50th graduation ceremony. There was something special about being connected to a school with a storied history. We Hallahan girls had traditions and pride in attending the first Catholic Girls' High School in the country.

It was exciting for me to attend high school in a building with so much history. Hallahan's stone exterior was solid and had a lot of character. Its interior consisted of two sections - the newer Hallahan Building, which was relatively modern, and the older Cathedral Building, which had classrooms with well-worn desks and a comfortable air about it. The Cathedral Building also had a warm, inviting chapel. Our principal held Benediction there every Thursday afternoon and it was so popular that girls who couldn't fit inside the chapel lined the hallway outside.

Adding to the unique appeal of Hallahan's building was its location near the Parkway and an amazing array of historic places, including the gorgeous Logan Library, the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Rodin and Art Museums, and the Benjamin Franklin Institute. Girls in our orchestra were able to practice and perform their annual concert at the Academy of Music, and our thespians held their plays at the Bellevue Stafford Hotel. Students on the editorial staff or student government were given opportunities to network with leaders in other high schools and attend tutorials in numerous colleges in and around Philadelphia.

Even though our student body was composed of girls who came from all over Philadelphia, the girls learned how to navigate in a city environment. Some of us took multiple buses, trolleys and/or the Frankford Elevated to get to Hallahan. It was worth the time and effort because the academic, social, athletic, and cultural standards at Hallahan made for a very stimulating environment. Hallahan's expectations were high. Those in the commercial program received a strong academic as well as business background. The academic program was rigorous and prepared girls to be accepted and succeed at prestigious colleges and universities in Philadelphia and elsewhere in the country. It also led to fulfilling careers - I for one thank Hallahan for laying the foundation for my professional writing career in advertising, corporate public relations and publishing.

It's impossible to adequately calculate the number of Hallahan girls who became teachers, scientists, physicians, writers, musicians, artists, administrators, and leaders in Philadelphia. It's also impossible to calculate the number of them who were also the mothers and grandmothers who nurtured generations of young people in the last 108 years (that's right - fifty years before my graduation and fifty eight more since).

In summary, it breaks my heart to think that an institution like Hallahan could be closed to future generations. It's also inconceivable that a venerable building like Hallahan's could be razed. Surely, there has to be a way to save Hallahan's building. I respectfully plead with all of the members of the Committee to honor Hallahan and give its building the historical designation it deserves.

Sincerely,
Patricia Walsh Wargocki, Class of 1963

Certification of J W Hallahan High School Building

celticis@aol.com [REDACTED]

Thu 2/18/2021 10:25 AM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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Hello Ms Mehley

. My name is Mimi Donlevie, class of 1966 from Archbishop Prendergast High School for Girls in Drexel Hill, Pa. The Archdiocese closed our school in June, 2012, and evicted us from our magnificent building so I have a special empathy with the J W Hallahan students and alumnae. I am requesting that your committee approve the historical certification of the J W Hallahan building. and that it be preserved. It is 120 years old, has the distinction of being the first all girls Catholic high school in the United States and boasts tens of thousands of proud female graduates. The structure is a classic beauty, a landmark in center city representing excellence in academic and religious education. Having survived a depression, two world wars and now two pandemics (we hope) its intrinsic value is much greater than another rectangular building with rectangular sealed windows with hundreds of people living there. It's a monument to generations of women and more to come seeking knowledge, camaraderie and a spiritual and moral foundation that will last them a lifetime.

I know this because that's what my Catholic education at Archbishop Prendergast did for me. So I ask your committee to please designate this glorious structure an historic property. Though not a literal J W Hallahan graduate, I appeal to you on behalf of them as they were the first and my school a successor of theirs. And in that regard, the graduates of all AOP girls high schools are their descendants and therefore we are all "Hallahan Girls"

Thank you. Mimi Donlevie APHS 66

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

Iorraine rocci [REDACTED]

Fri 2/19/2021 9:24 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to you today to talk about the historical designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. I thank you for allowing me this chance to discuss why I think that Hallahan should be awarded this title.

Hallahan truly holds a very special place in the educational landscape of Philadelphia. It has been a neighborhood anchor for close to 120 years and an asset to Philadelphia. Hallahan has educated young women of Philadelphia since the beginning of the 20th. century. It is a school founded on the principle of providing a quality education for girls of immigrant families in a central location. Hallahan has become a staple of Philadelphia.

Established in 1901, Hallahan is the very first Philadelphia Diocesan all-girls high school in the entire country and the first free high school for girls in the world.

In the 1890's, it was determined that there was an urgent need for a local Catholic girls high school. There was already a boys high school, Roman, which has since received historic designation. They searched for a donor. In 1908, Mary Hallahan McMichan, a devout Catholic and philanthropist, came forward to offer the funds to establish such a school. She gave a \$100,000 gift, which is approximately 2.8 million dollars today. She had a dream of the creation of an all-girls high school. She wanted a safe environment for girls to learn and become leaders in society. Hallahan was funded by the generosity and vision of Mary McMichan, a woman ahead of her times. She made her dream and vision become a reality when Hallahan was created. She was truly a pioneer in her day. She also created college scholarships for women to go to Rosemont and Villanova and scholarships for Roman for the boys. She was a remarkable woman and the true definition of selflessness. Hallahan has since educated over 38,000 young women since the beginning of the 20th. century. Although it was originally named Catholic Girls' High School, it was later renamed John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School to honor Mary McMichan's brother. The building was later donated by the McMichan family to the Archdiocese to be used solely as a school to educate girls. This is a century-old building in Philadelphia that retains it's original and true purpose.

In 1911 when they broke ground on this historic occasion, Catholic dignitaries from around the country came together to celebrate. Pope Pius X blessed and dedicated an engraved cornerstone from Rome. This cornerstone is at the corner of 19th. and Wood Street and contains a metal box with artifacts from 1911.

Hallahan is a truly unique building. It was designed by the firm of Ballinger and Perrot, who paid close attention to every detail. The building is absolutely beautiful, both inside and outside. Just in looking at the building, you can definitely see the beauty and one-of-a-kind feel that Hallahan holds and the hard work that went into building this school. The building exterior is rich in detail, encompassing English, Greek, Hebrew and Latin letters, numbers and symbols. There are fifteen names carved on the three sides of the building and the references to Mary on the 19th. Street side. The original seal displayed was designed by Bishop McDevitt.

On the Wood Street entrance, the Papal Seal of Pope Pius X is displayed on the left and the Great Seal of the United States showing the original thirteen colonies is displayed on the right.

The interior is just as beautiful with marble and stained glass. The marble-lined Wood Street entrance has a stained-glass transom window depicting the four virtues of a Hallahan woman: faith, industry, knowledge and modesty. There are two plaques and portraits honoring John W. Hallahan and Mary Hallahan McMichan. There is even a display of the original shovel that was used by Mary McMichan and Bishop Prendergast commemorating the historic groundbreaking. I loved visiting the beautiful chapel and a tiled alcove displaying Mary holding the baby Jesus. I can remember arriving to school early so that I could visit this amazing chapel. What I also remember is the life-sized crucifix. I can remember stopping by this crucifix anytime I got a chance as it's beauty and meaning amazed me. I remember running from gym class to Spanish class (clear across the other side of the school) but always somehow finding time to stop and say a prayer at any of the beautiful statues that I passed along the way. I remember thinking that Hallahan was the most sacred place that I had ever been in. Whenever I went back to visit after I graduated, I still felt the same way.

Personally, Hallahan means so much to me. My parents sacrificed so that my sister and I could have the privilege of attending Hallahan. In September of 1976, I entered Hallahan for the first time. I was very scared to enter because I didn't know what was waiting for me behind those beautiful but big doors. This was an incredible building, but I had never been out of my comfort zone and into a strange part of the city. I didn't know what to expect. What I soon found out that this was not just a building but a family and a sisterhood. I learned that nothing is impossible and I could reach for the stars because there was nothing to stop me. I was so privileged to meet girls that lived all over from every section of Philadelphia and not just from my small community. There was such culture and racial diversity. I loved it! I was finally coming out of my shell. I was always taught morals growing up, but Hallahan reinforced all those values.

I learned that Hallahan was so much more than the beautiful building it sat in. It was about love, sisterhood and lifelong friendships that I will always treasure. Hallahan is the "school of sisterly love" so it's only fitting that it sits in the "city of brotherly love". This was not by chance that Philadelphia was chosen as the place to build Hallahan. Both have strong roots in their history and traditions.

Generations of girls have entered the doors of Hallahan as scared and uncertain freshmen and left as strong women who not only earned diplomas but a conviction to utilize the knowledge and talents they learned in their four years to contribute to our community and help make it a better world. Hallahan's motto is women of faith, purpose and vision, and I left Hallahan in 1980 having achieved all three of these attributes. When I think of the future girls that may not get to experience what I was so fortunate to experience, it makes me very sad.

I truly believe with my whole heart and soul that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School truly deserves to get the recognition it deserves. It has such a legacy and is so sacred. Therefore, I truly hope that you will consider Hallahan when making the decision for historical designation.

I want to thank you for your consideration and your time.

God Bless You!

Lorraine Rocci ~ Class of 1980

Proud Graduate 

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Jean Marie Connors



February 19, 2021

Friends of Hallahan
PO Box 5826
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Attn: Historical Designation

Dear Friends:

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter upon hearing the news that our beloved John W. Hallahan Catholic High School for Girls is going to be closed. I attended Hallahan after my sisters, mom, cousins, and aunts attended. It was a tradition in our family. To graduate from the first catholic girls' high school, was an honor! Wow, we were so lucky!

If this must end, I would hope that the beautiful building where Hallahan has resided for so long could be preserved as historical. The amazing brick work and arched windows alone are just stunning. Saints have blessed this beautiful building. I was fortunate to attend Hallahan in 1982 when the Pope visited. It was a truly spectacular event. I was in awe of this presence and that I was the given the opportunity to ask a question to his Eminence.

I truly appreciate the efforts by the many alumni and current students along with their parents who are taking the charge on this endeavor. I respectfully ask the City of Philadelphia to grant this much deserved designation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jean Marie Connors

Jean Marie Connors
Class of 1985

February 20, 2021

Dear Allyson,

I am pleased to say that I graduated from John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School on June 9, 1961. On June 6, 2011 I was again fortunate to walk those hallowed halls, as a 50-year graduate, in attendance at the Baccalaureate ceremony for the Class of 2011. I am extremely thankful for the faith I was taught, the education imparted by dedicated Nuns, and the friendships made that continue through today, all from inside that strong, sturdy red brick building in the heart of Center City Philadelphia.

My life experiences, marriage and career have extended from Philadelphia, to California, Connecticut, Alabama, Florida, and North Carolina, but I still have family in Philadelphia. With each trip to visit them, I somehow always wind up driving up the Parkway around Logan Circle and end up in front of the building where I can look up and see our Motto "Aptate Lampades Vestras" (Keep the Lamps Burning), emblazoned in stone. Many thousands of my Hallahan sisters also share in this tradition.

The John W. Hallahan building should be placed on the Registry of Historic sites not only for its age and architectural details but also for the Steadfastness of Spirit and memories it brings to those have experienced the purpose of its founder. May Hallahan live on Forever!

Sincerely,

Salina Jordan Gary
Class of '61

February 20, 2021

Dear Historic Commision,

I am a 1970 graduate of John W. Hallahan High School. I grew up in Port Richmond, in the same neighborhood and parish that my immigrant grandparents settled in around 1920. My story is one of the many hundreds that tell the story of Philadelphia neighborhoods. I graduated from Mother of Divine Grace School, a small Italian parish, and chose to go to Hallahan with all of my classmates. It was quite an ordeal to travel from an area not so far away but without a quick way to get to school. We traveled by bus to the El, the El to 13th Street, and then the A bus to school. Not an easy commute in bitter cold weather, but we never complained. We loved the camaraderie of all those classmates we met along each stop of the El. It was quite an experience to get to Hallahan and meet girls from all over the city. Suddenly, all of these young women from Fishtown, Port Richmond, and Kensington, were introduced to our counterparts from North Philly, Schuylkill, Fairmount, East Falls, Allegheny, Manayunk and Roxborough. We were young women of different ethnic, cultural, economic, and racial backgrounds. We were an extremely diverse group, back before diversity was ever a buzzword. We had classmates not just of color, but also ones who lived in housing for families in transition. Speaking from my own experience, we accepted this diversity as part of the Hallahan experience and not only accepted it but embraced it. My friends and I all had classmates who were not from our social, economic, or ethnic group, but we never viewed it that way, we saw these women as friends. They were not rich friends, poor friends, black friends, Hispanic friends, Asian friends, or friends in foster care, they were just friends. Hallahan offered us a view of the real world, made up of people from many backgrounds. The location of Hallahan gave us the opportunity to meet the most diverse group of classmates and to make friends that would last a lifetime, an opportunity not available when your school is located in your neighborhood and consists of a student body similar to everyone with whom you attended elementary school. Hallahan with its long history of offering young women an education, back in a time when that was an idea not always widely accepted, offering women an opportunity to advance to higher education, and truly offering a students from many areas of the city an opportunity to study, learn, and socialize together in a safe and supportive environment is a Philadelphia treasure. One that not just the Archdiocese should be unwilling to give up without a fight, but also the City of Philadelphia who has benefitted from the fine workers and citizens that this wonderful school has produced.

Sincerely,
Geraldine Amoroso Hartnett

Fwd: LETTER FOR THE SCHOOL Historic Commission

Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Sun 2/21/2021 11:24 AM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ruta Fox** [REDACTED]

Date: Sun, Feb 21, 2021 at 10:21 AM

Subject: LETTER FOR THE SCHOOL Historic Commission

To: <[Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhallahan@gmail.com)>

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is to inform you that my opinion is to make the Hallahan School a Historical Site.

This beautiful building is an asset to the city and culturally it is an important part of the city, both economically and architecturally.

Sincerely,

Ruta Fox
[REDACTED]

Fwd: HHS

Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Sun 2/21/2021 11:28 AM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Patricia Hartnett-Felke** [REDACTED]

Date: Sun, Feb 21, 2021 at 8:53 AM

Subject: RE: HHS

To: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Hello Marge,

Sorry for the delay in the paragraph, I hope I am not too late.

When I look back on my four years at John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School, I always smile. It was a great time in my life. As the memories come back to me, I am filled with gratitude that I was lucky enough to be a Hallahan girl. The girls, the nuns and the lay teachers, as well as events such as Hallahan Day, the plays at the Academy of Music and the sophomore hop, and the proms, were so much fun. I know that in my heart, I will always be a Hallahan girl.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Patricia

Fwd: History

Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Sun 2/21/2021 12:38 PM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Holly Walsh** [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 6:21 AM

Subject: History

To: <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Hello,

As a friend to so many Hallahan alumni, and the community Which represents education,friendship,commitment,and integrity spanning generations,I urge you to take the steps to preserve this physical representation the actual building. Our world has become so dismissive,so disposable,this beautiful building with fabulous architecture represents physical beauty and generations who have built their personal foundations inside those walls. The history embodied in this building cannot be "trashed" and replaced with something that only represents a financial goal. We have to assign value to the history , the architecture, and the spirit of the communities that generations have created ..as this is history!!!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards
Helyn Walsh

Allyson Mehley

From: angela green [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:13 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Support Hallahan School being designated historic

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Hi,

I am a graduate of Hallahan Catholic All Girls High School. The building is beautiful and stands as a historical building. My favorite memory of the walls of Hallahan are the stained glass windows that are in the Chapel building. They are just beautiful and should be around for others to see. I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Best,
Angie

Angela Green RD, LDN
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Oates, Mary Beth [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:08 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historic Letter
Attachments: Hallahan letter.docx

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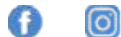
Please see attached letter.



MARYBETH OATES | Salesperson | C. 267.252.9813
JIM DICKINSON | Salesperson | C. 609.605.2476
O. 856.685.5600

[Click here](#) to view properties

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March 1, 2021

Historic Preservation Planner

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: 311 North 19th Street

Philadelphia PA

I support John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

MaryBeth Oates

Class of '89

Allyson Mehley

From: Trish G [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:07 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historic Designation

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. I feel privileged that I was able to be a part of the legacy of John W. Hallahan High School. This school was so instrumental in my life. It is the place that helped me gain confidence and learn how to be a strong female leader. I became a third grade teacher in Catholic school at Immaculate Heart of Mary School. I am who I am today because of the strong foundation that this institution provided me. Please consider Hallahan for this prestigious honor of being designated a historical site.

Trish Gordon

Allyson Mehley

From: ziggy65463 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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I support John W. Hallahan Girls High School being designated a Historical site. Please help.

Deborah A Welte,
Class of '77

[Sent from the all new Aol app for iOS](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Danielle Stratz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:09 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historical designation of Hallahan

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To whom it may concern,

I am not a fan of correspondence. I am always afraid that I will never be able to fully convey my point of view in a letter or a text. With that being said, I am not sure I will be able to put in writing what John W. Hallahan means to me and why it should be designated a historical building.

Hallahan has taught me to be a strong, independent, self-sufficient woman. It has also surrounded me with family and friends that have been given the same lessons and supported me throughout my life. Going to an all girls school gave me and others a confidence to do things I may have not done had it been a coed school.

Hallahan is one of three all-girl, non academy schools left in Philadelphia, and although I feel anyone of these schools would equally educate a woman. I feel the location and history of Hallahan is something that cannot be compared to. It is in a location that should be highly promoted by the Archdiocese, but yet is not. Taking Hallahan away from the community of women in Philadelphia would be detrimental. I am not sure that with the poor decisions the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has made in the past that this decision should be left fully up to them.

Sincerely,

Danielle Stratz

Class of '92

From: Diane Travaline [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:09 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: Request for Historical Designation

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Hello Allyson,

My name is Michael S. Travaline. I am writing this letter on behalf of my mother who is currently in Holy Redeemer Nursing Facility with dementia. This past year has been a trying time for myself and my family, being that we are unable to see her. I feel compelled to write this letter on her behalf.

My mother is Marie D Caruso Travaline, graduate of John W. Hallahan, class of 1952. A brief history of my mother regarding Hallahan. Not only did she love attending Hallahan when she was a student there, but she was very involved in the school long after graduation until present day, until she recently became not well. Not only did she organize countless reunions as well as masses for her class at the Basilica, she also was a committee woman who helped coordinate the yearly Communion Breakfasts. She consistently donated to the school to help the young ladies who would come after her.

As a young boy growing up, I could remember my mom talking about Hallahan, She told stories about being in the band, the fun she had attending the Roman Catholic football games and getting to sit near the boy band members and all the fun they had. She always said how Hallahan continued her faithful life as well as prepared her for her successful career. She often spoke about the beauty of the building.....outside as well as inside. She loved the Shrine to the Blessed Mother on the first floor of the Hallahan building as well as the beautiful marble and mosaics in the main entrance. She spoke about the architecture of the building as well but dwelled on the school seal that is located on the top of the building below the cross. She loved how Hallahan was a staple in center city Philadelphia.

She would go back to visit Hallahan over the years, more often when my daughter was a student there to watch her in the school plays. One of the last times she was there was for the anniversary celebration with my wife and daughter who are also graduates. They walked through the school together reminiscing and admiring the school building.....three generations walking the halls of Hallahan High.

Flash forward to a bit over a year ago, when I visited her at her facility. I brought her a Hallahan tee shirt with HH and the school's mascot, Mickey Mouse on it. Although she rarely speaks or recognizes things, this was different. She lit up right away and raised her hand in the air as if to cheer! She, even in her disease, recognized her beloved Hallahan! Other residents noticed the commotion and wheeled themselves over to see! Three women (in their 80s), all exclaimed in unison "I went to Hallahan too"! "I went to Hallahan"! It was truly amazing to watch the enthusiasm of these elderly women and their excitement at the mere mention of their school!

I can go on talking about the school's spirit but equally important is the physical structure of the Hallahan building itself. Not only is it important to Hallahan graduates, it's history is important to the city of Philadelphia. Driving into center city wouldn't be the same without me looking to my left to get a glimpse of the "brown brick building" where my mother, wife and daughter attended!

Thank you for your consideration.

Aptate Lampades Vestras (Keep Trimmed Your Lamps)

Michael S. Travaline, Sr.

Son Of Marie Caruso Travaline '52

Allyson Mehley

From: Debbie Fischetti [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:53 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Hallahan

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Sent from my Alcatel 3V

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Debbie Fischetti <debbiefischetti@hotmail.com>

Date: Feb 26, 2021 9:55 AM

Subject: Hallahan

To: Natalie Fox <missnataliefoxentz@yahoo.com>

Cc:

Letter I plan. where to send?

I recommend historical destination for The Hallahan building.

I am a graduate of year 1970.

Those years your identity was connected to parish, neighborhood, and high school.

Location of Hallahan in the busy heart of the city was key to our growth and maturity.

Young women from all parts of city with different backgrounds were able to connect and get to know each other.

Young women were encouraged to see and experience and add to the vibrant culture of the city and the businesses, institutions and people that make it up.

While I joke that the HH on our uniforms was for husband hunters... My years were late sixties when college careers were not typical for working class women...But...i know that Hallahan encouraged personal confidence and values that encouraged us to stretch and encounter the world.

The building, place and setting were key to this larger community expansion and outlook.

Historical designation is fitting for a institution and structure that has helped expand and support the life of the city, community and generation of women in the Philadelphia area....

Let me know how I can support this well deserved designation.

Thanks

Deborah Fischetti
856-739-4064

Allyson Mehley

From: Mike F [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:32 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan as a Historical Site

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Ms. Mehley,

I ask that the Commission approve Hallahan's application for the historic registry. It is amazing that Hallahan is the only building built on bare ground in the area. It is also still used for its original function. The carving of the school seal and cross are beautiful. The building is a true work of art and an asset to the city.

V/r,

Allyson Mehley

From: Maggie Popielarz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:13 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.gov
Subject: Save Hallahan

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I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Magdalena Popielarz
John W. Hallahan High School Class of 2019
La Salle University Class of 2023

Allyson Mehley

From: Betty [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:08 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Denise Baron
Subject: 311 North 19th Street - John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA 19103

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Betty Nemo Alex

--

[REDACTED]

"Making life simple for our clients is what we do every day"

Allyson Mehley

From: Becky Andrews [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:37 PM
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: 311 N. 19th Street - Hallahan High School

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Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Allyson

As a center city resident I support the nomination of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. The story and history of the building is fascinating. Please consider designating this building as historic. It's a Philadelphia landmark.

Sincerely

Becky Andrews

Allyson Mehley

From: Breanne McGovern [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:46 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan

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I support JohnW. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Kindly,
Breanne McGovern

Allyson Mehley

From: Timothy Dolan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:42 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan HS

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Hello Allyson,

Hope all is well. I'd like to add my name to the list of many others who believe that Hallahan should be designated as an historical building.

Aside from the significance of Hallahan being one of the oldest girl's Catholic high school in the country - the number of families that have been created from Roman boys marrying Hallahan girls has helped sustain and make Philadelphia a great city for decades! That building is responsible for helping create the fabric of the city. If that's not historically important, I don't know what is!

Best regards,

Tim Dolan
Roman Catholic H.S. Class of 1998

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:25 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan

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Dear Allyson,

I am a graduate of John W. Hallahan, Class of 1975, and a life-long resident of Philadelphia. I was born and raised in the small community of East Falls and still reside there.

Hallahan was the destination high school for most of the young woman graduating from St. Bridget School in East Falls, just five miles outside of downtown Philadelphia, for many years. Unfortunately, St. Bridget School was closed many years ago so I have lost track of the census of who attends Hallahan from our small community.

As young adults, we were afforded an opportunity for a sound, spiritual education and a diverse student body but also the ability to travel out of our small town into downtown Philadelphia where commerce combined with such a strong historical significance was a major influence on our lives. We learned how to navigate the "big city" while learning the importance of public transportation.

We were graced to be able to attend school in a location just off the Parkway with so many fine cultural, educational and historical institutions a short distance away. John W. Hallahan and its building are one of them as the country's first all-girls diocesan Catholic high school. In addition to its diverse student body, drawing from many parts of the City, Hallahan has just a diverse curriculum as well spanning Business English, Fine Arts, Science and Math.

In this loose disposable society of "throw-a-way" everything and an affinity for tearing down old historical buildings for a newer and alleged better version, we are not taking the time to appreciate these wonderful treasures right under our nose.

Philadelphia has a remarkable reputation for its educational institutions and John W. Hallahan is one of them.

Please support Hallahan with a historic designation as it is well deserved.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Brehony
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Joseph Giampietro [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:04 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: FriendsofHallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Supporting John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls H.S. as a Historic Landmark

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to support the designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as a historic landmark. As a resident of the Philadelphia suburban area, member of Roman Catholic High School Alumnae, and someone who has decades of exposure in the building industry as a mechanical engineer, I can deeply appreciate the value of this structure from various standpoints. I would be remiss though, if I did comment on the workmanship and level of artistry, in particular, that is apparent from outside this beautiful structure. Buildings of such quality are becoming extremely hard to find and expensive to construct. I'd urge the commission to protect John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School for future generations of Philadelphians to appreciate and enjoy.

Sincerely,
Joseph E. Giampietro, P.E.
Project Mechanical Engineer

From: Andrea Campanella [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 7:59 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Building

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Historical Commission,

I am writing to inform you of the importance of designating the John W. Hallahan building as a historical piece of our city.

This building has impacted generations. We are not only requesting for this to be designated in order to deter the closure of the school. We are imploring that it should have been designated a long time ago. Myself, along with others, were surprised to learn that it had not already received this well-deserved title of historical building.

As I am sure has been stated in many other letters, the Hallahan building has educated generations of women. My mother, aunts, cousins, and two sisters all went to high school at John W. Hallahan. All of us have benefited greatly from our time in this building.

The experience at this school was one of a kind. The location of the campus is an integral part of bringing together many diverse young women from all over the city and expose us all to many different cultures. Myself and my friends at the school spent time in the city after school, indulged in the sites and history of our beautiful Center City Philadelphia.

As a place for education, Hallahan was second to none. This school led me on a path to success, allowing me to earn an incredible scholarship to Chestnut Hill College. Here, I majored in Business Administration and Marketing. I truly believe that my education at Hallahan inspired my future goals and dreams for the rest of my life. To be specific, I studied graphic design in Senior year, which was my first exposure to this field. I spent much time studying Graphics in college in relation to my majors, and I hope to start my own business in graphic design. Without Hallahan, I never would have been inspired to have the chance to achieve my current successful career at PECO Energy, as well as my goals to become an entrepreneur in my future.

Thank you very much for taking the time to consider my request. I hope that you begin to understand the absolute necessity to designate this building as historical. As you can see, this school and building has earned the title of historical several times over in the last several generations.

Andrea Campanella
Class of 2014

Allyson Mehley

From: Joan Reid [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 7:04 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Saving Hallahan

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Hallahan, Our purpose...

Our purpose, has been educating women with Faith, Purpose, and Vision. We are the grassroots of many women finding their purpose. Women who would go on to enrich the world. Hallahan has been the open door that set the path for my life. John W Hallahan High School needs to continue to be the model of success, a landmark for many young women striving for said success. Let us join hands to keep the hope of the future alive and thriving, a forever success story, hand reaching, teaching, and living in harmony.

Architecturally, Hallahan is a one-of-a-kind structure that embodies English, Latin, Greek and Hebrew symbols, a true experience for each young lady that walks into this iconic building.

Upon entering the hollow halls the Blessed Mother's statue always inspired my day.

I am an alumni from the Class of 1961, of African American decent, a native of Philadelphia, now residing in California. I am the proud mother of 7 wonderful adult citizens and an educator of 37 years for the Pasadena Unified School District. Hallahan still runs through our family traditions to this day.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

All the best,

Joan E Reid(Hill)

Allyson Mehley

From: Danielle McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 7:00 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan GCHS

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Hello Ms. Mehley,

I appreciate your acceptance of the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School's application for Historical Designation. I am writing to you as an alum from a long line of Hallahan graduates. The John W. Hallahan building has a long history of sisterhood stemming from the early 1900s. It is an institution of diverse women from neighborhoods all over the city of Philadelphia. It holds a history built on the strength and education of women throughout our wonderful city.

I truly appreciate your time during this process.

--

Danielle McCormick
Class of 1999

Allyson Mehley

From: Robin Marie Gary [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 7:01 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation for Hallahan Catholic Girls High School
Attachments: Hallahan letter.pdf

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Please see attached letter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Marie Gary

My mother and several of her lifelong friends are proud graduates of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. I have never met, nor do I expect to, a more passionate, dedicated cadre of women who simply glow with love when talking about their alma mater. The news that the Archdiocese plans to sell the building was absolutely devastating to these women! However, instead of dissolving in puddles of tears, they immediately got to work to save their beloved school!

The traditions of academic excellence, social advocacy, and personal responsibility and fortitude embodied by the students and alumna of Hallahan High School are inextricably linked with the beautiful building! With its stunning architecture, stained glass windows, statuary, and every square inch of the building steeped in history and tradition, the historical importance of the building is surpassed only by the beauty of its inmates - the students, alumna, faculty, and staff of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School.

I'm writing in full support of having the building given Historical Designation to stop the sale and destruction of this great Philadelphia institution! It would be a travesty of justice to lose the school and the building. The goal here is to save both of them! Please immediately give the building of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School Historical Designation!

Thank you for your consideration!
Sincerely,

Robin Marie Gary
daughter of Salina Maria Gary, Class of 1961

Allyson Mehley

From: Joan Prendergast [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 6:10 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan historic designation

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I support Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated as historic.

Joan C Prendergast

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: CARMEN GONZALEZ [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:40 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historic designation

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Good afternoon,

"I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High school being designated as historic.

This building/school is part of our legacy. Many generations of memory, sisterhood, friendships.

Thank you for your time.

Carmen (Ortiz) Gonzalez
Class '74
4th generation graduate

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: JAMES MARINO [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 5:14 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Historical designation for JW Hallahan High School

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From: Jim Marino <bsrturtle1@gmail.com>
Date: February 28, 2021 at 5:01:10 PM EST
To: bsrturtle1@gmail.com
Subject: Historical designation for JW Hallahan High School

To whom it may concern,

I would like to add my support to the efforts to have John W. Hallahan designated as a Historical landmark in Philadelphia. As stated so eloquently by hundreds of graduates and friends, this building is the Mother of Diocesan High School education for girls in the United States. Having three sisters, my wife, and numerous cousins and sister in laws who have walked the halls, I have grown attached to the school inside and out.

As a student at Roman Catholic High School (brother school to Hallahan) in the early 1970's I was one of the lucky students who came to Hallahan for combined Student Council meetings, shared committee meetings and other school activities. I was always fascinated by the Stained glass windows, the chapel, cafeteria and especially the gymnasium. The exterior of the building as I entered always gave me a feeling that I was entering into history because of all of the things that have occurred in the world during the times from when this building was built. I urge you to please read with the same passion that many letters, articles and recollections have been written to you. If you understand and feel the passion, your decision to support this effort will be easy.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this request.

Sincerely
Jim Marino
Roman Catholic High School Class of 1975

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Leticia Laboy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:52 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: historical commission of hallahan

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I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School being designated historic.

Please save Hallahan.

Leticia Laboy '74

02/22/2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch St.
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Hello,

My name is Leticia Laboy proud graduated of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School class of 1974.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School is located at 311 N 19th St, Philadelphia Pa 19103, establish in 1901 and built in 1911. It is the country's first all-girls diocesan Catholic high school, which was consider a positive development for education in the city of Philadelphia, welcoming the daughters of working -class families. Providing them with an opportunity to a quality secondary education. Which still rings true today in the year 2021.

I have been a long-time resident of the neighborhood since my parents came here from Puerto Rico in 1959, except for a short time when I lived in the northeast Philadelphia raising my family, however my mother remained in center city, and I return eighteen years ago.

I have seen a lot of changes in this neighborhood and even though a lot has been improved upon, there are things that belong and need to stay, such as John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School.

I happen to live in the historical area in Fairmount or Art Museum section of Spring Garden near the Eastern State Penitentiary, which was still open with prisoners when I was a child, Girard College which was for boys only and Bergdool Mansion which is in use today. These are,

only a few of the historical intuitions which still remain in this area, adding to the history of Philadelphia since it was founded in the 1600 from the American revolution, industrial revolution, our constitution, the first free library, and so many more and so they should, just like John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls H.S. also a first.

I remember when this area was considered a ghetto and a dangerous area to be in, full of gangs and violence, when the prices of these homes were so cheap you couldn't give them away and not far from there was Skid row on Vine St full of the forgotten poor, alcoholism and homelessness and social alienation. But there, stood Hallahan in all it's beautiful glory a beacon of hope. A building which was built with a dream, determination and faith and the promise of a better life. That continues to be true today.

Not just for me but for other families like mine who saw a bright light in the midst of a dark gray atmosphere. Families who wanted more for their daughters knowing that education would help achieve that, many of these parents only having a grade school education if that. But not just a good education but a catholic education, their faith being their source of strength to carry on. A faith that is portraited on the outside and inside of the building.

And who can claim Mickey Mouse as their Mascot, another first and only, making history.

Yes, the neighborhood has been gentrified and things have improved but doing away with history that is part of this country history just like the other historical landmark would be a crime.

Please help save Hallahan

Thank You

Leticia Laboy

Allyson Mehley

From: Marie Flemming [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:48 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Catholic Girl's Catholic High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to you with regard to Hallahan being named a historical building in the City of Philadelphia.

While I am not an architect, the architecture, location and history of John W. Catholic Girl's High School lends itself to being a historical building and I know that you will see this aspect of the Hallahan's buildings. Being located right off the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Logan Square and all the museums in the area including the beautiful Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul also puts it in the spotlight of Philadelphia's history.

This beautiful building has been maintained and has continued to be an educational institution for Catholic young girls to be educated for over 100 years. I'm sure there are not many buildings in this city that have that distinction. Businesses come and go.

A woman, Mary McMichan, saw the need for educating Catholic girls in a high school meant just for them. Thanks to her hard work and perseverance her dream became a reality. Hallahan went on to become a very diverse high school with young girls coming from all over the city. Hallahan has graduated over 40,000 young women graduates over 100 plus years to the City of Philadelphia. These women have played a big part in this city. They have gone on to be strong women in many fields of employment and could not have done it without such a great school. We are Mary's legacy. I found my first two jobs with the help of Hallahan. I was in the workforce for 14 years, then chose to stay home to raise our four children. Even after returning to the workforce after 14 years and the age of 42, as I was interviewing, I heard, "oh great, you're a Hallahan grad". Local businesses knew the type of employee that a Hallahan education produced.

This June, I will have walked through those doors on 19th Street 48 years ago. I am hoping I will continue the Hallahan legacy and walk down the aisle with the graduating class of 2023 as a "golden grad".

It is my hope that along with the beautiful architecture, inside and out,
John W. Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School will be named a historical building.

Best Regards,

Marie Angeli Flemming '73

From: Kathy Klinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:30 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save Hallahan

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you because I firmly believe that Hallahan High school is worthy of the distinction of being named a historical building. Hallahan should be recognized as the "Crown Jewel" of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Obviously, the location is wonderful but the history of how Hallahan came to be is even more impressive. Over a century ago, a young woman named Mary McMichan realized the importance of dedicating a building in this city to educate women so they could be productive members of society. Imagine in those times having the courage to put your faith into a cause so important and having it come to fruition. Mary accomplished this at a time when women could not even vote. She was a trailblazer! She set the tone for the next generation of women to walk through those doors, and I was one of those lucky women. I have an entire family of lucky women who walked those hallways with a dream in mind of what we would one day become. I made lifelong friends from different neighborhoods and cultural backgrounds. The diversity and culture of the city is evident in the population of the students at Hallahan. This wouldn't have happened if it weren't for Mary being so brave, so generous and so determined.

Fast forward to 2021, the one hundred and twentieth anniversary of our beloved school. It is a well-known fact that Hallahan girls are entrenched in the fabric of this city, and it is all thanks to the dedication and philanthropic gift of Mary Mc Michan. Hallahan graduates are employed in all types of positions in the city. We are the doctors and the nurses in the hospitals, the paralegals in the law offices and the spin instructor at the local gym. Hallahan girls are business owners, educators, journalists, lawyers, day care providers, managers, Presidents and CEO's of major companies, and the list goes on and on. WE are part of the history of the city. Hallahan girls are noticed all over downtown Philadelphia with the iconic navy uniform and blue and white saddle shoes. We are proud to be known as a "Hallahan girl." Mary McMichan knew woman had place in this city and we would one day make our mark. She knew that women deserved a proper education to prepare them for the world. We are Mary's legacy.

Honestly, I couldn't imagine passing 19th and Wood and not seeing the building as it is in all of its glory. The beautiful façade, the interior main entrance of marble with the picture of Mary watching over us all. Here we are making our mark in the city just as Mary had planned. We cannot give up on her dream, our dream and our Alma Mater.

I am a proud alumna of the class of 1983 and I am the second generation in my family to attend Hallahan. My daughter was the third generation class of 2010. Hallahan has history in my family and we cannot let that history be forgotten. It all started with one woman who was determined. Now, that duty lies on us, the alumnae of Hallahan. We have a deep loyalty to our Alma Mater and we know that the building is priceless! A historic designation is just what Hallahan deserves. We know it's what Mary would do, and we want to make her proud!

Alma Mater Glorify!

Respectfully yours,

Katherine Burns '83

On behalf of my family
Winifred Bischoff '50

Barbara Bischoff '51
Agnes Bischoff '61
Patricia Bischoff '64
Mary Bischoff '67
Wendy Sontag '86
Katherine Radick 2010

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: 19chodge [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:17 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Ms.Mehley,

I support John W. Hallahan being designated historic.

Thank you,
Christine Hodges '10

Allyson Mehley

From: Betty Obrien [REDACTED]
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historical Designation of the Hallahan building

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I would like to address why I think the Hallahan Building should be designated as Historic. Philadelphia is the Birth place of America right? We have all the historic buildings mostly in center city. Namely Independence Hall, Betsy Ross House, Edgar Allen Poe's House, etc. I could go on and on. Therefore it is only fitting that the BIRTH PLACE of The FIRST CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL for GIRLS should have the same designation. It is right in the heart of center city Philadelphia. It should be designated and preserved. Have a plaque outside like all the historic buildings in Philadelphia. It should remain a functioning Catholic Girls High School for all the world to see. Historically the building is awesome. Furthermore projected, it could and should also become a tourist site. It could even be open as a tourist designation and open to the public for inside tours on weekends and in the summer when school is not in session. Could even have alumnae volunteer to give tours, for a donation which would help the finances to keep the school functioning. The inside of the school has so many beautiful murals, stained glass and neat features that aren't in schools being built today. It has such a history that should be preserved for future generations and not destroyed. It is part of Philadelphia's unique and rich History.

As a 1958 graduate of Hallahan, I have such fond memories from my four years there, It paved the foundation for my adult life, which was St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, later Jefferson University. Without my Hallahan education I would have never had the tools for the life I have.

My mother also was a proud graduate of Hallahan class 1922, who also became a Registered Nurse. She always said, if it wasn't for Hallahan she would have never been able to even think of becoming a nurse. The nuns at Hallahan continually encouraged and motivated her, as they did also for me, which they continue to do for the current students.

I hope this helps to convince you and your committee to preserve and designate Historical this wonderful Philadelphian and American TREASURE and DON'T DESTROY IT but PRESERVE IT.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Itzstein O'Brien a proud 1958 Hallahan Graduate

From: Janet [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:11 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: Save Hallahan

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I am going to be very short.

There has been a lot written about John W. Hallahan CGHS, especially the building so I am not going to go into great detail. What I particularly like about the building is it's simplicity in it's overall structure. Then when you look more carefully, you begin to notice the different iconography of the building. Like a girl dressing up, putting on her make-up and jewelry to go out for a special occasion. In went young girls and out came young woman.

Hallahan brought beauty and stability to the community. Beauty as it fit into the neighborhood along with the houses. It wasn't gaudy to outdo the surrounding house construction but fit in like one of an appendage fitting into a glove. Stability, as the neighbors knew that the young women attending Hallahan, from multiple neighborhoods in the city, were there for one thing. That one thing being education.

History is important as we need to know our past to know where we are going. Hallahan is history for all who have gone before us and for all who will go after us. Hallahan is the first Catholic Girls High School in the nation. You can see the love for Hallahan by the art work, done by the students, and hanging in the halls of Hallahan.

Please consider listing John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, as an Historic Designee; if not just for his long title but because of all of the love put into the construction of the building.

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Maria Assanowicz [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:11 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: JW Hallahan High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Please consider JW Hallahan as a historical site. The building and the history of being America's first all Catholic Female High School that is over 100 years old. The education of the girls give them the courage to succeed out of the box.

Thank you for your time.

Maria Assanowicz, parent of 2015 and future Hallahan student.

Allyson Mehley

From: Marianne Streisel [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: FriendsofHallahan@gmail.com
Subject: J.W. Hallahan C.G.H.S. -Historical

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I am a 1972 graduate of Hallahan. I'm the oldest of four children, two sisters who also graduated from Hallahan and one brother, who graduated from Roman. We grew up in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia, which is about thirty minutes from the city. As the start of my freshman year drew near, I could sense that my parents were nervous about their child traveling on a bus to the city. But at the same time, they knew it would give me a chance to experience life, outside of Roxborough.

Attending Hallahan was truly a new beginning for me. My classmates came from all over the city. One of my closest friends today, I met at Hallahan! Attending school in the city gave me an opportunity to discover all the excellent culture the city has to offer.

When I googled, "oldest catholic girls high school in the US, listed first is Ursuline Academy. Listed second is J.W. Hallahan C.G.H.S.

Wikipedia lists Hallahan as the country's first all-girls diocesan Catholic high school. Established in 1901, built in 1911. In the mid-1930's Hallahan was granted permission to have Mickey Mouse, a registered Disney character, as a mascot.

Hallahan and its building is part of Philadelphia's history and should be preserved.

Best regards,
Marianne Streisel

Allyson Mehley

From: tmc1299 [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Lisa Kahuila
Subject: Hallahan!!

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Good afternoon.

I am a proud graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' high school. Those 4 years of my life were the most rewarding/fun/life changing for me. I met my life long friends in the halls of Hallahan and I would not be the person I am today if it was not for my experiences at Hallahan. Nor would my sisters, mother, aunts etc who all were fortunate enough to attend this school as well.

I fully support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Sincerely, a PROUD member of the class of 2000,

Patricia McGuigan Garretson

[Sent from the all new Aol app for iOS](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Blaire Dahl [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 3:59 PM
To: Allyson Mehley

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I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Blaire Dahl

Allyson Mehley

From: Rachel Szczurek [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 3:52 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical designation of John W. Hallahan

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Rachel Szczurek and I am a freshman at John W. Hallahan High School. I believe John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School should be designated historic in the city of Philadelphia. The building itself is historical because it is the first all girls catholic high school in the nation. Hallahan is a legacy school of past generations and many more to come. I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School being designated historic.

Rachel Szczurek, Class of 2024

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Rachel Szczurek

From: Heather White [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: FriendsOfHallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation _ J. W. Hallahan

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Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission:

My name is Heather White. I am a 1993 graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. Before that, my mother graduated in 1971 and her two sisters in 1966 and 1976. Hallahan is not just a school; it is a part of our family history as it is for so many other families.

John W. Catholic Girls' High School has not only been educating girls, but also shaping the character of strong, independent, and resilient women for 120 years. We are mothers. We are caretakers. We are educational, legal, and medical professionals. We are artists and entrepreneurs. We are servicewomen fighting for our country. And even yet, still so much more. Upwards of 37,000 of us have been empowered by our education, the encouragement received, our faith and the morals instilled in us; leading us to become productive and contributory members of society. All of this has occurred, for more than a century, within the original walls built with the specific intention of carrying out that exact mission.

The building located at 319 N. 19th St is abundant with history. Personal history, local history, national history, and even world history are all engrained in the structure, both visible to the naked eye and felt as one walks the halls rich with marble and stained glass. My very own history is contained within those walls, as well as the history of every other graduate, attendee, and faculty member dating back to 1911. Our beloved building is one of very few remaining in this section of Philadelphia that is a reflection of the beautiful architecture of its time. As you are by this time well aware, it is the enduring site of the very first all-girls Catholic high school in the United States of America. Upon its inception, it was also the first free high school for Catholic girls in the world. And let us not forget that the cornerstone was blessed in Rome by then Pope Pius X, who was later canonized a saint, following its purchase in Milan.

Please allow this magnificent structure to remain a beacon of light for all of those who have previously graced its interior, as well as a mirror into the past of both our city and our nation.

Thank you for your consideration,
Heather White

Allyson Mehley

From: Maureen O'Connell [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 3:42 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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I support John W Hallahan being named a historic Philadelphia landmark.

Maureen OConnell
Class of 2000

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Amy Collins [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School Preservation Request

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley-

I am writing on behalf of my many friends and family who are alumni of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School to respectfully request that the Philadelphia Historical Commission designate Hallahan high school as an historic site. Serving as the first all girls Catholic high school in the United States should surely ensure it a place in both the city and the National historic register so that the building is recognized as such in perpetuity.

I am hoping you will receive many more requests of this type on behalf of the Hallahan building and alumni community.

Yours sincerely,
Amy Allen Collins

Allyson Mehley

From: nicole poponi [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I support Hallahan HS being deemed a historical building. Please consider.

Thank you,
Nicole Poponi

Allyson Mehley

From: Meghann Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,
Meghann Williams
meghannw@gmail.com

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1 H, 2 Ns
she/her

Allyson Mehley

From: Denise Dougherty [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:56 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan support

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

To whom it may concern,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing in support of the movement to have Hallahan High designated a historical building. It burdens me that this is even a topic up for debate. Hallahan high school IS Philadelphia history. I graduated from Hallahan in 2009, in my time there I was guided in faith and strength to become a strong woman who is a reflection of God and catholic education. Wearing the Hallahan uniform is something I took pride in. You can not walk down any street in Philly without being stopped by someone who is either alumnae or mentions that their grandmother, mother or aunt went to Hallahan. It is a pillar of our city. For over 100 years Hallahan has been the start of many beautiful successful lives of women in our city. It saddens me to think that this wonderful opportunity will be taken away from girls in our city who need this type of foundation. It saddens me that they may not be able to experience the beautiful things that I experienced at Hallahan. This building and school needs continue it reign.

Thank you for your time,
Denise Dougherty - class of 2009

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: HALLAHAN

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eileen Mahoney [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 10:51 PM
Subject: Fwd: HALLAHAN
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wed, Feb 24, 2021 10:12 am
Subject: HALLAHAN

To The Historic Commission

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School is an important part of the history of the City of Philadelphia. Philadelphia is known as a City of Firsts and Hallahan is among those, being the first all girls Catholic High School in the United States. The architecture of this magnificent building dating to 1911 has stood proudly for 110 years as a beacon for the young women of Philadelphia. Girls enter through the main doors and above their heads are four virtues to model their lives by: Faith, Knowledge, Purity and Hard Work. Four years later having lived and learned those virtues, young women exit those doors armed with an education that allows them to pursue fulfilling careers.

Hallahan is not just a building off of the Parkway. It is a family. A sisterhood that spans generations. It is reflective of the history of Philadelphia where generations of families have called the city home.

Please consider granting John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School historic designation. The women of Philadelphia who called Hallahan home for decades deserve that recognition and the building deserves that honor.

Eileen Mahoney

From: Kelly Gardner [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofHallahan@gmail.com
Subject: HH historical designation

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Good morning,
Some short sentiments from a grateful Hallahan alumnus, Kelly (Dugan) Gardner , class of 1988.

I loved all of my four years at Hallahan. I loved everything about the building itself. I spent many hours in extracurricular activities, mostly because of music and orchestra practices. Because of that, I never got the early charter bus after school. I never had a schedule that allowed for that. So, I would walk into the city to get the 9 or the 27 bus. Essentially, Center City was my after "school" program. I learned how to navigate the city very well. I had my favorite lunch trucks, my favorite corner stores and stops. I was confident that I could figure out my way home no matter what. I had many options and it didn't scare me at all. I became a fearless Center City dweller! And that has stuck with me my whole life. I was the friend that people called when they had to travel into the city. They knew that I could navigate and would feel more comfortable driving if I was in the car!

That has made me a better theater ticket holder, a better ambassador for city life and city restaurants. It never left me. And so when we think about historical preservation, we also want people to frequent different neighborhoods, including Center City in order to preserve the life *surrounding* that building. We want foot traffic. We want people! Part of the life of our city is travelling into the hub of the city for different recreation, parades, restaurants. I don't know if anyone else has mentioned this small detail about going to school in the city. It made me a better citizen of Philadelphia because I became aware of its various neighborhoods and I confidently travelled to those places--and I *still* do! Preserving the building means also preserving the life of the businesses *around* that building and educating future citizens about what's available in the city--to once again be ambassadors for its culture and recreation. I am a product of not just HH but of the neighborhood that surrounded it.

Thank you for taking up our cause. May #notONEbrick be changed.

Kelly Gardner, class of '88

From: Kate Flanagan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Application of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School (copy without attachment)

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Dear Allyson Mehley,

If you grew up in Philadelphia and were a girl, you knew what and where John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School was. My sisters and I especially knew because our grandmother, mother, aunt, and cousin went there. As soon as I started thinking about what high school to go to, I already picked in my head that I would choose Hallahan. I never heard anyone say a bad thing about the school.

The history inside the buildings located at 311 North 19th Street, is more than many other schools can claim. If I stated every single piece of history inside of John W. Hallahan, we would be here for days. The most significant part of the school is that it was the very first Catholic, all girls high school in the country.

At a time in history when women as a whole were considered lesser than men, Mary McMichan realized that an establishment where girls could be educated, was desperately needed. She, a woman in the early 1900's, gifted the funds to build the school. Mary Michan is a pioneer in the education of women in the United States. Nothing like this was ever done before.

The building was constructed in 1911, nine years before women even had the right to vote. In 1912, the school opened its doors to 550 young women who would take two years of courses, including college preparation classes. By 1920, those two years of classes turned into four years of courses and college preparation. At a time when women were not expected to pass a grade school curriculum, they were attending Hallahan and surpassing the expectations of all women up until this period in history. Girls from 89 different parishes in the city of Philadelphia, attended Hallahan by 1917.

The challenges women face today, would never have even been an issue if places like Hallahan never existed. Hallahan gave women a voice. Voices that otherwise would have never been heard. Hallahan gave women opportunities in the workplace, that women before them never had the opportunity to have. Many of the businesses in Center City Philadelphia, employed Hallahan students and graduates. To this day, Center City businesses employ the students and alumnae of Hallahan, giving women abundant opportunities to use in the work world. The historical application of the John W. Hallahan building should not even be a debate. For 110 years, its walls taught women with faith, purpose and vision, as it states in its Mission statement, but Hallahan has done so much more. It broke the barriers for women from all over the city of Philadelphia, when women were not considered to be worthy of a high school or college education. It would be a true disservice to the history of Philadelphia to rid of a building that shaped the lives of over 40,000 women.

"Let a flood tide of song from our hearts pour along
O girls of the Callahan High!
For the Mother whose art doth her knowledge impart
As Religions grand ally.
She hath given us dow'r of the mightiest pow'r
Enrolled us 'neath standard blest,
On whose azure field triple lily sealed,
Inscribed our Alumnae's test.
Let our lamp then outgleam
With our Faith's brightest beam,
O Girls of the Hallahan High,
O Girls of the Hallahan High!
Let the blue and the white,
In their radiant light,
Alma Mater glorify,
Alma Mater glorify!"

Sincerely,
Kathryn (Flanagan) Travaline, Vice President of the class of 2009

Allyson Mehley

From: Melissa McCloskey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan
Attachments: Save Hallahan .docx

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Hello Allyson,

Attached is my letter on why Hallahan should be saved and deemed historical. Sorry for sending this over at the last possible hour however, I wanted to make sure however it has been a bit covid crazed and I wanted to capture everything that I wanted to say.

Cheers,
Melissa McCloskey

"We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are."
— [Anaïs Nin](#)

Hello,

My name is Melissa McCloskey and I am a graduate of the Class of 1998. I wanted to take a few moments of your time to tell you the importance of the Hallahan building. I currently reside in South Jersey and I have a 15-year-old daughter who wanted to attend Hallahan however as both my husband and I work in New Jersey we decided not to send our daughter. I can tell you that our daughter is still devastated about this. During her brief visits to Hallahan to tour and shadow she has met a few friends who she is now very chatty with and that is what the Hallahan building represents. It is a sense of sisterhood and pride along with seeing a future.

The Hallahan building represents what our world needs right now strong women who have a strong sense of themselves and are ready to leave their mark on the world. A world that currently is missing responsibility, compassion, and a sisterhood. Hallahan is a place for girls from all diverse backgrounds to come together and gain exposure to all different ethnicities. The location of the building offers a unique experience for the girls that attend school there. It is in a prime location to expose girls to a pre-college campus experience or a workforce trial run while they decide which path they are going to choose.

Hallahan for me was a building of sisters, teachers, and administration that helped me evolve from a quiet introvert to the woman that I am today. In that building I learned what a Teacher should be and what an administration should do for their students. I gained my voice in that building and that voice led me to be a very vocal parent for my child in a district that overlooks the average child or the child who needs advocating for. I really hope that you continue to preserve the Hallahan legacy and the marks its Women leave on our world. Hallahan has great potential to be a packed building filled with students with the right administration and plan for the building.

Hallahan started with a need to educate women during a time of needed change and once again the times are changing, and Hallahan can answer the call of change at this time. Having the building remain open and going back to the root of why this building was open and expanding on that thought can lead the right administrative team and staff to restructure the education plan and offer an associate degree for these girls in the building. Due to the location of the building, they could pair up with more than CCP and become a feeder school to some of the other local colleges and business. Continue the legacy of Mary McMichan and the Hallahan building by remaining open and continue to pave the way for women who are ready to make their mark on this world. That is what the Hallahan building is pride, a leap of faith, and a strong sense of history to generations of women whose stories and footprints are being left all over our area and country.

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:22 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: The History of John W. Hallahan

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Linda Marie Smith [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Feb 28, 2021 at 7:01 AM
Subject: Re: The History of John W. Hallahan
To: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Suzanne you are welcome. I hope you can forward my email to the phila.gov historical society. So we can keep our school. God bless 🙏 you. And let's keep fighting. Don't give up!!!!

Truly,

Linda Marie Smith 🙏 🙏 ❤️

On Sun, Feb 28, 2021, 12:52 AM Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com> wrote:

THIS!!! Beautiful!

Thank you! Suzanne

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 5:53 PM Linda Marie Smith [REDACTED] > wrote:

The original seal of Catholic Girls High School is high above the 19th. St. entrance. Was designed by Bishop McDevitt. There are words that mean wise virgin at the top of the building. The original school hymn, from 1916. Can be seen on line at the Library of Congress. There are stained glass windows. The Great Seal of the United States, is above on top of the building. There is a Cathedral attached to the building. The women, who graduate from Hallahan, turn out to be. Doctors, Lawyers, Musicians, and Teachers. And I should know. My daughter, who graduated from Hallahan, turned out great. And so did I. All from the great teachings, from the the prestigious nuns and layeity at John W. Hallahan High School.

Sincerely,

Linda Marie Smith
Class of 1972
Charlice Marie Smith
Class of 1987

Allyson Mehley

From: disneemommom [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 11:41 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W.Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

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Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

allyson.mehley@phila.gov

Dear Ms Mehley and the Philadelphia Historical Commission:

Please visit Hallahan and see for yourself how important it is to keep this amazing part of our city's history for generations to come.

Our beloved Hallahan high school needs to be saved and preserved forever.

"I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. "

Your name

Mary Anderson



Allyson Mehley

From: Annie Brown Simon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:55 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan historical building
Attachments: John W Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School for Girls.pdf

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Allyson. Attached please find my letter in support for the nomination of Hallahan High School as a historical building in Philadelphia. Thank you. --Anna Brown Simon.

John W Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School for Girls. The building structure was built in time as it waited for a benefactor, Mary McMichan, in memory of her brother John W Hallahan; from the ground up, at 19th and Wood Streets in Philadelphia, in the area on the Ben Franklin Parkway. Photos on the Facebook vintage Philadelphia site show that Hallahan stood proudly at that earlier time near the Cathedral Basilica. It is interesting to think of how the Hallahan building was connected to the Cathedral grade school building. Views outside Hallahan's windows portrayed the row houses on Carlton street, where my classmate Jodie lived, the Juvenile Detention Center to the south and the Phila. main library to the SW. Saints of significance to the early dreamers of Hallahan are carved on the outside building. The cornerstone sent from Rome, Pope Pius X. The excitement extending from Rome to the supportive Archdiocese of Philadelphia Archbishop Ryan, to the people who gathered outside for the cornerstone blessing in the spirit of St John Neumann, 110 years ago. I remember the excitement and privilege I felt to attend Hallahan, following in my friend Donna's and my paternal cousins' footsteps. (Many people say their mom went to Hallahan). I rode the bus from 4th and Spring Garden St down to 19th and ran to school in the mornings to Hallahan. After school I walked to 15th and JFK taking the el with Patty and others from Fishtown, Bridesburg, N Philly, etc to Girard Ave or 5th st to take the trolley with Janie. I took classes in Latin for 3 years; French 2 years; World Cultures from which I learned from Ms.Lobo to cherish diversity to this day; English class with wonderful, intelligent St Joseph, IHM, and other order nuns; sociology, a new subject for me later leading me to a BA degree in psychology and eventually through a diploma, BSN, MSN-FNP, and DNP in nursing with a love for the sciences, a basis in math, and an ethical spirit. I attended Hallahan 1972-76, a time in history marked with a continued spirit of feminism, altruism for other nations and diversity within ours, a spark of new music with David Bowie, Elton John, and Bruce Springsteen(he used Hallahan girls at dismissal in his Streets of Philadelphia music video), artists who experienced a connection and special acceptance and recognition within Philadelphia, the continuance of the Hallahan tradition of jumping in the fountain on the last day of the school for the summer (7 years later Hallahan girls were photographed for National Geographic Magazine). We jumped in the fountain several blocks away at Love Park rather than at Logan Circle the years I was at Hallahan to avoid reprimand by the office. Despite the Catholic uniformity, the years at Hallahan also instilled a sense of rebellion and for standing up for one's beliefs ("good trouble" as John Lewis advocated). We protested our not being allowed to leave school early to attend the Flyers championship in '74, '75. In French club we rode bicycles as in the Tour de France through Fairmount park, taking rest on the whispering bench. My years at Hallahan helped instill a love for Philadelphia I carry to this day. It is an inner strength I draw from in good times and bad, in places far from my native city. The Hallahan building brings meaning to Philadelphia history and a focus and energy on the future of many young women in Philadelphia. There is a sense of pride and connection to faculty teaching at Hallahan; my French teacher, and my geometry teacher whom I met once a few years after graduation on the Broad st subway coming home from Temple University. She said I was one of her best students.(even though I struggled with the concepts in geometry). Hallahan is an integral part of the Baldwin Park architecture; is committed to the community in providing quality education drawing girls from Northern Liberties like me, and from Fairmount, Center City including China Town, East Falls, Andorra, Roxborough, Fishtown, North Philly, Bridesburg, etc. I am learning about the physical structure

in its planning by individuals of importance then, in the symbolism, formation, inspiration, and educational foundations it has provided so many present girls, their mothers, grand and great grandmothers. It was the basis for my educational foundation. May Hallahan be preserved as a historical building and institution. Thank you for considering this. --Anna Brown Simon.
215-530-9827

From: Maria Cavalcante [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:13 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan's Designation into the Historical Society

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

My name is Maria Cavalcante- a senior and third generation student at John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. Upon the announcement of the school closure, my family, friends, and I were profusely devastated. Hallahan has played a crucial role in the lives of thousands of women throughout the course of 110 years, and is the epitome of history in Center City, Philadelphia.

Hallahan was established in 1911, a pivotal time in which the United States was experiencing the suffrage movement. The fabrication of this institution fragmented patriarchal society and paved the way for higher women's education. Hallahan provided quality schooling for young girls in immigrant families while completely desegregated. From the very foundations of the school to the present day, Hallahan has integrated a manifold of ethnicities- creating bonds regardless of upbringings. This institution defied the restraints of race and socioeconomic class by cultivating bright, hard working women, who were typically not blessed with privilege- specifically in an era where rich, white men, where the definition of success. Hallahan has emphasized the resilience of women for over a *century*.

From an architectural perspective, the exterior of the building is incredibly unique. The entire edifice is composed of beautiful stone masonry which is adorned with sculpted concrete accents. The perimeter of the building is surrounded by dedications to various female saints- such as Kateri Tekakwitha who was an indigenous woman. The fact that Saint Kateri is honored on the building is incredible in on itself, considering the that Native Americans faced extreme discrimination in the early 1900s (Native Americans were not even considered U.S. citizens until 1924, and the last residential schools closed in 1973). Hallahan's cornerstone, which is located on the intersection of 19th and Wood streets, proudly displays the foundry date of 1911. Not only was this stone sent from Milan, but it was also blessed by Pope Pius X who was canonized as a saint in 1954. My favorite exterior aspect of the building is most certainly the elaborate sculpture that adorns the roof on the 19th street entrance. The school's emblem, in addition to mirrored cornucopia spirals, crown Hallahan from this viewpoint. I find myself staring at it every day when I enter school. It's a masterpiece, completely original to this institution. Hallahan's exterior, let alone it's interior and historical lineage, is impressive enough to let onlookers know that the building has a respectable character. A character that is *completely* unmatched to the surrounding buildings.

As for the interior, there are beautiful stained glass windows located in various places throughout the building. The auditorium and media room have stunning stained glass skylights located on the ceilings (although the prior has been mostly covered by the grime of the outside world). Multiple statues can be found throughout Hallahan as well, such as the Mary statue located on the first floor. This statue was dedicated in 1954 and is another personal favorite of mine. Our lady sits in an alcove holding the baby Jesus- pastel stained glass windows gleaming behind her. When the time is just right, these colors illuminate the back of the statue, giving it an ethereal glow.

Walking through the passages of Hallahan is directly equivalent to walking through the passages of time. Sometimes I find it hard to comprehend that I attend a school which lived through the suffrage movement, the great depression, both world wars, the civil rights movement, multiple pandemics, and various other major historical events. Even the usage of our mascot, Mickey Mouse, was directly approved by Walt Disney himself. This institution is so complex that to this day, I find myself stumbling across rooms that I have never seen before. Rooms that are literal time capsules (some containing stoves from the 1950s)! I am beyond fortunate to have the privilege to attend a school that has indoctrinated generations upon generations of women- such as my grandmom (class of 1946), and my mother (class of 1986). I wish I had the time to include every detail that

contributes to Hallahan's monumental past. This school is rich with over 110 years of history. It would be an honor to see it preserved for 110 more.

Thank you for your time in this matter. Please consider Hallahan's designation into the Historical Society.

Sincerely,
Maria Cavalcante
John W. Hallahan Class of 2021

Allyson Mehley

From: Lisa Barra [REDACTED]
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Keep Hallahan

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Hello,

My name is Lisa M. Barra and. I am a proud Graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. My cousins , sister in law and I are proud graduates and members of the Hallahan family. I have Friends for the last 51 years which is forever binding. When Hallahan has been mentioned through the years there is such a sense of pride. Women of all cultures united so many of us and we all survived diversity.

Please don't let Hallahan become just another building. It surroundings of such history and beauty cannot be replaced. The memories are unforgettable and the values that were given to so many of us are instilled in our hearts. I can't visualize that building that transformed so many women and the education given to us is like no other. Please let's keep Hallahan open and give the opportunity for the legacy to carry on. First All Girls Catholic High School must live on until end of time.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: MIKE FIOCCO [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:08 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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Dear Allyson

I support Hallahan being a historic building. The beautiful building and also the fact that it is the first catholic girls high school. My Grandmother attended in the 1930's. Please save our school so future girls from Philadelphia can have the great high school experience we did!

Bernice McLaughlin 86

Allyson Mehley

From: Mary Mulson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:06 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: John W. Hallahan Historical Designation

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing with regard to the building which currently houses John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High-school. I am a graduate of the class of 1998. All of the women in my family attended Hallahan, including my daughter who is currently a Junior. What the archdiocese is doing to this school is quite disappointing, but the building being designated would be a glimmer of hope in these otherwise sad times .

I hope you will consider the designation for many reasons, one of which would be to persevere the deep fabrics of our city's history and what this building stood for. This is more than just brick and mortar , it was empowering to the young girls of Philadelphia. We were taught self confidence and we were taught to respect our elders and each other. Hallahan is one of the most diverse schools in Philadelphia, we learned of each others cultures and traditions and we loved and embraced them with our whole hearts . If not for any other reason, please consider a designation so the tens of thousands of women who walked those halls will have the opportunity to take a walk by and smile.

Sincerely ,

Mary Mulson '98

Sent from my iPhone

From: Mary Giampietro [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:59 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: FriendsOfHallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls H.S. as a Historic Landmark: Letter of Support
Attachments: Hallahan - M Giampietro's support for designation as historic landmark.docx

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing this letter to support the designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as a historic landmark. Please protect this *exemplary* institution for future generations of Philadelphians. There is only one century-old building left in this neighborhood that retains its original purpose: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School at 311 North 19th Street has been a neighborhood anchor for over 100 years, *the first all-girls diocesan high school in the country. Hallahan set the standard for all other Catholic Archdiocesan girls high schools in the nation to follow. It is the original.*

Hallahan is truly one-of-a-kind. In a class by itself. A pioneer and model for educating young women in an era when females were relegated to subservient roles in society and, ultimately, destined to be wives and/or "homemakers" alone. Establishing Hallahan in 1911 changed that destiny for throngs of immigrant girls and influenced the trajectory of the Philadelphia workforce and culture in numerous and immeasurable ways. Through the generosity and vision of Mary Hallahan McMichan, her magnanimous gift in 1908 continues to live on.

Although STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) fields have been predominantly populated by men for generations and only recently have become the increasing focus of many high school programs, Hallahan was on the scene and an early proponent with progressive STEM curriculum offerings for women, *and for immigrant, minority women at that*, for more than 100 years now. Although one could focus on many examples (in my family alone, we have a handful of Hallahan graduates, all with varied, advanced College degrees in the sciences and lucrative professions within the pharmaceutical, health, and research industries, whose current employment continues to contribute to a thriving Philadelphia economy), I use this specific illustration to prove a point: Are you aware of Hallahan's historic connection to the ENIAC project? Never heard of ENIAC?

ENIAC, an abbreviation for "Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer," was a top-secret U.S. Defense project during World War II. To get a glimpse of the pivotal role STEM women of Hallahan played, and in this case one woman in particular, Kathleen McNulty, don't miss a PBS documentary available now on Amazon Prime entitled [Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of WWII](#). A blurb for this one-hour documentary explains:

"In 1942 after the Japan attack on Pearl Harbor, a secret military program was launched to recruit female mathematicians who could become human computers for the U.S. military. Top Secret Rosies: The Female Computers of WWII shares a story of the women and the technology that helped win a war and usher in the modern computer age."

Ultimately, women like Kathleen McNulty who cultivated their interest in mathematics and other STEM coursework at Hallahan, went on to engage in exciting careers that simply would not have been possible without Hallahan (see photo inserts below: 1st picture-from my mother, Agnes Sukany's '46, circa 1942 Hallahan year book, illustrating laboratory experimentation; 2nd picture compliments of baldwinparkphilly.org):



(Circa 1942 HH yearbook caption above notes “..discoverers of the ninety-third element”. A relevant historical reference given the current periodic table has now evolved to 118 known elements!)



(Hallahan students performing lab experiments, circa 1916; baldwinparkphilly.org)

Don't allow the Archdiocese's misguided decision to close Hallahan deprive all Philadelphians, especially young, immigrant and minority women, the opportunity to witness firsthand the legacy of this institution and experience the many Philadelphia cultural offerings ***all within steps of this historic high school***. Need I remind the Commission of the Archdiocese's record in this regard: Decades ago, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia came perilously close to extinguishing Roman Catholic High School at Broad and Vine Streets, Hallahan's "brother" school, given the value of this prime real estate and a decision to close it, too, which in hindsight would clearly have been a grave mistake. And now? Roman Catholic High School is a high profile magnet school, an enduring symbol from 1890, and part of the cultural fabric of the city of Philadelphia.

Hallahan, "the building," with all its rich architectural features, and Hallahan, "the legacy," a mission that is as relevant today if not more so than it was over 100 years ago, deserves to be preserved and I urge the Commission to protect it.

And, as the lyrics from the popular 1970's Joni Mitchell song, "Yellow Taxi", forewarn:

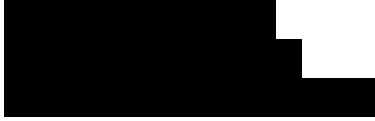
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot.
With a pink hotel, a boutique, and a swinging hot spot.

Don't it always seem to go, that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone?
They paved paradise, put up a parking lot.

Please --I respectfully implore the Commission – save Hallahan. The city of Philadelphia does not need another "parking lot." Enabling the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AoP) to close Hallahan— *without any warning during a pandemic, I might add*-- would, indeed, be a grave mistake with ramifications for the Philadelphia community at large. **Don't allow it.** Institutions such as Hallahan are what make Philadelphia a world-class city. Please designate and protect Hallahan as a local treasure and a historic landmark. Doing so will prevent future generations of Philadelphians from asking, "What were they thinking?"

Respectfully,

Mary T. Giampietro, Hallahan Class of 1980



cc: Friends of Hallahan

Attachment (copy of letter from M. Giampietro)

G:\Miscellaneous\Emails\Hallahan - M Giampietro's support for designation as historic landmark.docx

Allyson Mehley

From: Elsie Gallagher Firman [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:29 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan High school

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“I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. “

Elsie Gallagher-Firman



Friends of Hallahan team is grateful for your support.

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 6:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Nomination for Historical Designation
Attachments: My Letter to Historical Commission.docx

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Hello Allyson. Thank you for taking the time to speak with me on Friday. I am looking forward to Wednesday's hearing. Even with a continuance, our building is amazing and iconic. I am confident that this nomination will eventually be successfully approved!

Thank you for everything you have done to make this an inevitable possibility!

Attached is my own letter.

Suzanne Edinger

Allyson Mehley

Historic Preservation Planner

Philadelphia Historical Commission

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19102

allyson.mehley@phila.gov

February 22, 2021

Dear Ms. Mehley,

By now, you realize that the mere mention of the name Hallahan awakens so very many emotions in so many ways for not just decades but for a century plus two decades of families. I know that you have received a record number of letters requesting that the commission declare this iconic building as historic. And I know that every letter written was very personal and very compelling.

You see, Hallahan started as a mere building but grew student by student into more. For nearly 120 years, the physical Hallahan has nurtured, protected, and propagated not just women's studies but women in general.

I am certain that you are well versed in the history of The John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School so I will spare you that reiteration. The purpose of this letter to communicate to you and to your gracious commission the importance of this building to the community of Philadelphia.

I live in the Birmingham Alabama area now, and have for the past 20 years. But growing up in Philadelphia, I have always been personally connected to our nation's history. Philadelphia history, as the birthplace of our constitution and the cradle of liberty, is a proud beginning of the educational process for every child in the country. Here in Birmingham, civil rights is the local history lesson. And that runs deeply through my current community. Pride is an amazing and powerful gift.

And anyone who has ever attended Hallahan or merely walked through those doors at 311 N. 19th Street can attest to the power of that pride. I, in fact am a proud graduate of the class of 1983. In my speech as valedictorian on June 11, 1983, I stated that "Hallahan is more than the mortar and bricks that comprise the building." And here I am today, writing this letter in union with my fellow Alumnae trying to save that very brick and mortar.

The school was proudly founded as an institution for the sole purpose of educating young Catholic women. The Catholic church considered and executed this plan armed by Catholic pride and intention to serve the community. This formidable building was designed and constructed with pride. You can see this pride in the details adorning the exterior of the building. The architects, builders, and even the construction workers who laid each brick surely felt this pride. It is most definitely visible in the timeless beauty of this magnificent building.

Lady Hallahan stands tall, proud, and formidable in the place where she was intended to proclaim to all the importance of the education of women at a time before women even had the right to vote. Visible from the parkway, she stands in guard watching over those who enter her community. The symbolism is poignant. For almost 120 years, she has watched as statesmen, patriots, world leaders, athletes, dignitaries, entertainers, popes and other international dignitaries, and simple local families have walked, strolled, run, driven, rode, biked and maneuvered down the parkway into and out of her city. She is a first in so many ways. She is dignified. And has earned her right to live on as an incomparable symbol of pride. She is a formidable symbol of the history of the area and the history of women.

The ornate details placed along the outside of this rather basic and simple brick building are remarkable. Symbols of faith, knowledge, purity, and hard work. 15 names are carved into the sides of Lady Hallahan. These are the names of queens and noblewomen, of saints, patriots and even a princess. Prominent at the main entry is the Great Seal of the United States and the Papal Seal of Pope Pius X. The cornerstone contains remnants of an actual saint. The building itself was adapted to combine with the cathedral school in order to serve more women. The pride and symbolism are quite stunning.

As women took their place in history, so does Hallahan continue to stand tall and stately, simple yet proud. It is critical to remember and honor our history as a nation and as a city. We must stand firm in demanding that our historical buildings remain intact...that the business conducted inside those walls is remembered. If the walls are destroyed, the legacy will continue but a critical part of the story will be lost forever. And this story is one that must be protected and honored and shared. For what is a story without a beginning. This building is indeed the beginning of the legacy of Mary E. Hallahan McMichan and ultimately the legacy of education across our entire country.

Just as the Friends of Hallahan stand firm in demanding that the educational institution of Hallahan continues for future generations of women, so too must you, the Historical Commission stand firm in demanding that the physical Hallahan continues for generations of Philadelphians. It is my hope future generations may tour this location. They should be able to see the beauty of this iconic building and feel the beauty of its tradition and history. You plain and simply cannot experience this magic in new construction.

Please! Protect the magic! Protect our Lady Hallahan as she has protected 40,000 young women by preparing them to conquer the world! Thank you for your time and attention to our great Lady Hallahan...the brick and mortar that represents so much more than its humble yet stellar construction.

Sincerely,

Suzanne O'Brien Edinger '83

On behalf of my family, descendants of John and Rose O'Brien,

whose 8 children who all attended Catholic High Schools, and almost 300 of my 1st, 2nd, and 3rd cousins who have ties to Philadelphia Catholic high schools...it all started with the first O'Brien who graduated from Hallahan in 1948.

From: Kelly Mahon [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 6:07 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan

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Dear Ms. Mehley;

"O Girls of the Hallahan High..." I can't imagine not hearing these words echoing in song through the halls of John W. Hallahan and the Cathedral building anymore.

My name is Kelly Marie Mahon. I am a proud graduate of John W. Hallahan and Cathedral Elementary School. I attended these schools between 1965 to 1977. To me, the schools are much more than just buildings. I grew up on the 1700 block of Carlton St. in the shadows of the Cathedral school.

My grandparents and parents were also from the neighborhood. My dad went to Cathedral and Roman, and my mom went to Cathedral and Hallahan High School, so I have deep roots within the community. I honestly thought we would always be part of this community.

However, in 1973 the Franklin Town Revitalization project began and we were told we had to move. Our family relocated to Northeast Philadelphia, where geographically, I would have had to go to Little Flower High School. My family, however, successfully petitioned the Archdiocese so I could remain a student at Hallahan.

Even then, my heart
and soul were with Hallahan High.

It took years for Franklin Town Revitalization project to be completed. It is now a mecca for millennials who will one day be looking to send their own children to a Catholic high school. Sadly, if the Archdiocese gets its way, that school won't be Hallahan and those children won't be able to share in and experience the school's storied history.

The history of the school is much more than faculty and students.

Unlike other brick and mortar buildings, Hallahan has amazing ornate architecture and sculptures that date back to 1911. All you have to do is look up to see the detailed artwork throughout the building.

Pope Pius X is even part of the Hallahan building's history as he supplied the cornerstone. It is the first all-girls Catholic high school in the United States.

The founder of Hallahan, Mary McMichan, was ahead of her time. Her mission was to fulfill educating young women in Philadelphia. That alone was an amazing feat. At that time, the neighborhood was already diverse as it was home to working-class folks from numerous ethnic backgrounds. There were Irish, Italian, African Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Greeks, to name a few.

Their families
attended the two schools for generations.

I am proud to be a graduate of John W. Hallahan, where I received a first-class education and played varsity basketball. I still have many cherished memories of my teachers, classmates, and traditions, including Hallahan Day, and jumping into the Logan Square Fountain on the final day of school. More importantly, Hallahan made me who I am today: a woman of faith, purpose, and vision, which is the school's motto. Please consider making Hallahan High School a historical landmark. The building is, after all, part of the true fabric of the forgotten, and current, neighborhood. It is, in short, a special part of Philadelphia's history that should be preserved.

"O Girls of the Hallahan High..."

Thank You,

Kelly Marie Mahon
Class of 1977

Allyson Mehley

From: Luisa Cramphorn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan - Historical Designation Request
Attachments: Hallahan Letter.docx

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Hello,

Please see attached letter. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Luisa Cramphorn
Class of 2006

Hello Mrs. Mehley,

I am a proud John W. Hallahan graduate of the class of 2006. My name is Luisa Cramphorn and I attribute much of my success as a young woman to my nurturing and developmental years at Hallahan High School. It was an easy decision to attend Hallahan as I grew up learning about the many things this wonderful school had to offer young women of faith. I experienced the dedication and passion to this school through my mother, grandmother, and aunts who all graduated from Hallahan, where I too, later learned about this school of opportunity, diversity and tradition which was the heart of the beautiful building at the corner of 19th and Wood Street.

There are many things I could share about how Hallahan helped to shape me into the strong, independent, accepting, and faith-filled woman that I am today. My four years at Hallahan were nothing short of amazing, as I learned many life lessons, how to work hard, and how to carry myself as a proud woman of faith while loving my neighbor as myself. Although I could share numerous accounts of what Hallahan, the school, means to me, I'd like to share instead why Hallahan, the building, is just as meaningful to me and the entire city of Philadelphia.

The actual building of John W. Hallahan is, quite frankly, not just a building at all. It is home to the first all-girls Catholic High School in not only the city, but the entire country, serving as a symbol of educated and faith-filled young women. It is the symbol of diversity, opportunity, and strength. The school seal on the school building above the 19th street entrance marks the four attributes of a Catholic woman, which Hallahan students and graduates alike embody: faith, knowledge, purity, and hard work. The seal is proudly displayed for the entire city to view, making Hallahan and its students well-known and respected throughout Philadelphia. You can catch a glimpse of the building, and its beautiful architecture, from other historic spots in the city: from The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Logan Circle, and the Parkway, just to name a few. Its historical importance as the first all-girls Catholic high school marks this school and its four walls in a caliber of its own.

This building has character. This building has heart. It is a special part of our city and cannot be taken away. It represents diversity and opportunity for women; it is a staple of Philadelphia, with significance that is unmatched.

I am respectfully submitting a request that you designate John W. Hallahan building as a historical site. I implore you to give this the utmost thoughtful consideration. Please help us preserve this most important legacy and vision of John W. Hallahan High School.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Luisa D. Cramphorn

Class of 2006

Allyson Mehley

From: Sue Kinslow [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 3:44 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

Thank you for your time and effort to support the proposal for John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School building to be recognized as a historical designation.

I am a proud graduate of Hallahan class of 1977.

I consider myself to be blessed to have had the opportunity to receive an education at the oldest Catholic school in the country.

In this brick building dating back to 1911, with its architectural beauty, many young women have had the opportunity to receive a good education, establish important Catholic values, develop lasting friendships, and appreciate the many unique traditions of Hallahan High.

I am both hopeful and prayerful that these traditions will continue to survive in this ever changing world, and that this beautiful landmark will forever remain intact and historically preserved in our great city of brotherly love.

Once again, I thank you for your time and all that you are doing to help keep Hallahan's legacy alive.

Sincerely,
Sue Duffy Kinslow
Class of 1977

From: THEODORE BALDO [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:52 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Nomination of Hallahan Building for Historical Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you about the history of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. I am a proud graduate of the Class of 1983. My two aunts, my sister and cousins are also proud graduates of Hallahan. My daughter is currently a senior and thankfully will graduate in June, 2021. As you well know, Hallahan has been rich in history and tradition since the school was built in 1911.

Although I am no expert on historical designation, I will provide you with some reasons I believe the Hallahan building should be designated as historical. The Hallahan building is over a Century old. It is the first Catholic High School for Girls in the United States. It's primary function was to educate young women in the Catholic faith and still maintains that purpose and function today. When you walk through the front doors, you can easily see the beautiful architecture of the past that has been maintained beautifully by Hallahan from the marble floors to the ceilings and stain glass. The building structure looks very much the same as the pictures of when it was first built in 1911.

Hallahan has always been a school strong in diversity. While we are still struggling in society with inequality and racial discrimination, Hallahan has been successful in bringing all races together from different neighborhoods throughout the City. The girls learn to respect each other's differences and to work together in harmony. By the time, these students graduate, they are more than prepared for the world not only academically, but socially.

Finally, I thank the Commission for considering Hallahan for this designation.

Sincerely,

Eileen (Shields) Baldo '83

Allyson Mehley

From: Dottie Flanagan [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Historical society

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dottie Flanagan [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Feb 27, 2021, 2:15 PM
Subject: Historical society
To: <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

I am composing this letter since I am an alumni and have family that was alumni and allahan since early 1900s hoping to keep the building as a historical building the first woman's girls Catholic high School deserves that much care during the game class of 1983

From: King Family [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:17 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic High School for Girls

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Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
allyson.mehley@phila.gov

Historical Application, 311 N. 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing in support of granting historical designation status to the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School building/buildings which are outlined in the application.

The application for historical designation does a beautiful job in presenting the facts to support the designation. So it is here that I strongly emphasize my support of those facts in this letter.

Mary Mc Michan was a remarkable force in her business endeavors. This, coupled with her inheritance from her brother John W., allowed for her donation to fund the school. This truly makes her the mother of ALL Catholic schools for girls in the United States of America.

Therefore the building of the John W. Hallahan school embodies not just physical historic importance, but it carries on its shoulders the existence of every Catholic school for girls in the US that came after it.

From its inception, Hallahan displayed its pioneering importance in not just providing girls with a modern education in a modern building so that they could access opportunities in life that were previously closed to them, but also in bringing people together as it drew and integrated an ethnically diverse, yet separated population of students from different Philadelphia neighborhoods, setting an important precedent for the future of education.

I am a Hallahan family descendent and I'm extremely proud to say my grandmother Rosemary Hallahan was a 1917 graduate of Catholic Girls' High School.

My great grandfather, Peter John Hallahan was first cousin to Mary Mc Michan, John W. Hallahan, Daniel F., and their siblings. Their fathers, John and Daniel were brothers, thus they shared the same grandparents. The cousins were close-in that Daniel F. was my great grandfather's sponsor when he immigrated to the US from Ireland in 1875, at age 14 and orphaned, and they lived together for some time.

Throughout my upbringing, and into adulthood, my sister, brother and I learned much about our family history and genealogy. And although Mary and John W., etc. were a part of a cousin line (and by now we are distant cousins in the family line), the family pride in the Hallahan school has always been evident and important to the wider Hallahan family, which at this point embodies many cousins.

Since learning of the decision of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to close Hallahan, I've been witness to the incredibly thriving, intelligent, passionate, and driven group of women who proudly call themselves alumnae and students. Their pride is not just in their education, but it's also in the building in which they received this education.

There is a reverence and respect present inside the school that I had the privilege to witness firsthand when my sister and I were given a tour of Hallahan in 2019. In addition to learning more about the history of Hallahan (school and family), seeing the historical artifacts from the early days, and learning about the special building itself, we could truly feel the spirit of family, pride, and respect for this Catholic institution as we strolled the halls and met many proud and lovely staff and students that day.

Walking through the doors of Hallahan and being greeted by the portraits of Mary and John is a solemn and poignant reminder that acts of giving and kindness can truly ripple and reverberate over time....over years and generations having a profound affect on so many more than might be anticipated. Mary established this, and now, the school and building are historic because of it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rosemary K.King (letter author)
on behalf of my sister and brother:
Karen Hallahan Kranyak and
John T. Kranyak

Allyson Mehley

From: Nancy Butterly [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:16 PM
To: FriendsofHallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: I support saving Hallahans historical application

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Good afternoon!

I attended Hallahan from 1982-86. I'm a proud graduate and support the application to preserve the history of the Hallahan building.

As a proud Philadelphia native, we need to preserve the significance of historical buildings like this.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Butterly
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Mary Beth Snyder [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:43 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation letter from Joan (Cavanaugh) Becker, class of '47

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February 25, 2021

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to implore you to grant the J. W. Hallahan Building Historical Designation. Like so many of my Hallahan sisters, I spent the most remarkable 4 years of my life in that building. 40+ years later, the friendships that I forged at Hallahan remain the strongest and most important to me. I often reflect on the good times with classmates, but had to put some thought into the importance of the building.

When I think about the physical structure, what always comes first to my mind is the floors. This may sound odd, but it is true. They are smooth and worn to a shine by the feet of thousands of funky-clad feet. When we had one of our reunions at the school a few years back, that was what struck me as most familiar for some reason. Floors of corridors and classrooms that were walked upon by my mother and her friends before me. Floors that echo the lessons, prayers, songs and laughter of generations of young women.

At 13, I was in awe of how “big” the building was, how confusing to get from one place to the next. How unique the combination of the “Hallahan” and “Cathedral” buildings was, they seemed like one to me! Of course, it would be considered tiny by today’s standards for high school campuses. However, all that we needed existed within the walls of what may seem to “outsiders” to be an unassuming building. Yet, that building looms large in my memories. To this day, when traveling in to and out of Center City, my gaze is drawn always to Hallahan. It is part of the impressive cityscape, nestled among the Cathedral, the Library, the Family Court building, the Franklin Institute, our beloved Fountain and the neighborhood that surrounds them. It evokes the same feelings of familiarity, joy, contentment and happiness that I feel when I drive down the street of my childhood home.

It may seem difficult for some to comprehend how significant that building is to so many. Historically, the building has represented the “home” and starting point of the futures of countless girls and has provided safe haven for them as they grew into women and set out to change the world in countless ways...some big,

some small, but all as part of an incredible and supportive family. For over 100 years this building has stood as a monument/testament to the excellence of a Catholic education and the importance of the development of a support system. The building is significant to the City of Philadelphia as well and needs to be afforded Historical Designation and should remain as the standard bearer for the development of strong, compassionate women, as formidable as the building itself and those time-worn floors that have supported so many dreams and aspirations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Beth (Friel) Snyder

Class of 1978

From: Agnes Cavalcante [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:38 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: John W. Hallahan Nomination for Historical Designation
Attachments: HHhistorical letter.rtf

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

Thank you for considering John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as a historical site. Structurally, it still functions in its original capacity, built in 1911. Its exterior has many masonry elements of the era. Today there are few such monuments from circa 1900 that are dedicated to women throughout the centuries and their suffrage. There are so many details about the building that honors women - one can get lost investigating one aspect or name. For example, on the western end of Wood Street, the building has a stone inscribed with the name Esther, a Jewish woman who risked her own life to save her guardian and her people. During the 1900s many immigrants arriving in America, like the Jews, had faced segregation policies (as did Catholics). There are 15 stone dedications to various females adorning the Hallahan Architectural design. At such a time when women were undervalued in the United States surely this gesture could be seen as the beginning of our freedoms that we enjoy today.

Inside the building of Hallahan one would find historical attributes of marble and stained glass, however, I want to mention the socio-economic side of the past and present times. Hallahan was developed during a time of segregation and somehow incorporated girls from every ethnic background. The incorporation of various backgrounds remarkably continues today. The students that attended and presently attend are from all parts of the city. Diversity and unity combined provides an educational component not found on a bookshelf.

I will defer to the actual nomination application submission for all of the detailed history of Mary McMichan's vision, that being John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. It is in my hopes that you will consider the nomination and declare that this large piece of Philadelphian history which touched the lives of 40,000 graduates as an official designation of history. I respectfully ask the Commission to approve Hallahan's application to the registry.

Sincerely,
Agnes M. Cavalcante
Class of 1986

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Save Hallahan!

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Forwarding for Cathy McVey Palmer '92

-----Original Message-----

From: Cathy Mcvey Palmer [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: Sat, Feb 27, 2021 11:28 am
Subject: Save Hallahan!

To Whom It May Concern:

My love for Philadelphia began when I had the privilege of attending high school in Center City. I adored the bustle of the big city, the diversity of my classmates and the proximity of my school to some of the greatest cultural institutions in the world. My life-long friendships, my open-mindedness and my career path were born at John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School.

That's not just my story. That's the story of nearly 40,000 strong, faithful, civic-minded women who've had the good fortune of being "girls of the Hallahan High."

Transformative things happen at Hallahan. They've been happening there for more than a hundred years now. I implore the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to allow the magic of Hallahan to continue. For the young girls of our city and the futures that only that building at 19th and Wood can fuel.

Sincerely,
Cathy McVey Palmer, forever a proud and grateful Hallahan girl
Class of 1992

From: Karen Houck [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:29 AM
To: FriendsofHallahan@gmail.com
Cc: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan's Importance to "ME"

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Good morning,

We were taught back in our Typing/Business class at Hallahan (back in 1970's 😊) to address our letters as such "To whom it may concern". This particular letter actually concerns myself and my entire family as well as our fellow classmates and the entire HH community!

Back in our day Hallahan really was the only Catholic high school of "choice" that we would have attended, because the generations before us all went there and shared such great memories and had succeeded in LIFE!

We grew up right outside the city in Manayunk/Roxborough and had attended Holy Family catholic grade school, one of many local Catholic grade schools that we were lucky enough to have on every other corner. Back then you attended the school with your heritage (Irish, Italian, German and Polish etc.) When it came time to attend high school, we did not have any locations in our immediate neighborhood. There were a few in the surrounding areas that we could commute to, but our parents chose John W. Hallahan in the heart of the city of Philadelphia for many reasons.

Some of the many reasons were:

TRADITIONS, LOCATION, SURROUNDING HISTORY AND MUSEUMS, MEETING OTHERS FROM ALL DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS/HERITAGES, REAL LIFE AND BUSINESSES THAT SURROUNDED THIS BUILDING, FUTURE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CITY, A TRUE CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND LASTLY BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST "ALL GIRL ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL"

Our youngest daughter graduated from HH in 2009 and at that time it was our last Mother/Daughter tea we would be attending for the time being, so I invited all of my immediate family that attended HH and took a group picture. There were 9 of us (Aunt, sisters, nieces and daughters) representing class of 1965, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1999, 2000, 2005, 2008 and 2009. Of course we couldn't predict our future but in our hearts we had hoped that the next generation would bless us with girls and that when they were ready for high school they would get to carry on the tradition and have the opportunity to experience the "history" of John W. Hallahan!

In closing, I am hoping this letter becomes the "concern" of many others and that we will all realize together that Hallahan is not only a historical building and the first all-girls diocesan Catholic high school, but a major piece of our family history that we would like to preserve!

Sincerely,
Karen Houck (1978)

Sent from my iPad

From: Nancy Little [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 10:20 AM
To: FriendsofHallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation
Attachments: Hallahan Historical Designation.docx

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Friends of Hallahan

PO Box 5826

Philadelphia, PA 19128

February 26, 2021

Attention: Historical Designation

Madame:

I started my high school years at Hallahan in 1972. I travelled from the Port Richmond to Center City on public transportation: a bus, a train, a bus. I thought it was quite a feat for a 13-year-old girl. I wore the blue uniform with green emblem with a name pin for all to see. As I travelled through Philadelphia, I represented the oldest catholic girls' high school in the country and I knew it.

As I entered the building, I felt that it was a special place. It was filled with girls that looked different than me but would become my sisters. The building was old and lacked amenities that other schools had but we had resources that others could not dream about at our disposal. The library was small, but the main branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia was across the street. The science labs were limited, but the Franklin Institute was across the street. The chapel was tiny, but the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul was across the street. As a Hallahan student, I had direct access to the historical areas of Philadelphia and could visit them on my way home from school. I joined tours at some historical sites so frequently that I could give the tour to this day. The building, the location and my new family were amazing opportunities. All the while I knew I was in that blue uniform with the HH emblem and I better represent it to the best of my ability.

The location afforded me a start to my working career. At the time, and knowing the financial realities of the students, the school had a jobs board. As I turned working age, I knew I could get a part time job. Word was that many employers hired Hallahan girls because we were already downtown and we would reliably show up to work. The work ethic that was expected by Hallahan students, and that we demonstrated, landed us jobs and other high school students missed out.

The girls at Hallahan taught me so much. We learned leadership skills, coping skills, self-esteem, and confidence that would serve me well my entire life. After graduating from Hallahan, I continued my education at Drexel University and earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. What a different environment Drexel was. I no longer was in the sea of blue uniforms and estrogen. Instead, the boys towered over me and the testosterone was palatable. The grounding I had from Hallahan proved invaluable and I succeeded. This continued as I spend my career in the STEM field before it was STEM.

We must have the Hallahan High School building recognized as a historical site. The building, the location, and the institution are rooted in the fabric of Philadelphia and beyond. I took an engineering job at DuPont in Delaware and my boss's mom graduated from Hallahan. That showed me how far Hallahan's influence reaches.

This is more than adding Hallahan to the Historical Designation. It is about the walls, halls and marble steps with generations of footsteps worn into the treads. It is about the uniquely small chapel and the huge cathedral. It is about the opportunities the location affords the girls and the benefits the girls give to the community. Please do the right thing and save Hallahan.

Regards,

Nancy K Little

Class of 1976

[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Elise Malizia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: revised Hallahan letter
Attachments: Hallahan Historic Commission Letter (revised).docx

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Hello Allyson,

I reread my letter this morning and I realized that it needed a bit of revision. Thanks for your patience! I am attaching the revised (better) letter!

Sincerely,

Elise Kallmeyer Malizia 79'

Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Historic Commission:

Thank you for considering John W. Hallahan High School for a historical designation. Your work is highly valued. I am a very passionate graduate of the Class of 1979. I am also part of a three generation Hallahan alumnae line which are:

Joan Bradley '54 (my mom)
Elise Kallmeyer '79 (myself)
Maria Malizia '13 (our daughter)

I wanted to reach out with a little bit of information. I have my mom's 1954 yearbook which I have cherished my entire life. When I look through it, I am left speechless at the beautiful traditions and commitment to excellence which came before me. The first page of her yearbook has a picture of the cornerstone and it states the names of significant people related to the obtaining of the Cornerstone and the purchase of the Hallahan building. I find it very significant that Bishop John Neumann, who went on to become Saint John Neumann, was the Archdiocesan representative for the purchase of the building. In addition to this, the cornerstone of the building was also blessed by another saint, Saint Pius X.

The legacy of Saint John Neumann to the City of Philadelphia and John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School is very significant and should continue to be recognized and cherished by Philadelphians in the future. Saint John Neumann paved a way for my future as a Catholic school educator that I am deeply grateful for. My entire family has been fortunate to attend Catholic School for 12 years which is directly due to the dedicated work of Saint John Neumann.

Hallahan meant EVERYTHING to Joan, Maria and myself!!!! The Hallahan sisterhood is a special bond that we have. We grew into our womanhood and learned who we were at Hallahan. Joan, my mom, was able to develop her communication skills as the Associate Editor of the Sandscript newspaper. She also developed a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother which can be found in her writings which I still have. Maria, our daughter, was able to learn how to balance her schoolwork along with her dedication to the volleyball team and commitment to her part-time center city job that Hallahan helped her attain. Both Maria and Joan graduated in the top of their class. For myself, I was able to grow into a musician and leader in the challenging music program which the Sisters of Saint Joseph provided for us. I have been a music educator for 35 years. I learned one of my biggest life lessons at Hallahan. I learned that I was capable of much more than I realized. Essentially, I learned to believe in myself.

Thank you, once again, for considering this glorious nomination for Hallahan High School. Our school will always be an example of hope and inspiration for the City of Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

Elise Kallmeyer Malizia
John W. Hallahan High School Class of 79'

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2021 8:48 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Hallahan_Historical.docx
Attachments: Hallahan_Historical K Wall.docx

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Hello Allyson,

Please accept this letter in support of the designation of Hallahan.
I am forwarding for a classmate!

Thank you!
Gina Hall

February 25, 2021

Dear Ms.Mehley:

I am a proud alumna of the class of 1987 and second generation in my family to attend John W. Hallahan. My mother is a graduate of 1960 and my sister is a graduate of 1985. I am writing to you because I firmly believe that John W. Hallahan High school is worthy of the distinction of being named a historical building. Hallahan should be recognized as the "Crown Jewel" of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Hallahan sisters share a bond like no other. Their union is rooted in the memories made inside the walls of the school that is strengthened by its history. It is not uncommon for Hallahan alumni of all ages, culture and background to come together and reminisce of their cherished moments in the years they spent there. Often my friends talk of how lucky we are to have received a strong catholic education by some of the most amazing nuns and teachers. Women across generations and of all races share stories of their favorite nun, educator, administrator, cafeteria worker and maintenance staff. EVERYONE that walked those halls is connected by the spirit of Hallahan.

I can't say I know many other graduates that will break into song when they discover another Hallahan sister is in the same room. It doesn't matter if you just met them or if you walked the halls the same years; every woman that wore that blue uniform and saddle shoes has a connection.

The conversation will start off with ... "What year did you graduate?" "Did you have Sister Ida... Sister Margaret Mary... Sister Katherine?" ... "What about Ms. Biello... Anisko... Lockhead...Lobo... Mr. Gambone... Dr. Luschiecki?" ... "OMG, remember Chicken Fat...haha" "Did you ever jump in the fountain?" "Do you remember who your big sisters were for Hallahan Day?" ... "What year did your mom graduate?" "Were your classes in the Cathedral building or Hallahan building?" Just about every generation has the same memories and traditions to share. Before you even realize, you're sitting at a birthday, graduation or general celebration singing along, with fellow Hallahan sisters, to the greatest alma mater ever written. I smile and feel a sense of warmth when I recall the many times I proudly sang "*O girls of the Hallahan High.... O girls of the Hallahan High... Let the blue and the White... In their radiant light: Alma Mater Glorify... Alma Mater Glorify!!!!*"

Please consider the importance of our country's first all-girls catholic high school. Its history, values, traditions, and most importantly its sense of sisterhood is needed more than ever to educate & empower young girls of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Sincerely,
Kara Linus Wall, Class of 1987

On behalf of my family
Kathleen Linus, Class of 1960
Christina Linus, Class of 1985

From: Liz Mahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 9:12 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Me Work
Subject: Historical Designation Support for John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

Thank you for considering making John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School a historical site. Created as the FIRST all girls' Catholic High school in the NATION by Mary Hallahan McMichan 110 years ago, is momentous. Her sacrifice and vision provided daughters of Philadelphia working class families the same opportunity that was being offered to boys attending Roman Catholic High School. This afforded my mother (class of 1946), myself (1981) and sisters, niece (a current senior), and many aunts and cousins a quality education that opened doors to varied successful careers. It also reinforced our Christian values and instilled in us a strong work ethic. Our school became the keystone for all high school Catholic girls.

The structure of the building of Hallahan is unique itself, having many historical inferences. Outside it incorporates English, Latin, Greek and Hebrew letters, numbers and symbols which are exceptional to its architecture. The four attributes of Catholic women are displayed in the seal of the school in Latin, representing Fides (faith), Scientia (knowledge), Modestia (purity), and Industria (hard work). The 1911 cornerstone at 19th and Wood Streets contains a metal box with artifacts from 1911. The main entrance has a beautiful stained-glass window in the transom, with the Great Seal of the United States and the Papal Seal of Pius X on each side. Note the 13 stars in the Great Seal of the US represent the 13 colonies at the time the seal was created. On the Western end of Wood Street, a stone panel can be found dedicated to Esther, the Jewish queen of the Old Testament who stood for her people in the story celebrated yearly at Purim (a joyous Jewish festival commemorating the survival of the Jewish people living in Persia). Inside the school foyer there are stunning mosaics created by students in the 1960's which reference the four virtues of Hallahan and the school seal. From inside you can appreciate the beautiful stained-glass windows above the doors of the marble lined Wood street and 19th street entrances. The third-floor auditorium is grand with a mezzanine level for extra space, and skylights. An additional stained-glass window of the Blessed Mother Mary is above the entrance of the auditorium in memory of John and Mary Hallahan's mother. You can also find Mickey Mouse throughout the school, since Walt Disney hand wrote a letter giving Hallahan, the one and only school, permission to use him as our mascot.

Hallahan brings together diverse young women and provides them not only an academic education, but an education in humanity. I am confident that every graduate of Hallahan feels this way. Attending school at Hallahan opened my eyes to the world outside of my own town of Roxborough. Making friends with girls of all different races from all over the city - Chinatown, North Philly, Fishtown, Kensington, Northern Liberties,

Fairmount, East Falls, and Center City was a phenomenal personal growth experience. We all learned life lessons that can't be learned going to a school in our own communities. Having our school building in center city made it possible to connect us together. As a 14-year-old girl, did I really want to take an hour-long bus ride into the city to go to school? Not really. But once you walked through the doors of Hallahan you were welcomed into a sisterhood and found a second home. Sending me to Hallahan was one of the best decisions my parents made.

In closing, I hope you will vote to pass John W. Hallahan High School as a historical sight in Philadelphia. Philadelphia should be honored to have this one of a kind school in its city. Outside the building itself is unique with history. Inside it has provided thousands of women from the City of Philadelphia the opportunity to have the education and experience of a lifetime for over 100 years.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Giampietro Mahan, Class of 1981

Allyson Mehley

From: mhlonz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 8:10 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation for Hallahan HS

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Dear Friends of Hallahan High School:

As the daughter of a Hallahan graduate, I strongly support the application for the historical designation of the Hallahan building.

My mother, Beatrice McKinney Heron, was a proud member of the class of 1931.

Thank you for all your efforts on behalf of this important project for Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

Margaret Heron Lonzetta

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

Allyson Mehley

From: Lynn Omlor [REDACTED]
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Lisa Kahuila
Subject: Save HALLAHAN

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Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

My name is Patricia L Meyers Omlor. I attended John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School in 1965 through 1969. I am grateful that I had the opportunity join this sisterhood with the thousands of young women who had come before me since 1911.

Hallahan was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

In the late 1800s, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia began to discuss the need for a school to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five "High School Centres" in 1901 which paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. Upon the death of Mary McMichan, the name of the school was changed to John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School in honor of her brother, as she requested.

For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design that represents the construction style of its time. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia. Please help us save our school, our legacy, our sisterhood and our history. I have joined other with this above information in hopes of saving John W Hallahan CGHS and that wonderful building that housed all of us for all these years giving us a great education.

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely Yours,
Patricia Lynn Meyers Omlor

HALLAHAN class of 1969

Sent from my iPhone

From: Billie Keating [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 5:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Request for Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan High School

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Thank you for accepting the application for Historical Designation from John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. I'm writing to offer my opinion and urge you to approve this request for our treasured high school that is steeped in more than a century of culture and history in Philadelphia.

Hallahan is the first Catholic girls high school in Philadelphia and the nation, funded by Mary McMichan, a devout Catholic woman of means. In her day, she believed girls should have the same educational advantages as boys and she used her wealth to pursue that end. Her belief is even more important today as it was in the early 1900's. Over its 120+ year Philadelphia history, Hallahan High School kept current with the needs of her graduates. The curriculum has morphed from a 2-year certificate in arithmetic, reading and home economics in the early 1900s to a strong academic curriculum today which includes STEM requirements and core courses in English, Math, History, and Language.

The four virtues of Hallahan women are depicted on the stained glass transom window over the marbled entrance to Hallahan High School: Industry, Faith, Knowledge, and Modesty. The building at 19th & Wood Streets continues to educate an intergenerational family of young women who stand on the shoulders of thousands who have gone before them to lead successful lives, families, careers, and have been positive societal contributors. This is where it all starts! Based on the four virtues, the sisterhood of the student body and instructors who are vigilant in faith, self-esteem, value and knowledge, the stage is set which leads to graduating successful young women. We need this parochial, single-gender high school as an option in education, and we need Hallahan to continue her 120+-year legacy.

On a personal note, I belong to a strong, multi-generational part of the Hallahan family of women. My great aunt, Margaret Keating, an Irish immigrant, St. Francis Xavier Parish, was one of the first graduates of Hallahan during the first three years of its establishment. My Mother, Jeanne Mary Steer, St. Ludwig Parish (now closed), graduated in 1948. As a percussionist in Hallahan's marching band and orchestra, she studied under Sr. Agnes Anita, founder of the music department, Sr. Giovanni, and Dr. Geno Donath, our beloved orchestra conductor who immigrated from Hungary. Knowing my grandmother was dying at my mother's graduation and the struggles Mom was experiencing, Sr. Agnes Anita helped my secure Mom's first job as a budding dental hygienist with Dr. Donath, D.D.S. in Philadelphia; just one example of the heart and family of Hallahan. My Godmother, Margaret Giordano, Stella Maris Parish, graduated in 1949 and was a saxophonist in Hallahan's marching band and orchestra. My paternal aunts, Catherine Keating and Patricia (Eileen) Keating, St. Francis Xavier Parish, were members of the Classes of 1948 and 1949. I'm from the Class of 1969, Corpus Christi Parish (now closed) and celebrated my 50th class reunion in 2019 with my sister "Golden Girls". I was a trombonist in Hallahan's orchestra and studied under the same two sisters of St. Joseph as my Mother, Sr. Agnes Anita, Sr. Giovanni and also Dr. Geno Donath, our conductor. This strong connection with my Mother's music experience and music department leads and teachers gave me an immediate sense of family and belonging and the self-esteem I needed to continue my studies in music and the encouragement as a young woman to succeed in university.

We Hallahan alums of all ages wear our "HH" swag proudly. We live and bump into our sisters in Philadelphia, across the United States (I live in Richmond, Virginia) and overseas. We return "home" for reunions. We are sisters. We are family. John W. Hallahan should continue to grow and graduate young women like us who are well-armed with Hallahan's four virtues to better serve.

I urge you to deem John W. Hallahan High School historical and her building an historic site for my reasons and for so many other reasons you received from dedicated supporters of this historic high school.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,
Bernadette J. Keating
Class of 1969

Allyson Mehley

From: Kim Kimrey [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 5:29 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Lisa Kahuila
Subject: Historical Designation - Hallahan
Attachments: Hallahan Designation.docx

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Good evening,

Attached is a letter from my mother-in-law, who is a graduate of Hallahan's Class of 1953. She tried emailing it to you, but thinks she had the wrong email address and asked me to forward it to you.

Thank you,
Kim Kimrey

419 Snyder Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19148
February 26, 2021

Ms. Allyson Mehley
Philadelphia Historical Commission

Dear Ms. Mehley:

I respectfully request that you approve the HISTORIC DESIGNATION for the J.W. HALLAHAN CATHOLIC GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL building. Please don't allow this 110 year old building to be assassinated and buried forever!

I am sure you have been provided with all the pertinent facts as to why this HISTORIC DESIGNATION should be made for HALLAHAN but, just as important as the structure is its history. Thousands of young ladies have walked the halls of this great building and they have contributed to the history of not only Philadelphia but also all the cities in our 50 states and beyond. To rob the City of Philadelphia the opportunity to preserve this unique building and its history for future generations would be a crime.

I am a very proud and thankful graduate of HALLAHAN'S CLASS OF 1953! Although I wasn't able to continue my formal education after graduation, the education I received at HALLAHAN provided me the skills I needed to enter the business community and to be successfully employed for 50 years.

Again, please approve the HISTORIC DESIGNATION for the J. W. HALLAHAN CATHOLIC GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL building so it will always be a visual part of Philadelphia's history. Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Yours truly,

Catherine Kimrey

Allyson Mehley

From: mmcvey31 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 4:42 PM
To: friendsofhallahan; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save Hallahan

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Good Afternoon

I was saddened to hear of the closing of JW Hallahan catholic school for girls. As a graduate of the class of 1987 I can not help but think back on the 4 years I spent at the school. They were the best 4 years of my life. Whenever I am asked what high school I attended I am so proud to tell people I graduated from Hallahan the oldest catholic high school in the country. The school is the only Catholic Girls school in the city of Philadelphia and the trademark uniform and saddle shoes can be seen wherever you are in Philadelphia.

This beautiful building allowed me to meet so many girls from all over the city and have remained friends with many of them to this day. I had the opportunity to be on student council while at Hallahan and will forever remember the sisterhood of the school. The curriculum prepared me for my nursing career and I owe so much to Sister Francis Christi and Sister Beverly for teaching me to be a lady and to carry myself with dignity.

I am sure Mary McMichan would not want this and would have never given an endowment if she new this was going to happen.

Please save our school

Mary McVey

—

Have a good [MailTime](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Uholik, Deborah (Debbie) [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 4:16 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan
Attachments: 2.26.2021 ltr re Hallahan.pdf

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Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

2.26.2021 ltr re Hallahan.pdf

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Deborah Uholik

February 26, 2021

Dear Ms. Mehley:

I write to you as a proud 1987 graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic High School for Girls. I would like to thank you for your acceptance of the application to the Historical Preservation Society. I truly believe that Hallahan deserves to be recognized as an amazing institution in the City of Philadelphia.

Thousands of women have been positively affected from their experiences at John W. Hallahan. My hope is that thousands more will be awarded the same opportunity.

I am asking that you please approve the application for John W. Hallahan, Catholic High School for Girls to be accepted in the Historical Preservation Society. It would mean so much to so many.

Sincerely,

Debbie Uholik
Class of 1987

Allyson Mehley

From: Denise Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 3:27 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan

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To whom it may concern,
I strongly urge the saving of the historic John W Hallahan High School building at 19th and Wood Streets in Philadelphia. As a longtime resident of Philadelphia I have seen the demolition of various iconic buildings. The Hallahan building both inside and out is an architectural asset to the city of Philadelphia. Please preserve this building so it continues to be a part of Philadelphia history.

Sincerely,
Denise Fischetti Fox
Class of 1971

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: William Hallahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School

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Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
allyson.mehley@phila.gov

Historical Application - 311 N. 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Dear Allyson

I am the great grandnephew of Mrs. Mary Hallahan McMichan. My great grandfather Daniel along with his sibling Mary were involved with building John W. Hallahan girl's catholic high school. There was an agreement between our family and the Archbishop back in 1910 stating that the school would remain in perpetuity, Forever.

There is so much historical history in this building and the historical history behind my Great Grand Aunt and what she undertook to have this building erected to ensure a higher education for girls in the early 1900's. The outside of the building and the interior have so many historical references and architectural relevance like the marble and stained glass that are over 107 years old.

The marble-lined entrance has a stained glass transom window depicting the four virtues of a Hallahan student, industry, faith, knowledge, and modesty. There is a tiled alcove on the first floor depicting Mary and baby Jesus. There is an alcove in one of the stairways with a statue of Pope Pius X, who was declared a saint, his papal seal is below the statue. In his left hand he holds a scroll with the words "Instaurare Omnia in Christo," this was his motto from Ephesians 1:10 which translates as "Restore all things in Christ." These four words were supposedly uttered as his last words on his deathbed. There is a display in the first floor hall commemorating the groundbreaking which took place on April 29, 1911. The shovel in the display was used by our Great Grand Aunt Mary McMichan and Bishop Prendergast at the ground breaking. 6,000 people showed up in the rain at John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School on October 1, 1911 for the laying of the cornerstone which was brought from Italy and blessed by Pope Pius X who after his death was canonized as a saint.

Myself and my siblings are personally drawn to the transom stained glass window above the entrance which has the name "Maria Immaculate" and just below are the words "In Memory of Mary A. O'Mara Hallahan, in memory of". This is our Great, Great GrandMother. There are two portraits and plaques honoring my Great Grand Uncle John W. Hallahan and Great Grand Aunt Mary Hallahan McMichan. Mary died on March 4, 1925 after doing so much for early women and her community. I would say she herself should be canonized as a saint.

This building must be preserved and John W. Hallahan high school for girls must go on in perpetuity, forever. If this building and the education of girls in this building were lost it would be such a historical tragedy for the city of Philadelphia. Thank you so much and please designate this building as a historical building and preserve its history.

Sincerely

John W. Hallahan III
Katherine Hallahan Hurtubise (recently deceased)
Charles A. Hallahan
Daniel F. Hallahan
William J. Hallahan (letter author)



Allyson Mehley

From: Carly Mcaneny [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 26, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation Letter
Attachments: CM.HistoricalDesignation.pdf

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Good afternoon,

My name is Carly McAneny and I am writing to you as a proud and faithful alumna in hopes that you will consider John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School for historical designation.

I am eternally grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the oldest Catholic all-girls high school, a place that is such a fundamental piece of Philadelphia's history. With an ideal center city location that is deeply rooted in tradition and inspired by rich diversity, Hallahan has become a pillar for women's education. Historical designation of John W. Hallahan would transcend what has been proved for many decades. Preservation of our city's history and our legacy's traditions lies within the walls of this institution.

While some may consider it to be "just a building", it is evident that this building is so much more. Beyond the intrinsic architecture and the brightly colored stained glass windows, lies history. It is the foundation of a thriving legacy that includes more than 37,000 brilliant women. Women who have dedicated their lives to creating a society fueled by faith, purpose, and vision. I can think of no other institution more deserving of historical designation. For all those past, present, and future, please consider our request.

Alma Mater Glorify!

Sincerely,

Carly McAneny

Class of 2010

Allyson Mehley

From: Peggy Cassidy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 11:44 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan High School

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Hi, I am writing to you to help you in your efforts to make Hallahan an historic landmark. I actually thought it was already an historic landmark because it is the first Catholic girls high school in the

country. I went to Hallahan as did my 4 sisters, Mary Pat '74, me Margaret '75, Kathleen '77, Eileen '79 and Donna '81. It was a wonderful experience for all of us. My sister Kathleen was Student

Counsel President, and sisters Eileen and Donna were both ribbons.

My mother also went to Hallahan, class of '44, so did 2 of my aunts, Mary and Catherine. Last name was Greeley. My mother was so proud to walk with her 5 daughters on "ring day". I think she

told all her friends that she was the only one who got to do this.

This school has meant so much to my family, and I now have a granddaughter going there Madison Belz, she is a junior and is heartbroken about the school closing. My story is not unique, I am

sure you will get thousands of letters like this. Hallahan is a special place, from its beginning it was a place for daughters of immigrants, my grandmother was an immigrant from Ireland, and her

daughters went there. They were taught skills that allowed them to join the work force, and helped get their family out of poverty. Times were better when my sisters and I graduated, but the same

result at the end of our years there we were all able to go out in the world and work or continue our education.

I would love for this school to be declared a landmark. It is a monument to the thousands of women who went there.

Margaret A Cassidy

From: HEATHER [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation

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I am writing in regards to the consideration of having Hallahan designated as a historical building.

Let me start by saying, I am not a graduate of Hallahan High School. In fact, Hallahan was considered my high school's competition. I am a graduate of Saint Maria Goretti High School Class of 1999.

Hallahan and Goretti were the only two local all girl schools when I was in high school, so I guess you could say we were rivals. Goretti was filled with about 90% of South Philadelphia residents and Hallahan was a mixture of girls from all over Philadelphia. At the time I didn't know much about Hallahan other than they had this so called "sisterhood." I couldn't imagine what made Hallahan so special that they had a sisterhood and a special bond that the Goretti girls didn't have. What made them so different than us?

Fast forward some 20 plus years, Goretti no longer exists and I have a freshman in Hallahan. From the moment we stepped into the school at open house during her 7th grade year I knew there was something special about Hallahan. Everyone was so warm and welcoming. We knew Hallahan was it - there was no other school for her.

Within days of my daughter starting her freshman year staff and teachers knew her by name and she made friends from all over the city. Not only has she developed friendships with girls from South Philly, but from Roxborough, Fishtown, Port Richmond, etc. My once shy little girl has transitioned into this independent teenager all thanks to Hallahan.

After the announcement of the school's closure I watched girls from all over the world, of all different ages and of all different backgrounds come together to save their precious school. The amount of support is astounding.

So why do I think the Hallahan building should be marked historical? Because in just the few short months my daughter has been there I learned it's not just a building. It's a home that has brought women from all over the city together because of its location. It's the heart of millions of memories for thousands of girls. It's the base where countless friendships began. But most importantly it's the foundation of a "sisterhood" that this Goretti girl now understands.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Heather Little

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

From: Margaret Holley [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 8:41 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan High Catholic Girls High School

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Ms. Mehley:

I believed that Hallahan should be considered a Historical Designation because of all the history it holds. As of now, everyone knows that Hallahan is the oldest women's Catholic school in the country and it was funded/created by a woman who believed that girls should have the same advantages that boys had. Hallahan needs to be an Historical Building and should never be sold or demolished.

The many traditions that the school holds are unique that only we "Hallahan Girls" would understand. Like jumping in the fountain at the end of the year. (Who does that?) Hallahan is more than a building located at 19th & Woods Sts, it became a place for us to form lifelong friendships, and to grow into womanhood with a sisterhood unimaginable. My sister graduated 10 years after me and she had some of the same teachers that I had. Some even called her by my name. (Teachers who remember and care)

As a member of the "Bicentennial Class" (1976), the first class to have our Congratulations up in lights on the PECO building, we are just saddened by the thought of our school not being there. So please remember Hallahan is more than a building, it's our legacy.

Sincerely,

Margaret (Walker) Holley - '76

"Believe you can and you're halfway there."

Allyson Mehley

From: Agnes Watson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:44 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Nomination of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to urge the Philadelphia Historical Commission to approve the nomination of the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School to the historical register. I ask this, not just because I'm an alumna from the Class of 1968, but because I think Hallahan is truly an historic gem.

The school has a significant role in the history of the Catholic Church in Philadelphia because of its position as the first free Catholic high school for women in the United States. It has also proved important to women, because, in an era when women were rallying to be accepted as full citizens, education was an important path to that goal. Hallahan was in the forefront of that effort. I think that, even today, the importance of a school for women is immeasurable.

It's also important to the City, because the building itself is an anchor for the neighborhood. From the brick exterior, with carvings of the names of inspirational women, to the marble lined entrance, beautiful stained-glass windows, and student produced mosaics, the interior reminds us of the changes we have witnessed in the past 120 years, and just as importantly, the hope and vision for our future.

As a lifelong Philadelphian, I feel it's important to recognize and protect properties which have played a role in making Philadelphia a unique city. I believe Hallahan belongs in that category, and so I ask you to please approve this application.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Agnes Watson

From: renee gigante [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 6:21 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallanan

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am so pleased to hear that John W. Hallahan is being considered for historical designation. I have many family members that are alumni and had the honor and privilege of coaching and teaching at this wonderful school for almost 20 years.

Hallahan has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. My father grew up on Carlton Street so we went down each Sunday and would see Hallahan and my father would tell me all about the school and the building. He attended cathedral grade school before it was acquired to expand Hallahan. My aunt and my cousins graduated from Hallahan, and their children attended as well. One will be graduating this year. Once I was hired as a teacher it was a privilege to see the inside and the amazing and beautiful architecture.

As a child, I always admired the beautiful architecture and the 1911 cornerstone. Upon getting a job there I was in awe of the front entrance and the beautiful interior entrance way. Throughout my years I learned the story of Mary McMichan and how all those years ago she helped to establish a school that would allow for the young women of Philadelphia to have the opportunity for a quality education in which they could also focus on their faith. I was there for the school's 100 years of celebrating this wonderful success in educating woman in faith, purpose and vision.

This architectural beauty is located in a central part of the city, allowing girls from all over the city to easily and safely have access to a quality education. Upon entering the building a unity of culture emerged. Girls who would have never met otherwise became sisters. They learned from each other and grew in acceptance. It is honestly a place like no other.

It would be a tragedy if this school were to close. It is devastating to me to think that future young ladies will not have the opportunity to receive an education and experience this amazing building full of diversity. It saddens me to think that this historic landmark that supports and represents women and has stood for well over 100 years would disappear.

I can not imagine that such a historic icon that has been a part of my whole life and that has educated so many women could close. It not only served as a place to educate girls in math and science, but united girls from various backgrounds and made them sisters. It was the most beautiful place to work and there is something so special about what this school has to offer.

Please do what you can to help save this amazing historic icon and allow this opportunity to continue to exist for the young women of our city.

Sincerely,
Renee Gigante

Allyson Mehley

From: Kathleen O'Connor [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:48 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historic Designation of Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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I am a member of the class of 1972. My Mother Elizabeth Schnatz Golden was a proud Forty Niner.

Many of my Aunts and cousins are also graduates.

The education we received, along with the values instilled in us have lasted through the years.

The ascetic beauty of the Hallahan building is part of the landscape in that section of the City. It's a sight to behold and appreciated, not only for Philadelphia residents but visitors from around our nation and the world.

The halls are adorned with stained glass, marble, and art that has stood the test of time. There are artifacts adorning the entrance and halls that were dedicated in memory of former students. A Shrine to Our Blessed Mother was a favorite of mine. I would find peace in its beauty when navigating a busy day.

Although brick and mortar is beautiful, the cornerstone of our beloved Hallahan lies in the education, diverse community, access to job opportunities, and the distinction of being the first all girls school in the country.

It has molded girls into productive women in society who have made this world a better place.

Its history should live on forever.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Golden O'Connor

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Rosemary Parkinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 4:39 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation of Hallahan High School
Attachments: Historical Designation Request.docx

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Good Afternoon.
Attached please find my letter requesting the historical designation of the Hallahan building.
Thank you!
Rosemary Parkinson
Hallahan Alumna

February 25, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan

Dear Ms. Mehley:

I write to urge you to consider designating the Hallahan Building as historic. I firmly believe that Hallahan High school is worthy of this distinction. Not only are the architecture and location wonderful, but the history of how Hallahan came to be is even more impressive and unprecedented.

Over a century ago the great tradition of Hallahan set the tone for generations of young women to embrace education and possibilities in a changing world. The diversity and culture of the city is evident in the population of the students at Hallahan. This is a testament to Philadelphia being a "City of Neighborhoods". From its beginning and through its many years of its operation, it contributed greatly to the city of Philadelphia. Its influence greatly exceeds the boundary of its buildings. You are familiar with the time period of its planning, construction, and opening during times of great changes in society and education and the role of Hallahan as an integral part of the solution. Hallahan has served as an excellent school for over 100 years and merits its designation as historic.

An additional important consideration to earning the designation is that the building was designed by the prestigious firm of Ballinger and Perrot. By designing numerous Roman Catholic and Methodist Episcopal churches and parish schools which influenced the cultural development of the city. Knowing that a building with such an honorable and storied history will no longer serve as a high school for girls is tragic to many people, not only those who attended throughout more than a century worth of school years, but also by the city itself.

Many Philadelphia area citizens, businesses, and organization respected the traditions and excellent education the venerable building engendered. Surely the worth of a building is more than the physical plant alone. The building is a powerful link between past and present. That very thing is what generates hope for the future. In trying to express the importance of saving the building, a friend cited the words of Richard Moe of the National Trust for Historic Preservation: "There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here or there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody."

Thank you for your attention to this plea. Surely, Hallahan has earned its designation. I sincerely hope and pray that you will agree. Please save this landmark so its remarkable legacy can be preserved and, in that way, continue to influence the future.

Respectfully,

Rosemary Parkinson

Hallahan Alumna and Lifelong Resident of Philadelphia

Allyson Mehley

From: Vicki MELLON-gallagher [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 11:55 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation of Hallahan High School
Attachments: Hallahan Letter.docx

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Ms. Mehley,
Please accept my attached letter to accompany the application of historical designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School.

Thank you,
Victoria Gallagher

DATE: February 25, 2021

TO: Allyson Mehley
Historical Preservation Planner II
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Ms. Mehley,

My name is Victoria Gallagher (maiden name Mellon) and I am a proud Alum of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School located at 319 N. 19th St. in Center City Philadelphia. I am a graduate of the Class of 2001 – the first graduating class of the 21st Century. Before me were almost 100 other groups of young women to receive a diploma from this historic institution that is now in danger of shutting its doors forever due to decisions made by the heads of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. I am writing to you today to ask that you & your colleagues grant the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School building a historical designation.

This building has stood for 120 years as of this year within the heart of Philadelphia, only blocks away from some of the city's most majestic structures, such as the Franklin Institute and City Hall. The building has survived over 100 years of architectural changes in Center City that make the school building unique to other more modern structures. The building's façade emotes tradition in the bricks, vision in the large windows looking out towards different views of the Parkway, and faith in the fifteen names of influential women throughout history & religion etched into stone surrounding the school building. Tradition, Vision, Faith are just three of many aspects that have been reproduced time and time again by each student coming in & out of that building. This building is a physical reflection of roughly 40,000 women who have become successful, productive members of the world.

On a personal note, this building for me was another home away from home. Hallahan was comfortable in so many ways. The biggest reason was my parents felt I was safer traveling to Hallahan each school day from my home in Kensington rather than traveling through my own neighborhood into another to attend a different high school. Another reason was that I was involved in extracurricular activities that kept me at school sometimes until dark from Student Council to Cheerleading to Hallahan Day activities to H-TV recordings (A/V Club), to helping teachers & nuns clean classrooms afterschool... the list goes on. When SEPTA was on strike during my Freshman Year, the school building opened early in the morning to late in the evening to make sure students would have a safe place to stay to wait for their ride home. I was able to be comfortable in different settings, with diverse groups of people because of Hallahan. Who can say that a High School building brought them the same comfort as their home? Well, you have at least one person right here.

Whenever I go into Center City with my family & pass by the Logan Circle fountain, I ALWAYS turn my head and point out to my girls "There's MY school!". I want this building to stand for as long as I live. I want the chance for my girls to possibly walk through the halls where their Mother did 20 years ago along with many other family members. I want the chance for other girls to walk into Hallahan as naïve beings to walk out four years later as strong, well-rounded young women. By granting John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School a historical designation in the City of Philadelphia, you will be adding to the grander of the history of our city, and to the United States of America.

Thank you for your consideration & time reading this letter.

Sincerely Yours,

Victoria (Mellon) Gallagher

JWHCGHS Class of 2001

Allyson Mehley

From: carol wadsworth [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; firendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Carol Wadsworth
Subject: Historical Society Letter
Attachments: historical society letter.docx

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Please include the attached letter to the Save Hallahan file.

Thank you for considering our cause.

Carol McDevitt-Wadsworth
Class of 1978

Dear Ms. Mehley:

Thank you for accepting John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School's application for Historical Designation.

Hallahan was the first Diocesan All Girls Catholic High School in the country. It was opened to give girls from all backgrounds the opportunity to receive an education that is steeped in academics and faith. Sadly, our faith is being tested. Our beloved school is closing. Our school, which for many, is where we learned that the world is bigger and more diverse than our childhood neighborhoods.

The building itself is a testament to the strength of the women who came before. They paved the way for future generations by showing us that there is no obstacle that we can't overcome. The opportunities that were afforded to us because of them are countless. Knowing that I walked the same halls as these women is truly humbling. The Mosaic of the Blessed Mother is one of the most beautiful in the world. Please do not let it be destroyed.

These women, past and present, are my sisters and I am truly honored to be a part of the legacy that is Hallahan. The pride I feel for being a Hallahan Girl is immense. I hope that this is not the end of our story. Philadelphia is a city steeped in tradition, and sadly little by little that tradition, history and beauty are now being replaced with Lego's. The Philadelphia Zoo, also the first in the nation is now mainly Lego's. History such as this is what makes our city historical, why people come to visit. Please consider keeping our beloved Alma Mater whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol A McDevitt-Wadsworth
Class of 1978

From: Shawn Sinni [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:46 AM
To: Friends of Hallahan; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Make Hallahan Historical

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Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Michelle Maloney- Sinni .I am a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School from the Class of 1987 I began my studies at Hallahan in 1983, where I was greatly blessed to join the thousands of young women who had come before me since 1911 to join this community of sisterhood. I have been a Philadelphia resident for 52 years where I have meet numerous woman who have been apart of this Hallahan tradition themselves along with generations of women in their own family. The Hallahan School building was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

In the late 1800s, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia began to discuss the need for a school to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five "High School Centres" in 1901 which paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. Upon the death of Mary McMichan, the name of the school was changed to John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School in honor of her brother, as she requested.

The building's façade marks 1911 as the construction year in Roman Numerals above the 19th street entryway. The building has rich exterior detail encompassing English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew letters, numbers, and symbols that represent the architecture design from the early 1900s. The resurrection of this building was meant to be a historical part of our great city. For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design that represents the construction style of its time. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia. The traditions that Hallahan has

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely Yours,
Michelle Sinni
Michellesinni@yahoo.com
2673176035

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Anna Marie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:50 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: John W. Hallahan Building

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Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anna Marie [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Building

All Member of the Philadelphia Historical Commission ,

I humbly request your consideration to designate the John W. Hallahan building at 19th and Callowhill Streets as a Historical Building. I am sure you have received many letters requesting the same designation. The history of this building deserves to be saved for future generations to understand the importance of equal opportunity in education for all. The woman who have left this building went on to become an important part of the growth of our city and continue to this day.

I thank you for your support to keep this building as an important part of the City of Philadelphia's History.

Sincerely,
Anna Marie Leddy-Forte'
Class of '67
Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Margaret Mary Witkowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 7:40 PM
To: Margaret Mary Witkowski; Friends of Hallahan; Allyson Mehley;
office@hallahanalumnae.net
Subject: Application for the Historical Society

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Dear Ms Mehly,

My name is Margaret Mary (Barber) Witkowski I am a 1968 graduate from John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School.

Hallahan is the oldest building that still functions in its original capacity.

This building should be deemed a Historical Building, no buildings were Demolished when the school was built.

Hallahan has a melting pot of students from all ethnic group's. This was My first experience of being with all girls coming from 85 parishes. I went To St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Manayunk graduated in 1964.

The building is 110 years old and 40,000 girls have graduated from Hallahan.

And the building is in excellent condition it has been very well maintained.

For all these reasons, I ask the Commission to approve Hallahan's application To the registry.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mary Barber Witkowski
Philadelphia, PA 19128
Class of 1968

Allyson Mehley

From: Mary Ann Henderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation

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Dear Ms. Mehley:

Thank you for accepting John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School's application for Historical Designation. Hallahan was the first Diocesan All Girls Catholic High School in the country. It was opened to give girls from all backgrounds the opportunity of a Catholic education.

The historic value of this building both inside and out will help maintain the beauty and integrity of our great city. It is counted among the many first institutions in the nation adding to Philadelphia's historic culture.

Having graduated from Hallahan in 1964 and a member of the alumnae board, I have a personal interest in saving this historic gem.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Henderson
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Hannah Schwartz [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 3:21 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Making Hallahan historical ?

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Dear Mrs Mehley ,

i'm going to be telling you why we should make hallahan a historical building , because ever since i was in third grade . I knew already that i wanted to go to hallahan , because of much the girls that went their at the time , would always talk come back to my middle school and tell us all about how much they loved hallahan , and how they would always tell us how much they loved the sisterhood that they had at hallahan , Not only that but they would also tell us how very welcoming the sister were at hallahan as soon as you walked through those doors . That day is when I found my dream and school knowing where I wanted to go for high school . As soon as I walked through those doors of hallahan . It didn't really feel like a school but more like a 2nd home for students that probably don't feel like home at their first home. Why should we make hallahan a historical building you may ask ?

The reason why hallahan should become a historical building is because hallahan was the first all girl catholic high school in the country with generations of alumni and tradition and , even sisterhood that happened there . Hallahan is a unique place to be , there is no other place like it . We have permission from Walt Disney himself to use Mickey mouse as our mascot. How cool is that ? that no other school can have him as our mascot but us . Hallahan isn't just a school but like i said before it's like a 2nd home to us , and without it feels we have nothing , there place that i'd rather graduate next year then at hallahan . I want to graduate with my sister and my friends. I want to play lacrosse next year with my teammates that I cherish and love playing on the field with them . Hallahan was the place that introduced me to the sport that I fell in love with , when I was a freshman I tried out for the volleyball team . but when i didn't make it i wanted to try a new sport instead of playing the sport that i played throughout middle school , so when i tried out for lacrosse i guess you can say it was love at first sigh and i want to continue my last year , so that i can play the sport that i love with my teammates . I don't want hallahan to close because all I ever dreamed of since I was younger was that I was going to graduate from hallahan !! So Please help us save our home and our sister that many generations could come and be a part of , not only for us but for future generations of sisters that could come to hallahan , we have worked too hard to let our traditions , our bonds that we have made with teachers and classmates go to waste , and even the many years of sisterhood that school has given the aluni and our sisters that recently graduated . All my life I was always in a catholic school and they taught to have faith no matter what and good things will happen . But the thing is i've been holding on to that faith for as long as i could remember , where are the people that tell us to have faith and not be there when we need it the most right now , It feels like they just got up and abandoned us when we really needed them . I honestly couldn't be happier in any other school than hallahan , if I know anything that hallahan has taught me , it taught me how to push myself as young women to succeed and how to reach my potential . Since I have been at hallahan I have felt like nothing is outreach and I know that I have the right tools and also know that I have the right skills to accomplish anything. Everyday I get inspired by intelligent sisters in hallahan , and the remarkable faculty who supports and teaches us . hallahan is more than a school . It is a sisterhood . Our sisterhood is our safe place to share and to heal , Especially when we feel like the world is against us . We all have big dreams at Hallahan , and we want the ability to work hard to achieve them . So please help us save our home and our legacy that we want to continue on for future generations to come .

Help us save hallahan

#hallahanstrong #saveourschool #saveoursisterhood

thank you for your consideration
Hannah Schwartz
class of 2022

Allyson Mehley

From: Diane Drobel [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: Designation for John W. Hallahan to be deemed an Historic Building

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Dear Allyson Meyley,

As a graduate of the Class of 2000 of John W Hallahan Catholic Girls High School I am writing in regards to the importance of the building located at 311 N. 19th Street Philadelphia Pa 19103.

This physical building and school is a large staple of Philadelphia-Center City. John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School built in 1911 is the oldest Catholic Girls School in the country. Each brick and design holds a special place in our hearts. The history of how the school was built, who built it and the significance of each design is not what you find on buildings this day in age.

John W Hallahan is not only a landmark for the city but a sisterhood and another “home” for over 40,000 women of every race and ethnicity.

There are so many beautiful things about the building inside and outside that it would be a great loss to the city without John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School standing tall.

Hebrews 6:19 “The hope we have is the anchor of the soul”.

Respectfully,
Diane Drobel
Class of 2000
On behalf of my sister Lori Drobel 1998 and mother Sophie (Szadorski) Drobel 1964

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 2:31 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation for John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Dear Ms. Mehley:

Thank you for considering the application of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as a Historical Landmark.

My name is Maryann Iagovino. I am a proud Alumnae of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School class of 1967. I attended Hallahan for four years which prepared me to be the strong independent woman that I am today.

Hallahan is part of American History, as well as, Philadelphia History. As you know, it's the first Catholic Girls High School in the country thanks to Mary Hallahan McMichan.

There are many beautiful details on the building dating back to 1911. All you need to do is look up and see the many unique details this wonderful building has. One of my favorites is the Original Seal over the door of the 19th Street entrance. The Seal was designed by Bishop McDevitt. You will notice that Bishop McDevitt put Philadelphia on the Seal. The lamp on the Seal represents faith, the book - knowledge and the lilies - purity. This is truly a Philadelphia Landmark!

The cornerstone of the building was blessed and sent from Italy by Pope Pius X. This is located on the corner of 19th and Wood Streets. This cornerstone also contains a metal box that has artifact from 1911.

Thousands of young ladies walked the Hallahan halls and received a great education. We grew up in this building. If only the walls in the building could talk. There is a lot of history that the walls contain. People recognize the girls from Hallahan High walking thru the Community and Center City.

Please approve the Historical Designation for John W. Hallahan High School.

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

Maryann Iagovino
Class of 1967

[Sent from the all new Aol app for iOS.](#)

[Sent from the all new Aol app for iOS](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Cheryl Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:46 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan
Attachments: John W. Hallahan - Historical Designation.pdf

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached correspondence regarding the above.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Thank you.

Cheryl A. Kelly-Przybyszewski
Class of 1995

[REDACTED]

Cheryl Przybyszewski

Legal Secretary

Fisher & Phillips LLP

Two Logan Square, 12th Floor | 100 N. 18th Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103
cprzybyszewski@fisherphillips.com | O: (610) 230-2177

February 24, 2021

Via Email Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Attention: Allyson Mehley

Re: Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

Dear Ms. Mehley:

I am a 1995 graduate of John W. Hallahan. Thank you for accepting John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School's application for Historical Designation.

John W. Hallahan is the first Catholic Girls' High School in the country. The structural beauty and interior design of the School's building is one of a kind and iconic in the Philadelphia area. The building is unique and special to everyone who has entered these doors. The exterior of the building has the original seal of Catholic Girls' High School designed by Bishop McDevitt along with the papal blessed cornerstone located at 19th and Wood Streets. The cornerstone contains a metal box with original artifacts from 1911. This building is strong and designed with unique character. For example, as you navigate the halls of the School, you will see the beautiful mosaic tile that was designed and created by some of very own Alumnae. Also, the Wood Street entrance foyer contains a beautiful stained-glass transom window depicting the four virtues of a Hallahan woman: industry, faith, knowledge and modesty. Hallahan has instilled these four virtues in every student that has attended this School.

The School was built with the vision to provide a quality education to young women throughout the Philadelphia area. Hallahan Girls come from all walks of life and are known to be intelligent, strong, hard-working, driven and dedicated women. I believe that we should preserve this legacy and the School. Hallahan should be given the opportunity to continue to provide young women of diverse backgrounds with a quality education.

Please help us preserve the legacy that this building stands for and help preserve the future of young women in Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

/s/ Cheryl A. Kelly - Przybyszewski

Cheryl A. Kelly- Przybyszewski
John W. Hallahan - Class of 1995

cc: Friends of Hallahan (via email friendsofhallahan@gmail.com)

Allyson Mehley

From: Gabriella Simone [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: J.W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School to be Deemed a Historical Building
Attachments: Gabriella Simone '22-Hallahan High School Building being Designated as a Historical Building.pdf

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Dear Allyson,

I am Gabriella Simone, a junior at Hallahan High. I hope this email finds you well in regards to turning Hallahans building into a Historical Building. I hope the letters from me and fellow Hallahan girls and Alumni will help your decision to decide whether this building should be deemed historical or not.

Thank you so much,

Gabriella Simone [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Gabriella Simone '22

J.W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School

February 24, 2021

Hallahan as a Historical Building

J.W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School was the first all girls catholic high school in the country starting in 1911, the building itself was built in 1908 when Mary Hallahan gave the Archdiocese 100,000 to build a highschool named after her brother. The school was built to educate young women and set them up for a successful future, which is what the school has been doing for the last 110 years. Like girls before me, I was honored to be able to attend Hallahan. It was an immediate choice for me to go there because I knew that the education I was getting there would help me in the long run, but now it is being cut short. I am a Junior at Hallahan and I have gotten the best high school experience I could have asked for but I wouldn't want to see such a historic building that I have loved for three years get sold off because of how much it is worth.

I am sure that the girls now and young women before me would never want to see that either. It is the building where we have grown, built friendships, have been educated, and families have gone through over the years and I think that the building should have more recognition than many are giving it. Alumni have raised thousands of dollars along with a 100,000 donation from an Alumni with intentions to separate the school from the Archdiocese.

The building has seen girls go in and out. Many have been successful because of that school. I do not think the building should close nor do I think it should go without being deemed as a historical building. It has been around for more than 100 years, making it a historical building means that the property value would go up and couldn't be sold. If the building wasn't sold just to be taken down and for apartments or houses to be put up like other buildings that should have been deemed historical. If the building wasn't sold it could be put to good use without having to take it down or sell it. The Archdiocese has said it before, they aren't hieve to know that the building is worth millions but I don't think that anyone would want to see it just be sold off.

I hope that this letter finds you well and that maybe with the letters from me and fellow Hallahan girls and Alumni we will be able to make a change in indecision and hopefully help the

school even the slightest to make it a historical building. I know that it would mean so much to all of the girls that even though our school is shutting down the building there will always hold the memories that will always be in that building and it will always be historical to us even if it isn't official.

Allyson Mehley

From: Gerry Dever [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:23 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Historical Designation Letters
Attachments: Letter for Hallahan.docx

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Allyson, Please let us know that you received this letter.\

Kathleen (Dever) Clements '68
Gerry Dever ' 73

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sue Clements, Staff Rep HPAE 5106 [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Feb 24, 2021 at 12:02 PM
Subject: Re: Historical Designation Letters
To: [REDACTED]

Ok here it is. I sent to Friends of Hallahan and asked for instruction for sending it to Historical Society.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gerry Dever [REDACTED]
To: Sue Clements, Staff Rep HPAE 5106 [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 3:33 pm
Subject: Re: Historical Designation Letters

Thanks Sis

I knew I could count on you!!

Sis 😊

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 22, 2021, at 2:59 PM, Sue Clements, Staff Rep HPAE 5106 [REDACTED] wrote:

Yes sister. I will do some research and write a letter.

S

-----Original Message-----

From: Gerry Dever [REDACTED]
To: Sue Clements, Staff Rep HPAE 5106 [REDACTED]
Sent: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 1:44 pm
Subject: Fwd: Historical Designation Letters

The news that John W. Hallahan High School, our alma mater, would be closing at the end of this school year was a crushing blow. I graduated in 1968 with over five hundred other young Catholic women; my sister is 1973 with slightly fewer classmates. The time we spent at Hallahan enriched us educationally, spiritually and culturally. Many of us had never interacted with people of other races or national origins. Many of us came from neighborhoods where everyone was white and Catholic. Hallahan helped us grow into women of understanding and grace. Women who could see others for who they really were, not the color of their skin, not the difference of their appearance nor the way they spoke. It enabled us to build relationships, develop empathy and become better, more understanding people. This continues today, albeit on a smaller scale. I would venture to say that Hallahan reflects better than any other diocesan school the ethnic make-up of our city. Black, white, Asian and Latino students who come to Hallahan for a strong Catholic education and are not disappointed. During these times of racial and cultural upheaval it is important to make every effort possible to bridge the divide.

Hallahan's significance as the *first* Catholic girls' high school in our country cannot be dismissed. Hallahan is historical in every way—its mission, its background, its location, its building.

In the early 1900's Bishop Shanahan, then Superintendent of Parish School of the Archdiocese, spoke out about the need for a Catholic high school for the girls of the Archdiocese. There were already three existing high schools for the boys, but the Bishop recognized that Catholic girls deserved the same chance to succeed in a work force that called for higher education. When the Archdiocese celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1908 Archbishop Ryan announced the founding of a Catholic Girls High School.

The Archdiocese donated land at 19th and Wood St. and Mary McMichan, a staunch advocate for higher education for Catholic girls, donated \$100,000 to start building the school. The Catholic community in Philadelphia showed enormous support for the project by raising the necessary funds to complete it.

While the building was under construction Monsignor McDevitt, the new superintendent of Parochial School, oversaw the organization of the school staff. He reached out to the religious orders in the surrounding parishes to provide sisters/teachers for the new high school. This new concept "Union Faculty" worked with the Monsignor to develop a curriculum with a general education and a commercial program. The exposure to the different religious orders over the years at Hallahan has also added to the diverse education the school has provided.

In March 1925 Mary McMichan died and by the terms of her will the Catholic Girls High School was renamed John W. Hallahan Catholic High School for Girls in honor of her late brother.

Reading about the actual construction of the school has been enlightening. I did not appreciate the historical beauty of the building itself, only the inner beauty of spirit that has always been there for me. However, the outer façade, the building itself adds to the beauty in ways that I had not previously considered. The Hallahan building was designed by one of the leading architectural firms of ecclesiastical buildings, Ballinger and Perrot. The building has withstood the test of time and, despite

some necessary renovations over the years, remains the beautiful structure that was built over a hundred years ago.

The welcoming main entrance is on Wood Street at the top of a short flight of steps which are graced on either side by a large lamp. Above the lamps are the United States seal and the seal of Pope Pius X, signifying allegiance to the country and the Church. The red brick façade is accented by white stone inlays which are engraved with the names of “illustrious women of the past,” a testament to their achievements and example for the young women of Hallahan. On the 19th street side of the building above the third-floor window the school seal is carved in stone. Above it the cornice is decorated with garlands of fruits and flowers and atop the cornice sits a plain cross. It is truly a beautiful and historic building.

My favorite part of the actual building is Our Lady of Hallahan grotto located at the end of the first-floor corridor. A beautiful statue of Mary is surrounded by blue tile, two ever present vases of flowers, a decorative wrought iron gate and two steps in the front to accommodate a kneeling or sitting visitor. Our Lady of Hallahan symbolized what we aspired to become, women of faith and achievement.

Hallahan has been a leader in Catholic education, the first Catholic high school for girls in the United States. It cannot be replaced or repeated. It is the one and only original and it deserves to remain as it stands at 19th and Wood as it has for over one hundred years.

Historical buildings are, and always will be important. They provide the city with a sense of permanence and heritage. They define and reflect our story. Any plan to demolish an historic building should provide the necessary time and consideration for all concerned parties to weigh in. Regret after the fact will be little consolation to those who hold dear such a building. Once it has been destroyed it cannot be replaced.

Buildings are brought alive by what happens inside. What has happened inside Hallahan for the past century has been historic. My sister and I and the thousands of girls who have walked the halls of Hallahan can attest to that. We are the women we are today in large part because of the time we spent at the beautiful building at 19th and Wood. Please bear with is mind as you decide its fate.

Kathleen Susan Dever Clements, Class of 1968

Geraldine Dever, Class of 1973

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Day Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to you about John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School.

As you are aware Hallahan is the "First all Girls Catholic High School" in the country. We set the mark for the future of all the other all girls Catholic High Schools in The United States. Hallahan is not just a building. It is a home. A home filled with diversity and acceptance of all races. Hallahan gives all of it's girls (sisters) a quality education to proceed in a man's world and thrive and succeed in the work field. It empowers young woman.

I am a graduate of the class of 1975 and am very proud of that. I started working after school in my sophomore year. Frankly it was quite easy seeking employment once they heard you were from Hallahan. This building is Historic for many reasons. It sits in an epic center of Center City Philadelphia. We have the main Library just across the street. We have many museums within a walking distance. We have history right in our back yard. Oh, what a place to receive an education. Our school has been in operation for 110yrs. which is an accomplishment within itself. I would hate to see the future of young women not walking through those hallowed halls and receive a quality education. I can't imagine seeing a world without Hallahan and all of it's traditions. Hallahan is a legacy.

I would like to give you a little background on myself. I am 63 and from a broken home where my mother left in the middle of the night leaving my brother and myself behind. I was 11yrs old and my brother 7yrs old. My father raised us, God Bless his soul. I was in a home with a father and brother. There wasn't a woman there to help raise me. During the 60's and 70's there was much racism happening in this world. If a person of color wanted to move into the neighborhood the house would be burned down. I lived in an all white middle class neighborhood and attended an all white grade school. When it was time to go to high school I followed along with the many girls I went to grade school with and went to Hallahan.

Upon going to Hallahan I learned diversity of many races. I made friends of all colors. We became sisters for life. I graduated 45yrs ago and still remain in touch with many of the girls I went to school with. We became a family. I received the best education that carried me throughout my life. I was able to secure jobs and support myself. I worked for 37yrs in Property Management. I managed several luxury high rises in center city along with a portfolio of industrial parks, apartment buildings and many places of businesses. I know that Hallahan helped me accomplish this. I no longer work but I do volunteer work at low income senior apartment buildings. I also learned to give back.

Please hear our Plea on March 3rd and grant Hallahan as a Historic site.

With much respect,
Deborah "McKinley" Ballard
Class of 1975

Allyson Mehley

From: Charlotte Welsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building

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Dear Ms. Mehley,
I think Hallahan should be a historical building because of its rich history. Hallahan Girls' High School is the first all-girls high school in the US. This building was founded in 1901, which is over a century-year-old. This school created so many memories for girls over these years and since the Archdiocese is closing Hallahan forever, then the least they can do is make it a historical building, where it will forever be remembered.
From,
Charlotte

Allyson Mehley

From: Margaret Oshaughnessy [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 12:06 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan
Subject: Hallahan high school building

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I graduated from Hallahan in 1963. We were the 50th graduating class. My Aunt Marion graduated in the 1940's along with many other O'Shaughnessy woman. I hope that more of my cousins can experience it.

My class donated a mosaic located in the foyer. It is of Mary Immaculate and a student signed by Sisters and students who made the mosaic. Our class and many others left apart of us in the building.

I loved the beautiful art in the hallways but my place was the peaceful chapel.

Please make this building Historical to be seen by future generations.

Margaret A O'shaughnessy

From: Adrienne [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 11:07 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan

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Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Adrienne Woodbury. I am a second generation graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School from the Class of 1987. I began my studies at Hallahan in 1984 after transferring from St. Maria Gorretti, where I was greatly blessed to join the thousands of young women who had come before me since 1911 to join this community of sisterhood. The Hallahan School building was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

In the late 1800s, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia began to discuss the need for a school to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five "High School Centres" in 1901 which paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. Upon the death of Mary McMichan, the name of the school was changed to John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School in honor of her brother, as she requested.

The building's façade marks 1911 as the construction year in Roman Numerals above the 19th street entryway. The building has rich exterior detail encompassing English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew letters, numbers, and symbols that represent the architecture design from the early 1900s. The resurrection of this building was meant to be a historical part of our great city. For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design that represents the construction style of its time. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely,
Adrienne

From: Elizabeth Mulson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:51 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

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Hi, Allyson

Hallahan has played a big role in my family for generations. All of the females in my family attended Hallahan, going all the way back from the early 1900s to now. I am currently a junior at Hallahan and was very sad to hear the news that our school will be closing at the end of this academic year. This building truly means so much to the girls in my family and many others all over this city. Hallahan has made a huge impact on so many lives, including mine and my classmates.

If you walk around any part of the city wearing a Hallahan uniform or even just a sweatshirt with their logo you are guaranteed to have someone ask you what year you are currently or what year you graduated. I've had ladies from many classes come up to me and tell me about their experiences at Hallahan, even a lady going all the way back to the class of 1947. It is truly a sisterhood and anyone who has been a part of it is a part of it for life.

Since COVID-19 started it has taken a lot of the traditions Hallahan does away from my class (2022) specifically. Hallahan does their sophomore spirit day, which is exactly what it sounds like, a day where the sophomores get to go and play games and have a very fun time with their classmates and teachers. Because of the school closure last year into this one, we were not able to have our sophomore spirit day. I was pretty bummed about it because the classes above us would continuously tell us how much fun theirs was, including my mom (class of 98') who still talks about how fun hers was to this day.

It saddens me to know I won't get to graduate with my sisters but knowing that the building we created all of those memories in will still be there, shines a little light at the end of the tunnel. With COVID-19 we barely got to have our last year at Hallahan together, half of us attend all virtual and the other half attend hybrid which breaks us into two groups so we do not get to see all of our friends, just the ones assigned to our group. This year has been tough on all of us and the news of the school's closure has made it that much harder. Please do whatever you can to make sure this special building remains standing.

Thank You,
Liz Mulson 22'

Allyson Mehley

From: Viola Firman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:34 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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Ms.Mehley,

Hello, my name is Viola Firman. I am a junior at John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. Hallahan is a very important school and building to me and my family. Generations of my family have gone here, and it has always been my dream of mine to go and graduate from this school. Hallahan is a second home to me and my classmates. I will always cherish the memories I have had made with my sisters. Hallahan is the first all-girls Catholic high school in the country. We are the building blocks for women's Catholic education. There are so many people I met here, who are now some of my closest friends. Please consider making Hallahan a historical building. As a city of firsts, this is something we need to cherish.

Very respectfully,
Viola Firman
Class of 2022

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: HALLAHAN HISTORIC DESIGNATION

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To The Historical Commission,

I am writing today to ask you to consider Historical Designation for John W. Hallahan High School. This building plays an important role not just to the thousands of young women who walked the halls but to the history of Philadelphia. At a time when women were not even able to vote, Mary McMichan recognized the importance of establishing an institution to educate the girls of Philadelphia. Her vision has allowed thousands of young women to pursue careers in medicine, the law, science, the arts, education, and wherever their dreams took them. The building stands as a testament to the power and strength of women in this city. It is a building of not just history but of futures. To not protect this building would be a grave injustice to all of those women who walked its halls and followed those dreams to make this world a better place.

I am not a graduate of Hallahan, but I recognize the importance of this venerable institution, I hope that you will too.

Thank you
Maggie O'Brien

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Madison Bucher [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:26 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan letter

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

In Philadelphia 1911 John W Hallahan All Girls Catholic High School was founded. In a time where women couldn't even vote in America, John W Hallahan became a place where women could feel empowered. As a junior at Hallahan, I have spent three years with both an amazing student body and a loving staff. Hallahan is a sisterhood for people of all races, religions, and sexual identities. Hallahan has become a second home for me and many other students. In my three years here at Hallahan I have met many lifelong friends. I would love to finish out my final years at Hallahan with my sisters. Hallahan will always and forever be my second home. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Maddie Bucher

Allyson Mehley

From: Jana Monaco [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:16 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Jana Monaco
Subject: John W. Hallahan letter of historical designation request
Attachments: Hallahan letter for historical designation.docx

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

It is an honor for me to email you my letter in support of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School requesting that Hallahan be recognized and included in the historical registry of buildings of Philadelphia.

Thank you for this wonderful process that preserves parts of Philadelphia history and for including Hallahan in this process.

If you have any questions regarding my letter, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Again, thank you.

Respectfully,
Jana Monaco

Jana Monaco
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hallahan Alumnae Class of '83

\

Dear Ms. Mehley,

February 24, 2021

My name is Jana Monaco and I am a proud alumna member of the Class of 1983 of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School and a member of Hallahan's Hall of Fame. I write to you in support of my dear alma mater and request that you allow Hallahan her permanent place in history and declare that magnificent school and building a due spot on the historical registry of Philadelphia. In all honesty, I had assumed that Hallahan was already part of that registry given her age, beauty and rich history.

I moved away from Philadelphia thirty four years ago when I was graduating from Temple University and became an Army Officer's wife. I have lived in various places around the United States and have been a resident of Northern Virginia for the past twenty-four years living just thirty minutes from Washington DC.

As the mother of a medically complex son, I frequent DC often to go to Children's National Hospital and I have been doing so for the past nineteen years. I have always had an appreciation for old buildings and the area that I travel in always reminds me of my days in Philadelphia traveling to and from Hallahan. When I pass Gonzaga High School for boys in DC, I am reminded of Hallahan and how my Hallahan sisters and I, like those that came before us and after, were the girls in blue uniforms walking through the city. Just as people know Gonzaga boys here, everyone knows Hallahan girls in Philadelphia. That has held true since the doors of Hallahan opened.

My love of history allowed me to appreciate the beauty of Hallahan from the first time I saw it when visiting it in 8th grade. I was in awe. The beautiful inscriptions on the exterior along with the cross that stands tall on top are just a few details that welcome every person that enters it. The corner stone was something I always admired, because it was a reminder of the school's beginning and heritage. While I am not a Philadelphia native with family history there, I found my place and sense of belonging at Hallahan and it is there where my roots lie. I was fascinated by the fact that I could connect with family friends that graduated there years before me and share similar memories. The interior of the school and its magnificent and timeless beauty is nothing less than museum quality. The main entrance of marble stairs with a crystal chandelier suspended overhead shining light on the beautiful stained-glass windows is historical in an of itself. The closest I have seen to that type of entrance is in one of the original buildings at Georgetown University. Once again, I was reminded of Hallahan. When I see and hear of Mickey Mouse, I not only think of Disney, but of Hallahan. How special and unique for our school to have Mickey Mouse as a mascot with a letter from Mr. Walt Disney himself granting permission for that honor hanging proudly inside the building.

We live in a progressive and ever-changing world where people tend to lose sight of the past. As I have visited Philadelphia over the years, I have observed the changing skyline of the city and the contemporary skyscrapers that are a thing of beauty in their own right, but it is the old historic buildings full of charm and character that I look for and when I pass Hallahan and tell my children "that's my school", a warmth and smile comes over me that only comes with "home".

It is profoundly important in this day and age to preserve buildings like Hallahan that are rich in history and tradition and hold a legacy of architecture that has been lost in modern construction. Hallahan holds an everlasting character ingrained in it from the very people who designed it and constructed it brick by brick without fancy machinery and tools. It preserves the very fabric and cultural backgrounds

of those people who immigrated here and proudly brought Mary McMichan and her family's vision of a Catholic high school for the city's girls to fruition with their artistry and skill in creating the foundation for years of educating and graduating Catholic women and long lines of family lineage graduates. Hallahan has stood the test of times as our country, endured multiple wars, voting rights for women, segregation, racism, desegregation, changes within the Catholic church and many more. It continues to do so today. Through it all, Hallahan has always maintained its mission and has often been a safe haven and place of peace and refuge for her students.

As I see constant change and often do not recognize certain neighborhoods anymore, I come to Hallahan that still serves as an identity of past and current Philadelphia and should be a vital part of the future identity of the city as well. Hallahan is an icon and foundation of historical knowledge of the city and Catholic Church. I hope and pray that you will grant Hallahan her rightful place on Philadelphia's registry of historical buildings so that she can continue to anchor us all to the past in a city itself rich with history and that future generations of women will be able to join me and our sisterhood and say "I'm a Hallahan girl".

Thank you for your time and dedication to preserving the legacy of the past and these invaluable buildings like Hallahan.

Respectfully,

Jana A. Monaco

Hallahan Alumnae Class of '83

Organic Acidemia Association,

Advocacy Liaison and National Rare Disease Advocate

[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Mongan,Kathleen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Nomination for Historical Designation: JW Hallahan High School
Attachments: Historical Building Nomination_JW Hallahan High School.docx

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Kate Mongan

*Program Coordinator II
Foundations & Frontiers Curriculum
Office of Educational Affairs*

College of Medicine
Drexel University
2900 West Queen Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19129
Tel: 215-991-8550
drexelmed.edu | drexelmedicine.org

February 24th, 2021

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I write this letter to plea for the designation of John W. Hallahan High School for Girls, my Alma Mater, to be named a historical building.

This building that stands at 19th and Wood Streets became the home to so many girls since 1911. We walked in as girls, we walked out as educated, passionate and empowered women. We came from all over this city, every neighborhood, every race, different religions, different cultures. We funneled those halls and made friendships that turned in to a sisterhood that is comparable to NO other school in this city. We wore our green, blue, yellow and finally red shoe laces with pride with each passing year. Our last days of 12th grade came with sadness and tears because we did not want to leave. Our jumps in the fountain at Logan Circle celebrated each accomplished year. Philadelphia businesses, law firms, and medical offices were supported by my Hallahan sisters for decades. Everyone wanted to hire a Hallahan girl and simply put, everyone knows a Hallahan girl...our reputation and legacy have always preceded us and with or without that building, will always follow us. We beg you to preserve this legacy, the hard work and the memory of the amazing women that have walked through those doors.

I, myself, am the product of a long alumni. My Mother is a graduate of the Class of 1966, my sisters, both graduates of the class of 1988, 1989, several aunts and several cousins sat in those classrooms and became upstanding, professional, amazing women. We love Hallahan so much that we can not even have a family function without singing our beautiful Alma Mater.

This is not just a building. It is where this great City of Philadelphia raised its daughters. It is where we walked in as little girls with big dreams and walked out as women that became doctors, lawyers, educators, nurses, political activists, performers, writers, and amazing mothers.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our beloved, J.W. Hallahan High School as a historical building.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bailey Mongan

J.W. Hallahan Class of 1993

Allyson Mehley

From: Dennis DiGiovanni [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:44 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W Hallahan High School- Historical Designation
Attachments: John W Hallahan CGHS.docx

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Dear Allyson,

Please see attached and Thank you for your time regarding this matter.

--

Dennis DiGiovanni
Science Department Chairperson
Student Council Moderator
Roman Catholic High School

ddigiovanni@romancatholichs.com



John W Hallahan CGHS

2/24/2021

To: Allyson Mehley

Dear Ms. Mehley:

Thank you for accepting John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School's application for Historical Designation.

My alma mater, Roman Catholic High School, was the first Diocesan All Boy's School in the country. Our future has been accepted and cemented by the Historical Designation it was given. Just like Roman Catholic High School, Hallahan was the first Diocesan All Girls Catholic High School in the country. It was opened to give girls from all backgrounds the opportunity to receive an education that is steeped in academics and faith. Sadly, our faith is being tested. Our beloved school is closing. Our school, which for many, is where we learned that the world is bigger and more diverse than our childhood neighborhoods.

As a teacher at nearby, Roman Catholic High School, I fully understand the importance of Catholic education in the City of Philadelphia. Now, more than ever, Catholic education has a role in shaping the young minds of today's youth. Roman, like Hallahan, shares much of the same history. Hallahan, like Roman, deserves a permanent place in the history of our great city. Please consider the application from the Friends of Hallahan and cement Hallahan's place for future generations.

Sincerely,

Dennis DiGiovanni
Roman Catholic High School- Class of 2002

From: Erin Capriotti [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

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February 22, 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support the historical designation for the John W. Hallahan High School building at 19th and Wood Streets.

The historical relevance of the building cannot be questioned given it is the first all Catholic Girls High School in the US. The building, with its grand arches, cornices, columns and stately red brick is a classic that was built as a collaborative effort with the Hallahan-McMichan family, Church, Philadelphia trades and architects with materials brought in from all over the world. The building has served as an anchor for educating young women in the City of Philadelphia for over 120 years. These women, close to 40,000 strong, have gone on to become executives, homemakers, educators, professionals, etc... and work in many fields that have contributed greatly to the City of Philadelphia and beyond.

The city of Philadelphia is the birthplace of our Nation and Hallahan is the birthplace of secondary education for Catholic women in the US. Per a reader survey done by the Philadelphia Inquirer in 2019, the Hallahan building was in the top 10 readers picks for historic preservation (Philadelphia Inquirer, 6.13.19, Caitlin McCabe). This survey shows that the citizens of Philadelphia recognize the importance of Hallahan to our city and should remain for generations to come.

As an alum, Hallahan was an opportunity for meeting girls from all over the city who came together to receive an education that shaped and molded us into the woman we are today. This is where I learned the importance of diversity, culture and sisterhood all of which remain important in my life today. When you took the bus into the city you felt you were a part of something bigger than the neighborhood you came from and you saw the possibilities that were available to you. Being in the City we were exposed to so many different people and businesses. Many of us worked in town after school and, looking back, that exposure really shaped my future. As an adult, when I tell people I went to Hallahan, EVERYONE KNOWS HALLAHAN, whether it's from jumping in the fountain, working with Hallahan girls or seeing them around the city, HALLAHAN girls make a positive impression wherever they go and hopefully can continue to do so for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Erin Gallagher Capriotti '87

From: Vivian Brady-Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:25 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Lisa Kahuila
Subject: John W. Hallahan C.G. High School - Letter of Support

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Dear Ms. Mehley:

It was with great joy and anticipation that I greeted the news that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School is being considered for a historic building designation by the Philadelphia Historic Commission.

Looking at this building, it is at once aspirational and yet full of common sense in its composition. The stone spandrels under the third-floor windows state to the girls that enter the school's halls that they are to look up to and develop the attributes of Joan of Arc, a soldier, St. Cecilia, patroness of music, Queen Isabelle of Castille, promoter of Columbus' exploration, and St. Elizabeth of Hungary who worked amongst the poor, just to name a few of the great women who are called out on the building's façade. At the same time, the building looks sturdy, built with brick and mortar and with plain almost hidden Corinthian columns holding its walls together and upward.

Let me try to explain why this school building has been so important to the City of Philadelphia, the nation and to girls.

In 1911, there were not many opportunities for girls to obtain an affordable, let alone free, secondary education. The need for higher education for the population of Philadelphia and the nation at large was great as the country became more industrialized. John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School offered girls either an academic or a business track of studies which prepared these young women to contribute to the world.

Even as women were struggling to obtain the right to vote and to be taken seriously as equal partners in the workplace, this school proved that girls could excel. Over the years, 40,000 girls have graduated and provided Philadelphia with a trained workforce. These graduates have gone on to have careers in nursing, teaching, business administration, science, and other fields.

In 2021, there are still not many opportunities for girls in their teenage years to attend a high school which is a sanctuary. Once you enter Hallahan, you are encouraged to be a leader, to get things done, to speak up about subjects that you are analyzing and convictions that you are developing. At a young age, you realize that there are no boys to lean on and that is all right. You can stand on your own two feet, gather strength from within

and from your classmates, and be taken seriously by the teachers and fellow students around you. When you graduate, you have that foundation, that knowledge of your independent capability. No one can take that away from you.

To sum up, this building at 19th and Wood Streets is revolutionary and groundbreaking. Isn't that the way Philadelphia is and always will be?

Sincerely,

Vivian M. Brady-Jones
Class of 1977

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:07 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Re: Letter in Support of Historical Designation for Hallahan

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Yes ma'am. I understand. I feel like the Friends of Hallahan, in leading this charge should have just one person, perhaps 2. In addition, I would invite, perhaps, Bill Hallahan or a member of Mary McMichan's family to make a few comments. I feel that the general Hallahan alumnae is making their comments in these letters and that should be sufficient.

I am an hour behind you in the Central time zone. Usually I am wide open but I have a son preparing to move to Knoxville TN on Friday so I apologize that I am a bit more limited this week. I am available tomorrow before 10 AM EST, but any time Thursday or Friday morning. Just let me know what is convenient for you!

Thank you for your assistance!

On Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 2:52 PM Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov> wrote:

Let me know a good time for us to speak this week. My schedule Wed, Thurs, and Friday mornings is open right now. There are 12 other proposed nominations being heard at this meeting in addition to Hallahan. We should talk about what to expect at this meeting, timing, and potential speakers. The written public comment for this nomination has been tremendous, which is great. I have been impressed by the personal experiences shared in the emails and letters received. I am concerned about the number of people who may want to speak on behalf of the nomination. The goal is to maintain the Committee's attention and the best way to effectively do this is to determine who will speak on behalf of the nomination in advance.

Allyson

Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
allyson.mehley@phila.gov
Working remotely

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 7:26 PM
To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>
Subject: Re: Letter in Support of Historical Designation for Hallahan

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Oh wow! We didn't realize we would be permitted to speak although I do recall that Patrick did mention this! That would be wonderful so yes!!!

To clarify, is this an additional meeting on The 28th? I know the public zoom meeting for the committee review is March 3.

We would love to speak anywhere and everywhere...as you can imagine! I'd love to speak with you as well at your convenience.

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 2:03 PM Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov> wrote:

I updated the Hallahan public comment file earlier today. There were about 40 emails/letters in that posting. Please let people know that it is best if all emails and letters are received by end of day Sunday, February 28th. This will ensure that all public comment is posted prior to the meeting on Wednesday, March 3rd. Here is the link to the public comment file:

<https://www.phila.gov/media/20210222130157/319-N-19th-St-public-comment-1.pdf>

Will you be speaking at the Feb 28th meeting or someone else who represents Friends of Hallahan? These meetings allow attendees to speak but it is best if one or two people speak on behalf of an organization. These meetings can run for hours and as you can imagine, having numerous speakers for each nomination can extend the meeting beyond the planned time.

If you would like to discuss this further with me on the phone, I would be happy to do this. This may be helpful as you plan to attend the meeting (virtually, of course!).

Allyson

Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
[1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor](#)
[Philadelphia, PA 19102](#)
allyson.mehley@phila.gov
Working remotely

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:59 AM

To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>

Subject: Re: Letter in Support of Historical Designation for Hallahan

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Can you share the link where the letters can be viewed once posted? We would love to share!

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 10:09 AM Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov> wrote:

Kim,

Thank you for forwarding this. I am working to post the most recent emails and letters to our site today.

Kind regards,

Allyson

Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner

Philadelphia Historical Commission
[1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor](#)
[Philadelphia, PA 19102](#)
allyson.mehley@phila.gov
Working remotely

From: Kim Kimrey <kimkimrey811@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 3:31 PM
To: Allyson Mehley <Allyson.Mehley@Phila.gov>
Cc: Lisa Kahuila <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Subject: Letter in Support of Historical Designation for Hallahan

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Good Afternoon,

My daughter, Jillian, a current junior at Hallahan has asked that her letter be included in the documentation being gathered for the hearing to give Hallahan its historical designation.

Thank you.

From: Joe walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: preservation
Subject: Historic designation for Hallahan High School

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Ms. Mehley,

My name is Joe Walsh and I write many of the hyperlocal neighborhood history articles for the Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park website at www.baldwinparkphilly.org. I have lived next to Baldwin Park, just up 19th Street from Hallahan High School, for the last eight years. In doing history research for our monthly articles I have come to realize the historical significance of Hallahan.

1. Hallahan is the oldest building in the neighborhood that still functions in its original capacity. It is the only building built on bare ground; the land was purchased by a future saint and required no destruction of other buildings for its construction. In a neighborhood that had been devastated by the demolitions necessary for the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the Vine Street tunnel, and the desultory Franklin Town redevelopment, it is reassuring to have an intimate solid brick sliver of a building among all the high-rise glass and concrete.

2. The original purpose of the high school strongly resonates today. In the 19th century there was:

- segregation and discrimination against new immigrants, many of whom were Catholics. They were shunned from schools, hospitals, social clubs, and businesses, forcing them to establish their own such facilities;
- in contrast, at Hallahan there was integration of the children from these polyglot immigrants. Hallahan brought together girls from Irish, Italian, Polish, and other local parishes, 85 parishes in all in that first class, to assimilate and learn respect and toleration from each other;
- the peak of the women's suffrage and progressive movements occurred around the time of Hallahan's birth. Women were longing to obtain equality of opportunity with men, and Hallahan, with women being educated mostly by women, offered this free opportunity.

This is discussed in the website article here: <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/hallahan-high-school>

3. The exterior of the building from an architectural perspective is covered quite well in the application, so I will only comment on the names carved in stone on the building, most of which have ties to the neighborhood in which Hallahan sits. Today, there are few monuments to women, but Hallahan has had them for 110 years, monuments to women of courage who served their communities. Each name tells a story. For example:

- Kateri Tekakwitha, a 17th century Native American girl, whose life story reveals the pros and cons of attempts at assimilation of the indigenous population. Her heritage recalls the statues of Native Americans a block away in the Logan Square fountains; the angel Moroni, a Native American, atop the Mormon Temple; the name of Shamokin Street, a block away, which bears a Lenni Lenape name; and the new mural at 417 North 20th Street which depicts a Lenape totem, the turtle;
- Esther, a Jewish woman who risked her own life to save the lives of her guardian and her people. Her name recalls the sacrifices and determination of the Jewish people on arrival in America, since they faced many of the same exclusionary policies as the Catholics;
- Joan of Arc, a teen who died for her king, linked to her golden statue further up the Parkway;

- Helena, mother of Constantine, who is the subject of the tapestries in the Philadelphia Museum of Art and discoverer of some of the relics held on display in the nearby Cathedral administration building;
- and Margaret, wife of Malcolm III, whose soliloquy ending Macbeth links to the Shakespeare Memorial a block away from Hallahan.

These and other examples are discussed at <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/hallahan-honorees>.

4. I have examined the building as a dispassionate historian. Others who will write to you will probably comment with more emotion. The interior of the building has 110 years of tradition and is the birthplace of the memories recalled by the 40,000 Hallahan graduates. See <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/hallahan-hs-building-interior>

For all these reasons, I ask that the Commission approve Hallahan's application to the registry. Thank you.

Joe Walsh
1900 Hamilton Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19130

Allyson Mehley

From: Ruby Moser [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Allyson Mehley

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Hi my name is Ruby Moser and I attend Hallahan High School.

Hallahan has given me the opportunity to meet some of the best people I have ever had in my life. I transferred here my sophomore year because I knew that Hallahan was known for its strong academics and I felt like it would be an empowering environment because of it being an all girls school. Hallahan has given me an education that I am so lucky to have and seeing that other girls won't be given that in the future because of it being shut down is very sad. I think the building should be a historical landmark because John .W. Hallahan is the first all girls high school in the U.S. That means something, it is a symbol of women's rights and equality, a symbol of women being able to achieve the same education as men. Hallahan has been around since WW1 and I think making it at least a historical building will make it feel like the school meant something. The building is old and beautiful and it deserves to stay standing and represent hallahan even when the school is gone.

Allyson Mehley

From: Kaylie E. Berkery [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:55 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan is Historic

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

The John W. Hallahan school is obviously a historical landmark. It was the first all-girl catholic school established in the country. It was also the first and only school to get permission by Walt Disney himself to use Mickey Mouse as their mascot. The school has been in the citizen's of Philadelphia lives for generations. Making the school building a historical site just seemed right. My own family has gone to Hallahan for generations, even in the great depression. It is upsetting that the school is not already a historical site, but hopefully, we can change that.

Thank you,
K. Berkery

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:46 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Letter Samples and References for Historic Designation
Attachments: Hallahan Letter.amended.pdf

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: B McCloskey [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 4:06 PM
Subject: RE: Letter Samples and References for Historic Designation
To: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Good afternoon:

Per my prior email, I found two typos, so I redid the letter. I also added discussion as to the exterior/interior of the building.

Thanks for your patience.

Once again, good luck!

Bernadette McCloskey

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Friends of Hallahan](#)
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 3:52 PM
To: [Suzanne Edinger](#)
Subject: Letter Samples and References for Historic Designation

February 21, 2021

Re: John W. Hallahan High School
319 N. 19th Street and 312 N 8th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Historic Designation

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter in support of historic designation of the properties known as John W. Hallahan High School and (formerly) Cathedral Parish School under the criteria that both properties bear significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth, or Nation, or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past.

I am a Hallahan Alumna, having graduated in 1971. My graduating class from St. Adalbert's Catholic School was the second or third class to start attending Hallahan, due to overcrowding at Little Flower High School.

The legacy of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School started with the efforts of Bishop Philip R. McDevitt, who was born and raised in Philadelphia. In 1899, then Father McDevitt was appointed as the Superintendent of Schools. He pressed for Catholic girls' high schools, and in 1910, ground was broken for The Catholic Girls' High School. In 1916, in acknowledging Monsignor McDevitt's work as a priest, Pope Benedict XV appointed him as the fourth Bishop of Harrisburg. The Seal on the exterior of the Hallahan building was designed by Bishop McDevitt. Other intricate work to the exterior of the building, include the Papal Seal of Pope Pius X, tributes to Esther and the Blessed Mother, as well as the great Seal of the United States.

Eventually the name of the high schooled changed to John W. Hallahan, at the request of its benefactor, Mary Hallahan McMichan. Hallahan would become the first Catholic girls' high school in the City of Philadelphia, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States. That this Catholic girls' high school is still active 110 years after its inception is of great significance, not only the City and Archdiocese of Philadelphia, but to Catholics and residents of the Commonwealth and the Nation as a whole.

When I entered the doors of Hallahan in the fall of 1967, I became part of a diverse and large population of young girls, who would spend the next four years being educated by a superior faculty, learning about life and its experiences. Hallahan was a mix of cultures (African American, Latina, Asian, and Caucasian). The diversity of the population is one of the things that stands out to me in retrospect. Girls from different cultures and socio-economic backgrounds learned about and from one another. All class cohorts, athletic teams, musical programs, student council, service and other organizations, were designed to offer students the opportunity to grow academically, socially, and spiritually. To be faced with these learning experiences in the sixties and seventies was forward thinking in a time when others were maintaining the status quo. I realize now that Hallahan prepared me for living life in the everchanging world. In my opinion, the school's location is one of the reasons that allows it to offer a superior education to a mix of young women from different areas of the city.

February 21, 2021
Page Two

My Hallahan experience offered me an excellent education, and other social/service programs. As a member of the Choir, I was among a group of young women who sang at the Academy of Music. As a senior, I had the best opportunity of my school days, performing in the joint musical with our brothers at Roman Catholic High School. Throughout my time at Hallahan, I was among a group of students who tutored children in reading, attended retreats with students throughout the Archdiocese, was selected to participate in the Model U.N.

During my years at Hallahan, I was mesmerized by the beautiful marble lined walls and the stained-glass transom at the Wood Street entrance. One of my favorite spots was the tiled alcove with the statue of Mary and Jesus, where I would stop for a quick prayer. There are other beautiful stained-glass windows and mosaics throughout the building.

In 1930, two years after Mickey Mouse was born, John W. Hallahan High School was permitted to use him as their Mascot. This rare relationship continues to this day.

While it started as a forbidden act in the sixties, the end-of-year trip to the Swann Memorial Fountain was often broadcast by the local news outlets and eventually featured in National Geographic.

I hope that this letter, along with those of other alumni of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School, will highlight its distinguished record of cultural, religious, and academic programs, along with its architectural intricacies from its inception in 1911 through 2021 in fulfillment of your criteria for historical designation.

Respectfully,

Bernadette McCloskey (Michalski – 1971)

████████████████████
████████████████████

From: Danielle Forte [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 8:05 AM
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Building Historical Designation

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Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Danielle Witkowski Forte. I am a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School from the Class of 1993. I began my studies at Hallahan in 1989 where I was greatly blessed to join the thousands of young women who had come before me since 1911 to join this community of sisterhood. Hallahan was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

In the late 1800s, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia began to discuss the need for a school to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five "High School Centres" in 1901 which paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. Upon the death of Mary McMichan, the name of the school was changed to John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School in honor of her brother, as she requested.

The building's façade marks 1911 as the construction year in Roman Numerals above the 19th street entryway. The building has rich exterior detail encompassing English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew letters, numbers, and symbols that represent the architecture design from the early 1900s. The resurrection of this building was meant to be a historical part of our great city. For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design that represents the construction style of its time. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your help in our mission.
Sincerely Yours,

Danielle Forte
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

----- This message, and any attachments to it, may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution, copying, or communication of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete the message and any attachments. Thank you.

From: Lisa Bier [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 7:21 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: Save Hallahan

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Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Lisa Bier. Although, I am not a graduate of Hallahan, my mom and aunts are. Also my daughters great grandmother is. My daughter is a freshman at Hallahan currently, Class of 2024. Ever since she was in the 6th grade and went to the first open house, she has wanted to attend Hallahan. We didn't even look at other schools. We went to every open house, plays, shadowing day, 7th grade visitation day, everything. She fell In love with the school as soon as we stepped in. I feel greatly blessed to have her join the thousands of young women who had come before her since 1911 to join this community of sisterhood. There is not a day that goes by that my daughter is not representing Hallahan in one way or another. While we are out and my daughter is wearing her Hallahan sweatshirt and hat, we meet numerous woman who have been apart of this Hallahan tradition themselves along with generations of women in their own family. The Hallahan sisterhood is VERY strong and I honestly wish I would have been part of it. If I could turn back the clocks, I would have went to Hallahan. This sisterhood can not be broken. I have never seen my daughter SO happy to be in a school and want to go to school. The Hallahan School building was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

In the late 1800s, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia began to discuss the need for a school to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five "High School Centres" in 1901 which paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. Upon the death of Mary McMichan, the name of the school was changed to John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School in honor of her brother, as she requested.

The building's façade marks 1911 as the construction year in Roman Numerals above the 19th street entryway. The building has rich exterior detail encompassing English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew letters, numbers, and symbols that represent the architecture design from the early 1900s. The resurrection of this building was meant to be a historical part of our great city. For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design that represents the construction style of its time. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely Yours,
Lisa Bier

(Kyla Mehlberger's Mom-Class of 2024)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: Walsh, Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:10 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Kelly W; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation

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Dear Ms Mehley-

I hope this email finds you well. I want to thank you for accepting John W Hallahan's application for Historical Designation. This building is a staple in the Center City Philadelphia community and is rich with history.

I am the second of three generations of Hallahan graduates. My mom, oldest sister, and my niece who is a current student, have all been fortunate to walk these halls. I have two nieces who are eager to walk these same halls as we did and may not be afforded that opportunity should these doors close. I know it's been expressed over and over again how important this building is to our community but I want you to understand why it was important to my family.

I grew up in rundown and unsafe area of Kensington in Philadelphia where you really couldn't leave the house without being exposed to crime and violence. My parents raised 6 children and worked tirelessly to provide us all with 12 years of Catholic education. There are times we went without certain things that the average person takes for granted – heat, food, etc. But there was one thing that was constant for us all, outside of my parents unwavering love and support, and that was our safe havens – our schools. School for us, in particular Hallahan for myself and my sister, was a place that we could escape the reality outside of our doors. 20+ years since I graduated, I still view this space as "home" – it was a place that not only wrapped me in warmth but also filled me with hope for my future, my family's future. This place is more than a building – it's a home for all women that walk through those doors, not just for the warmth but for the greatness they will achieve for the century-plus of women that paved the way for our success. Every achievement I've had is a testament to the education I received in that very building. Walking in the building just a few years ago with my niece for orientation was like walking into my childhood home all over again and I was flooded with memories created here that I carry close to me – I felt inspired and invigorated – and you can't put a price tag on that feeling. This building inspires something in the Philadelphia community and deserves to be here for years to come.

I strongly urge, with all the gratitude in my heart, to support moving this initiative forward in the designation process and be a part of the reason that future greatness will get to walk these very halls. Please help us preserve our history and provide future generations a space to be inspired.

I thank you for your time and support.

Gratefully,
Kelly Walsh c/o 1998
Suzanne Walsh c/o 1978
Lisa Walsh c/o 1996
Jordan Rader c/o 2021

KELLY WALSH
Comcast Cable Communications
Director, Cash & AR Accounting



Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:32 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; Lisa Kahuila
Subject: Save Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, class of 1969. This oldest Catholic girls high school and the wonderful staff of nuns and lay teachers is responsible for making my high school years quite memorable but the history of this school is what is most important here. Please consider the following as a determination is made as to whether Hallahan should be given an Historical Designation:

"Did you know that 6,000 people showed up in the rain at John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School on October 1, 1911 for the laying of the #cornerstone that was blessed by Pope Pius X? Who happens to be a Saint !

The Philadelphia Sunday Morning newspaper said
"First Institution of it's kind in the US"

The cornerstone of Milanese granite was blessed and presented by Pope Pius X. On one side is a monogram of the Greek letters Alpha and Omega which passes across on the other side dated 1911 with a symbol of a cross on each side.

The Holy Father's gift was a public acknowledgement at his approval of the work which is being done in Philadelphia for the cause of Catholic education.

Did you know that a metallic box was placed in the cornerstone?
Sealed in the cornerstone was a metallic box containing a suitable inscription commemorative to the event. Various articles were placed in the cornerstone and sealed including a diocesan centennial metal badge worn by the school pupils, medals of the patron saints of the order that will teach in the school and the official program and description of the escutcheon of the school. Among the articles including a copy of the Catholic Standard and Times and clippings from daily papers relating to the event and coins of the United States from 1911."

If this isn't worthy of an historical designation, I can't imagine what the reason would be.

Please do whatever can be done to save Hallahan for the young girls of the future.

Sincerely,

Peg (Dooley) Balco

[Sent from the all new Aol app for iOS](#)

From: jeff kimbrell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:22 PM
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historical designation plea for Hallahan

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Good Evening Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Jeffrey Charles Kimbrell. I am a graduate of Mercy Vocational High School in Hunting Park from the Class of 1993. I am deeply rooted in my religious studies as I was also a member of Saint Martin of Tours parish from Oxford Circle in the Northeast section of Philadelphia. I am writing today to recommend the historical preservation of the John W. Hallahan High School located at 19th & Wood Street. This building has been highly documented to have been built in 1911 with a blessing from the Pope to rectify it with the corner stone blessing upon its opening. The architectural design, the inscription of the name and year of establishment, the Latin expression, and the stone work replicate the constructive style of the early 1900 era. The building is a landmark to the city of Philadelphia along with the thousands of young diverse women from Philadelphia who entered the halls and gained an amazing spiritual and academic experience for the last 120 years!

This building should be designated as historical because it mostly represents the construction style of its time. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely Yours,

Jeffrey Kimbrell



From: Mary B [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 8:21 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan High School - Historical Designation

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Dear Ms. Mehley:

According to preservationist Richard Moe, “There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here and there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody.” This statement encapsulates the importance of obtaining historical designation for John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls’ High School, located at 19th & Wood Streets, its home since 1911. Mary McMichan’s dream was to empower women with a catholic education, and pay tribute to her brother, John, in the process. The cornerstone of the building was laid on October 1, 1911, having first been blessed by Pope Pius X. In all the years since that day, Hallahan High has become the cornerstone of catholic education, tradition, values and morals for not only the thousands of girls who have walked those hallowed halls, but for the entire Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

From the magnificent chapel to the locker “pit”, one can actually *feel* the unity, beauty, tradition and history that results from 100+ years of the Hallahan sisterhood. Its stained-glass windows, beautiful architecture and central location are but a few things that ensconce Hallahan as a unique educational fixture in Philadelphia. Faced with the unfortunate slated closure of Hallahan, the stakes have never been higher, and we must preserve the history and legacy of the school’s home in the heart of our City of Brotherly Love. **Consider this, just as Philadelphia is the birthplace of America, Hallahan High School is the birthplace of catholic education for women in America.** This fact alone makes Hallahan High an integral part of Philadelphia history, and should help in its qualification for historical designation. In order to maintain the strong community ties and the highly regarded reputation Hallahan girls are known for throughout Center City and its surrounding areas, it is imperative that the Hallahan building be granted historical status at this time. Help us do as Richard Moe suggests, and save Hallahan’s structure so that we may preserve the communities and the values it embodies. Help us sustain Mary McMichan’s legacy so that the girls of Hallahan High may continue gracing our Center City streets with their tell-tale, color-coded shoelaces.

Hallahan and Philadelphia will forever be entwined in the identity of our great city. Rocky, soft pretzels, “wooder” ice and Hallahan, it’s all Philly to me. Let’s make it official with a historical designation for the home of our alma mater.

Respectfully,
Mary Kathryn Zielinski Benner ‘86

Allyson Mehley

From: Melissa Whalen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: SAVE HALLAHAN

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Hello,

My name is Melissa Whalen (MANN), Class of 1989. I would love to have Hallahan's Building saved and hopefully the school!! I have many wonderful memories of attending HALLAHAN!! I was a cheerleader for both Hallahan and Roman. I also was a member of Upward Bound and the Chorus. I always looked forward to the Hallahan Day performances and the sisterhood that we all had at HALLAHAN. The September after I graduated from Hallahan, my fiance was killed and I could think of nowhere I wanted to be the next day but to get on the 27 Septa bus and go down to Hallahan to get comfort from my Senior Year Religion Teacher, Sr. Charles Edward. Having the support of all the teachers continued years after graduation too. I sent my oldest daughter, Kayla Peter, to HALLAHAN and she would have graduated in 2007 but her life too was cut short when she was run down by a drunk driver just two days after completing her Sophomore year and jumping into the Fountain with her classmates. The teachers then, especially Sr. Ida Marie accompanied my family to many different events to make sure that we got "JUSTICE FOR KAYLA". Hallahan is more than a school, it's FAMILY! I would love to see that the building can be designated a Historical Site! It is the Oldest Catholic Girls High School in the country. I do have another daughter that I would love to have attend there to follow in her sister's and my footsteps.

Please help us SAVE HALLAHAN!!!!

Thank you,

Melissa Mann Whalen
HALLAHAN Class of 1989

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:42 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

Thank you for accepting John W Hallahan Catholic Girls High School's application for Historical Designation.

Hallahan was the first Diocesan All Girls Catholic High School in the country. It was opened to give girls from all backgrounds the opportunity to receive an education that is steeped in academics and faith. Sadly, our faith is being tested. Our beloved school is closing. Our school, which for many, is where we learned that the world is bigger and more diverse than our childhood neighborhoods.

The building itself is a testament to the strength of the women who came before. They paved the way for future generations by showing us that there is no obstacle they we can't overcome. The opportunities that were afforded to us because of them are countless. Knowing that I walked the same halls as these women is truly humbling.

These women, past and present, are my sisters and I am truly honored to be a part of the legacy that is Hallahan. The pride I feel for being a Hallahan Girls is immense. I hope and pray that this is not the end of our story

Sincerely,

Theresa Quarino-Poulos
Class of 1983

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Leticia Laboy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:13 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical commission letter
Attachments: John W. Hallahan H.S..docx

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Here is my letter!!!

Thank you

Leticia Laboy '74

From: Lisa Gratzinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 7:03 PM
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Building Historical Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Lisa Gratzinger. I am a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School from the Class of 1986. I began my studies at Hallahan in 1982 where I was greatly blessed to join the thousands of young women who had come before me since 1911 to join this community of sisterhood. Hallahan was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

In the late 1800s, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia began to discuss the need for a school to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five "High School Centres" in 1901 which paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. Upon the death of Mary McMichan, the name of the school was changed to John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School in honor of her brother, as she requested.

The building's façade marks 1911 as the construction year in Roman Numerals above the 19th street entryway. The building has rich exterior detail encompassing English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew letters, numbers, and symbols that represent the architecture design from the early 1900s. The resurrection of this building was meant to be a historical part of our great city. For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design that represents the construction style of its time. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your help in our mission!
Sincerely Yours,
Lisa Gratzinger
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

In God We Trust

From: Brigitte McKillip [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 6:40 PM
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Brigitte Binkowski-Mckillip. I am a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School from the Class of 1993. I began my studies at Hallahan in 1989 where I was greatly blessed to join the thousands of young women who had come before me since 1911 to join this community of sisterhood. I have been a Philadelphia resident for 45 years where I have met numerous women who have been apart of this Hallahan tradition themselves along with generations of women in their own family. The Hallahan School building was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

In the late 1800s, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia began to discuss the need for a school to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five "High School Centres" in 1901 which paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. Upon the death of Mary McMichan, the name of the school was changed to John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School in honor of her brother, as she requested.

The building's façade marks 1911 as the construction year in Roman Numerals above the 19th street entryway. The building has rich exterior detail encompassing English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew letters, numbers, and symbols that represent the architecture design from the early 1900s. The resurrection of this building was meant to be a historical part of our great city. For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design that represents the construction style of its time. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethnic backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely Yours,
Brigitte McKillip

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joy Kimbrell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Building Historical Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Joy Maloney-Kimbrell. I am a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School from the Class of 1993. I began my studies at Hallahan in 1989 where I was greatly blessed to join the thousands of young women who had come before me since 1911 to join this community of sisterhood. Hallahan was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

In the late 1800s, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia began to discuss the need for a school to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five "High School Centres" in 1901 which paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. Upon the death of Mary McMichan, the name of the school was changed to John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School in honor of her brother, as she requested.

The building's façade marks 1911 as the construction year in Roman Numerals above the 19th street entryway. The building has rich exterior detail encompassing English, Latin, Greek, and

Hebrew letters, numbers, and symbols that represent the architecture design from the early 1900s. The resurrection of this building was meant to be a historical part of our great city. For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design that represents the construction style of its time. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely Yours,

Joy Kimbrell

[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Marge Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Attachments: Hallahan historic designation letter.docx

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Attached is a letter in support for the historical designation of our school.

Thank you.

Marge Murphy

February 22, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission

Re: Historical Designation for
John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School
319 N. 19th Street & 312 N. 18th Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

Dear Members of the Historical Commission,

Please accept this letter in support of the designation of the buildings, known as John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School, to be declared as historical in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places.

I am a "senior citizen" and a proud member of the Class of 1964 of Hallahan. Therefore, I had the privilege a few years ago to become a "Golden Graduate" (a graduate who reached 50 years since graduation). The joy and friendship of those days and events spent with many of my classmates (over 100 out of over 500 members of the class) will always be a treasured memory. One of the highlights, was the opportunity to literally go back to our beloved school building and savor the history of our roots. Oh, how we smiled and shared stories and wondered how we ever fit into the cafeteria seats and all 500 plus of us in our class in the gym for events – not to mention the entire student body!

An all girls' high school was unique as was the building. Most of us were row-house young women who came together and learned respect for ourselves, those who came before us (as many of our families and friends had) and those who would be lucky enough to follow in our footsteps. We loved our school and came to love and respect the history of the building, its founders and benefactors.

We were taught, at the ripe age of about 15, to learn about our historical building. This building was an integral part of our beloved City. We learned to appreciate its uniqueness. It was centrally located in the City so we now had friends from Fairmount, North Philly, Allegheny, Roxborough, Chinatown, Kensington and East Falls. Public Transportation was available. The proximity to Center City afforded us with many job opportunities for after school work.

Employers sought us out. We were well educated, confident, reliable and trustworthy. We could type and do shorthand for many impressed bosses. Banks loved our “outward decorum”. Some of these traits came with rules inside that building that said uniforms had to be 2 inches below the knees, no teased hair-dos and one never smokes nor does anything offensive in uniform.

Someone else could come to our school today for a visit and think of nothing but what a facelift could do for it. Our graduates believe what is inside that building – its beauty, its history, the class mosaics adorning the halls, our lovely Lady of Hallahan corner and its foundation for integrity - stand testament in a changing world of the value of a solid foundation. Our students felt a responsibility to make the founders proud of what they had so generously bestowed in building a fortress for our education.

You are free to check out my facebook page (Margie Rapone Murphy). Who would have thought in 1964 that today over 100 of my lovely classmates are still connected via facebook to ask for a prayer, send a greeting or share a memory. How lucky to have walked the hallowed halls together in that cherished building! You know, when I was in that school, no one ever mentioned accepting people who were different from you. It was done without question and we were all one as part of our class.

Personally, for the last year I have been living in a historic home. It is the oldest home in Bucks County – built in 1765. My husband and I live with our son and his teenage daughter and eleven year-old son. We walk on old, beautifully-finished wooden floors that sometimes creek. We adjust to old radiator heating in the very cold winter. The children are fascinated with the fireplace in each room of the three-story home. We have learned that every teenage girl does not have a walk-in closet! It has become, in a year, a warm old house which has been strongly built and well taken care of. We now appreciate history a little more and wonder about all the people who lived here. The history and value of our home is being appreciated and respected. Thank God no one tore it down to build condos. Our family loves the honor of living in this historic building.

Please designate the well-built and maintained buildings of 319 N. 19th Street and 312 N. 18th Street, just off the historic Benjamin Franklin Parkway, as historical buildings. The thousands of women who were educated there are all hoping and praying you do so.

Perhaps we need to realize that the beauty and historical significance of a building is much deeper than can be seen on the surface.

Let me end this respectful request with a quote from the late President John F. Kennedy from my 1964 yearbook –

“. . . and the glow from that fire (building?) can truly light the world”!

Respectfully yours,

Margaret M. Murphy



P.S. Many religious vocations and successful citizens had their roots planted and nourished in this historic building.

Allyson Mehley

From: L Sells [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 4:25 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan, Please!

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Hello,

I am a proud alumnae of John W. Hallahan, my story, like that of many others, is one of tradition. I am a third generation graduate who had hopes of sending my daughter to Hallahan in a few years. While this seems to be impossible now, I am writing to you today to ask that you accept the application for the historical designation.

The Hallahan building is a Philadelphia staple for many of us and should maintain that way. The architecture is as historic as the bonds this building has birthed.

Please don't let such a beautiful monument in our city be ruined by another housing project that has already overcrowded our city. There's plenty of undeveloped land elsewhere.

Thank you for your time.

Lauren Knight, Class of 2002

Allyson Mehley

From: Bernadette Mooney [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:21 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historic Designation of John W. Hallahan

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Hello,

I'm writing to you because I believe that Hallahan should be designated a historic site. It has beautiful architecture and an incredibly rich history. It was the first all girl Catholic high school in the nation which is a fact that in itself makes Hallahan noteworthy and historic. It has also educated tens of thousands of girls over the years and provided an amazing opportunity for female advancement in Philadelphia. Almost every Philadelphia native knows someone who has gone to Hallahan and it has become more than just a building, it has become a center for a community. Over the years, it has become a landmark of our beautiful city and to see it destroyed because it wasn't deemed a historical site would be a tragedy.

Thank you for your time,

Bernadette Mooney (Class of 2021)

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: John W. Hallahan historical designation.

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Guy Campanella [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Feb 23, 2021 at 12:59 PM
Subject: John W. Hallahan historical designation.
To: <Allison.Mehley@phila.gov>, <FriendsofHallahan@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I write you today to express my opinion on why John W. Hallahan should be designated as a historical building. I would guess at this point you've heard every opinion and idea that can be imagined. However, each of my sisters have, I'm sure added their own personal experiences that have only enhanced the reasons behind our quest to save this beautiful building that has meant so much to so many. You can add mine to your growing list.

The building of John W. Hallahan has served as a beacon of Catholic education in this city since 1911. It's a building that has somehow managed to stay beautiful and stand strong and stoic despite its age. If only the rest of us could say the same.

You need to understand what this building, yes the building itself has meant to so many young women in this city and beyond for so many years. I speak from experience to say that still, till this day, the site of Hallahan gives me pride to the point of chills.

In this time within this city when so much is questionable and tradition is thrown aside for anything and everything that's new and modern, it is imperative for us to do whatever we can to maintain the buildings in this city that have stood the test of time. That have been the reason that our city is what it is today. The women that emerged from that building that have gone on to become the business leaders of this city and country is testament enough as to what a building like the one that stands at 19th & Callowhill means to the history of this city. It will forever be known as the FIRST all girls Catholic high school. How can that be cast aside like it hasn't meant anything to the history of this city. I maintain that it can't and most certainly, shouldn't.

I am going to take a little time to get personal. I come from a family of seven. All boys to Roman Catholic and all girls, all four of us, to Hallahan. We struggled like all families did back then. Our father, a proud Philadelphia policeman who rose to the rank of Inspector before retiring. There was never any question as to where we would attend. Both of my parents knew the sacrifices it would take to send all of their children to a Catholic high school but they made it happen. The pride that shown on my fathers face, every time he got to say that his girls went to Hallahan was unmistakeable. Even as he sat with a much wealthier relative where their children went to a private school, he would still maintain that there was no education like the one "his girls" received at Hallahan.

I, a mother of four, followed that same path. Son to Roman Catholic and all three of my girls to John W. Hallahan. I can say without a doubt, I know now the pride my parents felt when they sent us "downtown" because my husband and I

felt that very same pride. Our children all went on to college and are successful in their careers which I attribute first to their Catholic education and to John W. Hallahan that not only gave them a first rate education but one with diversity. They are proud graduates as is their mother.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely

Mrs. Anne Marie Campanella '81

Mother of

Annette Campanella Angelo '09

Alaina Campanella Venezia '11

Andrea Campanella '14

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Suzanne Edinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 12:52 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Letter re: Hallahan
Attachments: Natalie Fox Entz HH letter updated.docx

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Suzanne Edinger

February 22, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you because Hallahan High School is worthy of the distinction of being named a historical building.

As I drive down 18th street on the way to Logan Circle, I always admire the beautiful stone and brickwork that covered the building. The details of the saints that are carved on the outside are incredible. The cross and school seal sculpted in stone are a masterpiece. To think Mary McMichan accomplished the building and creating a high school at a time when women could not even vote. It was a source of international pride when Pope Pius sent the cornerstone. At the cornerstone laying on April 29, 1911, Mrs. McMichan was the only woman to turn the first shovel of dirt and the theme of the day was "Catholic Womanhood." This building is a symbol of a woman who accomplished so much with so many barriers in place. Mrs. McMichan could have chosen to spend her inheritance on anything. She chose to build a high school to serve the poor immigrants and poverty-stricken factory workers children, the building should be preserved.

As I was in mass this weekend, I was thinking about the beautiful out cove at the end of the main hallway, the Virgin Mary's Grotto. There were many times as a student I would receive great comfort while looking at the statue of Mary and beautiful stained-glass details. The building fosters in me social, emotional, physical, and spiritual tranquility. It makes me delighted to be in Philadelphia.

This building is truly an example of "Humane Architecture", as mentioned by Thomas Hylton in his book "Save Our Land, Save Our Town." A city like Philadelphia with a unique urban design needs to preserve this jewel just north of the parkway.

This building should be preserved because of its beauty, the legacy of Mrs. McMichan, it's Human Architecture for the city of Philadelphia and my connection to 311 N. 19th street!

Alma Mater Glorify!

Respectfully yours,

Natalie Fox Entz '2000

On behalf of my family:

Patricia Fischetti, 1954

Joyce Fischetti Pointdexter, 1957

Lucy Fox Pytel, 1969

Deborah Fischetti, 1970

Denise Fischetti Fox, 1971

Caroline Fox Guerin, 1971

Donna Ewald McCullough, 1972

Phyllis Ewald Semless, 1975

Lisa Fischetti Madden, 1981

Jill Fischetti Gibbs, 1984

Carol Anne Pytel Hutt, 1990

Marybeth Fox, 1990

From: Cost, Dana [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:17 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: J.W. Hallahan High School

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Hello Allyson,

I know you have received many letters for Hallahan but I felt the need to add mine to the list. In a time when we are trying hard to empower women and break the glass ceilings Hallahan does that and has done that for over 100 years. That building has produced amazing women and it should be recognized for that. If those walls could talk think of the stories it would tell you! There is so much history involved and it would be a huge disservice to the Philadelphia area and the countless women who have attended and will attend the amazing school that is Hallahan.

I am a proud 1983 graduate and my first question when meeting someone from Philadelphia is where did you go to school. That does not mean college, it means what high school. That is because of the pride we all have for our school!!

It is my hope that you will make this a historical designation and honor all those that have walked those halls and give the chance to future young women to walk them.

Sincerely,

Dana Little Cost '83

CEO, Quality Data Services Inc.

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Allyson Mehley

From: preservation
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fw: [External] Historical Designation Letters
Attachments: Hallahan letter.docx

From: Helen M. Burke [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:22 AM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Cc: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: [External] Historical Designation Letters

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Good morning,
Please see my attached letter in support of John W. Hallahan High School for Girls
Preservation.
Sincerely,
Helen M. Burke
John W. Hallahan High School for Girls
Class of 1974

February 23, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of the historical designation of John W. Hallahan High School for Girls becoming a certified historical building and hopefully remaining open for the future young catholic women of this fine, historical city of sister and brotherly love.

I understand the value of the real estate of this piece of land and it's wonderful location but the value of my education and life learning experiences from having graduated from Hallahan are immeasurable and cannot compare to whatever is being built at this location. If they demolish this building and take away the opportunities of the young woman who want to continue their the education here it will really display the inequality afforded our young catholic woman in this City and Archdiocese of Philadelphia will certainly send a message to all Catholics and Christians just what the Catholic church in Philadelphia stands for and sadly to say, it is not in the best interest of its congregation.

I have always benefited from my education and Hallahan's awesome reputation of sending responsible young woman out into the working world in the City of Philadelphia or on to higher education at Universities and Community Colleges.

In my 4 years at Hallahan, I was able to hold a job and help my parents and even contribute to my tuition and assorted other school related financial issues because of the proximity and reputation of attending Hallahan High School. One of the main reasons for this was its location in Philadelphia. The job market for High School students in the downtown area were plentiful. Another wonderful aspect of Hallahan was its diversity of race and nationality. I attended school with African Americans, Hispanics and even Native Americans along with my White Irish, Italian and Polish friends from other parishes all over the City. The school when I attended in 1970-74 afforded a wonderful mix of students, white, black and Hispanic from different areas of the city. That alone has allowed Hallahan graduates a huge asset in making our way in the world, especially in the City of Philadelphia.

Sine my graduation from Hallahan, I went on to work at Temple University and have worked there for 45 years. While Peter Liacouras was President of the University from 1982 – 2000, I was his secretary for 15 years of that time period until he retired in 2000. I remember when I was being interviewed by the Staff in his office and the President himself for the position, how they acknowledge the fact that I was a Hallahan graduate and it's reputation spoke for itself. I believe along with my excellent typing skills acquired at Hallahan, all this combined with my already 16 years' experience of working at the University I believe all this combined were the main reasons I was hired for that very important and highly esteemed position at Temple University.

I sent my son to Roman Catholic High School, to continue the Catholic Education that I have always believed in and was grateful for having had even though my father and both brother's went to North Catholic my son was going to attend Hallahan's brother school Roman Catholic. And again, it was it's reputation and location that I believed with help him with his future. And he was able to work and go to High School helping me financially by having an afterschool job while attending school.

I am becoming more and more saddened and disappointed in the how the Archdiocese of Philadelphia could allow this to happen. There didn't seem to be much of a fight for our young woman who desperately would like to continue as students at Hallahan High.

Instead of demolishing an already historic landmark in Philadelphia that is a tribute to the "First Catholic All Girls High School in North America" establish this site as a monument to the American Female who has and will continue to be enriched by the spiritual and educational enhancement received by attending John W. Hallahan High School for Girls.

Sincerely,

Helen M. Burke,

John W. Hallahan High School for Girls

Class of 1974

Allyson Mehley

From: Megan McDonnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:15 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: Hallahan High School

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Good Morning,

I am writing to you because I truly believe that Hallahan High school is worthy of the distinction of being listed as historical within the city of Philadelphia.

Seeing the words on the outside of the building written in different languages really makes this building special. Philadelphia has such a diverse history and culture, this building just adds to the history of Philadelphia, and, being right off of the Parkway, with the many flags from different countries, it shows that all are welcome not only in Philadelphia, but at Hallahan. That's just the OUTSIDE! Let me tell you about the INSIDE and the heart of Hallahan..

Growing up I heard many stories from my mom and my aunts about their years at Hallahan. They talked about traveling into Center City and meeting girls from all over Philadelphia during their four years. They talked about walking into the building and knowing it was the place they were supposed to be. They had after school jobs within Center City and to them Hallahan was Center City Philadelphia.

When it came time for me to choose a high school, I decided on a public school but I still had to travel through Center City to get to the high school I went to in Roxborough. Every day I saw girls going to Hallahan. Going to the main branch of the library to work on school projects, the Hallahan building was right there. It's a part of Philadelphia, even to those that did not go to the school.

I now have a 14 year old daughter. She grew up hearing stories of Hallahan, the sisterhood and the wonderful opportunity of going to high school in the middle of Center City. She walked through the doors of Hallahan for her placement test, came home and told me that the building felt like home to her. She knew it was where she was meant to be. I'm so lucky to be able to send my daughter to this amazing school and for her to be walking the hallways of history. The Hallahan building IS history. The nation's first all girls Catholic School, this is a legacy that Philadelphia is proud of, this is a building that Philadelphia is proud of. It's home to many generations. I'm proud to be the daughter of a Hallahan graduate and the mother of a Hallahan student. Please allow this building to continue to be the historic site it is.

Thank you,
Megan McDonnell

--

Megan McDonnell

From: CATHERIN Centofante [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation

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Hello Allyson...my name is Kate Centofante and I am an alumnae of John W. Hallahan Catholic High School for Girls.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

I am writing today to let you know how much this school means to me and so many others.

It is a Philadelphia institution with reach far beyond the Philadelphia area.

Hallahan helped to give us the foundation for our life's journey.

And the woman of Hallahan have gone on to be part of society in more ways then can be listed here.

The first girls Catholic high school in the country.

And after all, Philadelphia is a City of Firsts....

- The first city to grant religious freedom.
- The first hospital...Pennsylvania Hospital.
- The first Zoo
- The first museum and art school - Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts
- And the list goes on and on.

Another first is the first public library founded by Benjamin Franklin.

Our grand library sits proudly on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway the thoroughfare named for the library's founder.

And on 19th Streets very close to the library sits HALLAHAN.

Two beautiful and iconic structures only steps from each other and both can be claimed as firsts.

Hallahan's exterior though, is much simpler than the that of the library but nonetheless beautiful in it's semi-colonial style.

With it's clean, simple exterior lines, to me, it represents the alumnae of the school.

Daughters of the simpler, modest working class of Philadelphia and not from the city's elite.

We must give this Institution Historical Designation.

Hallahan...our beloved school, this gem of a building, is a long time fixture of the Philadelphia landscape and it must be saved.

Philadelphia would lose a huge part of it's visual history if this school is torn down only to house another high rise or parking lot.

Our beautiful city needs to keep historic structures in place...it is part of our history..it is part of Philadelphia.

Thank you for you consideration and may you stay safe and well.

Best Regards,

Catherine (Kate) Centofante
Class of 1974

From: Diane Travaline [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation Letter

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Hello,

My name is Diane DiWilliams Travaline and I am a graduate of the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, Class of 1983. I am the fourth of my sisters who attended and loved Hallahan. I am the mother of a 2006 graduate, the mother in law of a 2009 graduate, as well as a daughter in law of a 1952 graduate and the aunt of 6 nieces who graduated from Hallahan. Most importantly, I am the grandmother of three future Hallahan graduates, God willing. I am writing this letter in the hopes of having our beloved Hallahan building be historically designated.

When thinking of or speaking of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, many things come to mind. Obviously, all of the usual things that people feel about their high school days.....nostalgia, youth, camaraderie, friendships, and fun just to name a few. But the feelings for this particular school go much deeper than the usual thoughts.

Although Hallahan, (as it is fondly referred to by EVERYONE) has all of the attributes a Catholic high school should have on the inside, it also has other elements that invoke a passion on the outside.

Flashback for me personally, 50 years. My grandparents lived in Collingswood, New Jersey and we would visit most weekends. My father, a Philadelphia Police Inspector, would drive the family from Roxborough to Center City to get to Vine Street and continue on to the Ben Franklin Bridge. Each and every drive there, the same thing would be echoed by my parents loudly to me, "Diane, look! There is the Hallahan building!!! That's where you are going to go to school one day!! Hurry, look, to the left...the big brown brick building with the cross on top!!! We're passing it! That beautiful building! It's hidden back there but you can still see it! They don't make buildings like that anymore"! This same thing (pretty much word for word) was repeated each drive on Vine Street!

Certainly, a child cannot appreciate a building. But even at age 14, when I walked in that breathtaking entrance on Wood Street for the first time as a student, I KNEW I was walking into some place special, walking into history.

You cannot enter that building or stand on the four sidewalks/corners of that building outside and not feel like you are looking up at history!!! You can't help but think of everyone who came before you. You realize just what that building meant to this city, this country, at the time that it was built! THE first Catholic all girls high school in the country!!! It meant so much to so many! Women of faith were FINALLY being respected and valued. For one woman, Mary McMichan, this became her mission! THAT'S A PART OF HISTORY FOR THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA!

You can't speak about Philadelphia, without thinking of the birthplace of America! Hallahan became the birthplace for Catholic women's education in America! That cannot be viewed lightly! To not respect the cornerstone of Catholic women's education and the long awaited valuing of women, would be a crime! This building represents the coming up of women in America!!

It needs to be designated HISTORICAL!

On a more personal note, I have many "favorites" when thinking about what part of the building I like the best. First and foremost, it's rich history. You can't help but "feel" the women who came before you and the empowerment and opportunities they were finally given. As for the building's physical features, the transom stained glass window in the main entrance on Wood Street is as beautiful as anything I've ever seen. The life size crucifix of Jesus Christ on the second floor Hallahan puts you in awe as you look upon it. The architecture of the Blessed Mother grotto takes your breath away as you kneel to pray to her.

On the outside of the building on Wood Street, you can physically see where the two buildings were joined. Just incredible! On the inside in that same spot, at the top of the staircase that connects the buildings, you can see the outside bricks "inside" and physically touch them. It's a reminder of what Hallahan was and what it has become! In the basement there is a ramp where the buildings were connected and you walk down a hill (if you will) to the gym. Talk about charm!!! Outside on the 19th Street entrance, you can look up and see the cross, our symbol of faith at the top and then the incredible detail to the school seal beneath! Just awesome! Lastly, many days us Hallahan girls exited the building on Carlton Street, walking up the steps out of the "pit" to be deposited in the back of the building. Walking down that alley way of Carlton Street, even a teenage girl felt and could appreciate the history there!

The importance of this school to this city spreads far and wide. First, Hallahan is located in a central area of the city. If Hallahan is closed, so many of the girls who attend will no longer have a Catholic girls school or any Catholic High School to attend that is convenient to their homes. That will result in many of these girls going to their local public school. They will not get the education there that they will get at Hallahan, nor will they get the moral compass that Hallahan stresses. Secondly, Hallahan has an extremely diverse student body. There are girls of all different ethnic backgrounds from all areas of the city. Inside those doors, there is no color barrier. I speak from experience. If anything this past year has shown us in Philadelphia and around the country, diversity is paramount!! Lastly, thousands of Center City Businesses/Corporations hire Hallahan girls for not only after school employment but for internships. Therefore, having a place for them to return after they attend college. These partnerships between Hallahan and many local businesses will no longer exist and therefore, preclude these girls from obtaining promising employment opportunities for their future.

Again, I remind you that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School is the first Catholic all girls high school in the United States. It was the model for all other Catholic high schools. You can't just erase history! This fact has to count for something.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Diane DiWilliams Travaline
Class of 1983

From: Denise Baron [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 11:41 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Lisa Kahuila
Subject: First Institution of its kind in US - Pope Pius X sends stone to Philadelphia
Attachments: Screen Shot 2021-01-19 at 12.23.32 PM.PNG; Screen Shot 2021-01-19 at 12.14.44 PM.PNG; Screen Shot 2021-01-30 at 9.57.53 AM.PNG; Screen Shot 2021-01-30 at 9.57.41 AM.PNG; Screen Shot 2021-01-26 at 7.43.03 AM.PNG

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Dear Allyson

Thank you for considering John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School historical application.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School building is substantial in size with a dignified design of simplicity. Everyone involved with building our school had the farsighted for the mental and physical well-being of the 20th century young woman.

JWH was the "first institution of its kind in the US" per the Philadelphia Sunday Morning paper back in 1911.

The cornerstone of Milanese granite was blessed and presented by Pope Pius X. On one side is a monogram of the Greek letters Alpha and Omega which passes across on the other side dated 1911 with a symbol of a cross on each side.

The Holy Father's gift was a public acknowledgement at his approval of the work which is being done in Philadelphia for the cause of Catholic education. 6,000 people came out in the rain for the laying of the cornerstone on October 1, 1911.

Did you know that a metallic box was placed in the cornerstone?

Sealed in the cornerstone was a metallic box containing a suitable inscription commemorative to the event. Various articles were placed in the corner stone and sealed including a diocesan centennial metal badge worn by the school pupils, medals of the patron saints of the order that will teach in the school and the official program and description of the escutcheon of the school. Among the articles including a copy of the Catholic Standard and Times and clippings from daily papers relating to the event and coins of the United States state at 1911.

Besides the building being blessed by two Saints (St. John Neumann and St. Pius) Great detail, time and research went into selecting inspiring women for the outside of the building.

The names of the women inscribed on the building were chosen carefully.

Saint Cecilia patron of music

Saint Helena foundress of churches

Saint Brigid of Ireland First Woman educator Saint Gertrude lover of books Saint Margaret of Scotland promoter of Christianity Saint Elizabeth of Hungary devoted to the poor Joan of arc Saint & patriot Isabella of Castile Friends of Columbus Vittoria Colonnade patron of art Saint Teresa seraph of Spain Margaret Roper model daughter Saint Rose of Lima rose of the southern cross Katerina Tekawitha Lily of the Mohawks

Our school building is more than a landmark it a place that has educated 37,000 women in the City of Brotherly Love founded by a generous pioneering woman who empower young women.

I am writing on behalf of my sister Diane Baron Regalbuto Class of 1995, my niece, Antonia Regalbuto Class of 2014 and myself Class of 1985 as well my late grandmother Elizabeth McCullough who attended Hallahan High School.

Super Gratitude

Denise Baron

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Christina Kurz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:31 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Designation as Historic
Attachments: Ltr to Historic Society Closure of Hallahan.pdf

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Attached please find my letter regarding the consideration of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as historic.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Christina Kurz, Class of 1984
[REDACTED]

CHRISTINA A. KURZ

February 22, 2021

Allyson.Mehley@phila.gov

Re: Historic Designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

Dear Ms. Mehley:

I am writing to you about the proposed historic designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. I am sure you are quite familiar with the historic facts to be considered. I wanted you to hear the prospective of a graduate and proud alum of Hallahan.

When I walked through the doors of Hallahan in 1980 as a freshman, it was merely by chance. As one of 8 kids, my two older sisters had attended Little Flower, so even though my feeder school was Hallahan, I had a choice to follow in their footsteps and attend LF. I opted to attend Hallahan because my friends were going there, but also because of its central location to downtown Philadelphia. I was excited to travel to Center City every day, and the opportunities that Hallahan's location provided me. I didn't realize then what those four years would come to mean to me.

I was an awkward freshman. You may think all freshman are, but a lot of my friends weren't. I was a redhead (not a popular hair color back then), had giant glasses, and was overweight. I was decidedly an introvert and didn't have many friends, having only attended two years at St. Anne's Grade School in Port Richmond. I had previously attended Visitation BVM in Kensington. I was so lucky though because the friends that I made at St. Anne's were great girls.

Traveling to Hallahan every day meant a bus ride on the "25" bus, the Market-Frankford el, a ride on the "C" bus, and then walking several blocks through Center City to 19th and Wood. My friends and I made this trip every day. We survived freezing cold weather, almost daily transportation delays, missed bus connections, and at least two transit strikes. There were times during the strike that we would walk home from Center City to our neighborhoods after being in school all day. In order to get to school during those strikes, we would sometimes have to hop a ride with one of our parents and be at school by 6:30 a.m.

I came out of my shell at Hallahan. There was such a diverse mix of girls there that I made friends from several different neighborhoods. We all did. For a lot of the girls in my neighborhood, it was their first experience with girls of another race. But we all had one central thing in common: Hallahan. For sure it wasn't pretty all the time, but we all made it work. We all wanted to belong to the Hallahan sisterhood. It didn't matter who we were before we walked through those doors, we knew even then what being a Hallahan graduate meant. We all depended on our friends, both old and new, to get us there. We knew when we graduated we would be alums of the first Catholic girls high school in the country! Such an honor.

In my sophomore year, my dad was in a car accident. My tuition started to stack up. I was working part time at a law firm but being 15 years old, I wasn't making much of a dent in it. A few months into my junior year, one of the business teachers, Sister Ida Marie, approached me with a proposal. The Office of Catholic Education needed a data entry clerk for two of the nuns there, Sister Margaret Angela and Sister Bernadette Joseph. In exchange for working there, the diocese would take \$5.00 off my tuition for every hour that I worked. I spent three years at the Diocese, working on days off, afternoons after school, and two summers. I was able to pay all of my tuition for my 10th, 11th and 12th grade by mid-senior year. That is how much I wanted to graduate Hallahan. As one of eight kids, I couldn't have attended any other way.

By junior year I was working on the stage crew for our plays, working at the Diocese and going to school. When one of us struggled with a subject, we tried to help each other out. I remember riding the bus with my girlfriends with our textbooks out, putting in some last minute studying before a test that day, or sitting by the lockers doing the same thing.

So many great memories of tradition and community – Hallahan Days, candy sales, fountain jumping, so many different clubs, rallies for our girls' teams, chicken fat at gym (ok that one was not one of our favorites) - all traditions that bonded us together.

I also knew that when I graduated Hallahan, college was not an option for me. I needed to work. Sr. Ida Marie and Sr. Francis Christi helped all of us obtain job interviews, but they did so much more. They schooled us on interviewing, the dos and don'ts, how to ask and answer questions, etc. They also drilled into our heads that whether we wore a uniform or not, we represented Hallahan and we should always remember that.

After two interviews, I was fortunate enough to be hired as a secretarial trainee at a prominent law firm downtown. The only candidates interviewed for this position were graduates of Catholic high schools. A couple of hundred girls were interviewed, and sixteen were selected.

On the first day of training, I walked in and saw a familiar face – a girl from Little Flower who I had met at the Business contests the diocese used to have. We became fast friends, and we are still friends today. One of the lessons I always kept at the forefront of my mind – I represented John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School.

Hallahan gave me the confidence to commute back and forth into Center City every day beginning at the age of 14. Hallahan gave me the confidence to be hired to work in one of the largest law firms in Philadelphia at the age of 17. I have been a legal secretary, a legal assistant, a Help Desk technician, a Software Trainer, and a Billing Coordinator. All of these positions have been in law firms and the only formal education I have ever had was John W. Hallahan.

My education at Hallahan has absolutely shaped my career. I learned the importance of hard work, respect, discipline, and teamwork. I learned how to work with many different types of people in various situations. I have managed to move up and around in a tough environment based on skills I learned at Hallahan.

My younger sister also attended Hallahan and is a 1991 graduate. Her daughter is currently a sophomore at Hallahan and has blossomed into a self confident young lady in her time there. She will have the option to go to college but not all of her classmates will. Some girls

will go out into the world after their high school graduation and immediately start working just like I did. I worry about what will happen to them if they do not have the sisterhood that I was so blessed to experience to help them get their start in the world.

Designating Hallahan as a historic building could be the first step in saving our school and our community. The blatant disrespect and arrogance demonstrated by the diocese and Faith in the Future is appalling. The fact that the decision to close our school was decided by a group of men with no input from our staff, parents or alumnae association demonstrates why the need for schools like Hallahan exists. We must continue to empower women to thrive in the face of adversity, to fight for what they believe is right, and to change the world, one step at a time.

Closing Hallahan would be like blowing out a candle on an amazing legacy. I am sure when Father (later Bishop) McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan founded our school, they could only have dreamed of the footprint Hallahan would leave on generations of women, who entered the halls as scared young girls, but came out proud, confident women. Hallahan's reputation in the business community is unrivaled. Our alum represent all walks of life: doctors, lawyers, teachers, radiology technicians, secretaries, moms and grand moms, etc. Yet we are all linked by our sisterhood. We are bonded together in a mission to save our school. To save the powerful legacy and community that Hallahan represents.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter.

Respectfully,

Christina A. Kurz

Christina A. Kurz
Class of 1984

cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 7:20 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Re: John W. Hallahan

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

The closing of John W Hallahan Catholic Girls High goes beyond the loss of another high school designated explicitly for young women's education (which is a travesty in itself). It is also the end of a long list of history-making moments, some small, some large. And all of these moments have occurred and been witnessed in Hallahan's building halls located at 19th and Wood Streets in Philadelphia

In 1911, Hallahan became the first Diocesan all-girls Catholic, high school in the United States. Through the years, Hallahan has welcomed the daughters of Philadelphia families. These young women represented families from all walks of life and all family backgrounds. They were daughters of long-standing working-class Philadelphia families. They were daughters of immigrants whose own parents came to this country to make a better life for their children, and they were daughters of mothers and fathers who never had the benefit of a high school education. The building that sits at the corner of 19th and Wood is not just a building. It represents the history of young girls, their families, and the quest to ensure young women's opportunity to receive a quality education.

My family history is part of Hallahan's history. My mother, the daughter of Irish immigrants, graduated from Hallahan in 1944. She was one of 10 children, eight girls and two boys. And 6 of the girls went to Hallahan. My Aunt Mary, class 1943, was the first female in her family to graduate from high school. My sister and I went to Hallahan (class of 1975 and 1980) to continue the tradition.

My family is only a small example of how the history of Hallahan is part of so many family histories in the region. Beyond the historical significance of being the first all-girl Catholic high school in the country, the history made and experiences witnessed in the building since 1911 only adds to why the John W. Hallahan building should be deemed a historic structure.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Dismissing the historical significance of Hallahan, located in historic Philadelphia, would be a grave injustice.

Regards,

Kathy Donnelly McGady, Hallahan Class of 1975

Allyson Mehley

From: Nan Gallagher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School
Attachments: Letter to Philadelphia Historic Commission..doc

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Dear Allyson Mehley:

I am pleased to submit the attached letter in support of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated as a building on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Gallagher, Retired President, JWHCGHS (2003-2010)

Margaret A. Gallagher
4319 Meadowridge Lane
Collegeville, PA 19426

Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Allyson Mehley:

It is my privilege to write in support of designating John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School a building on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. This building is a testament to and for women.

As the first Diocesan High School for women in Philadelphia and the United States, Hallahan has had a singular purpose to provide a quality education for the young women of Philadelphia. As important as the purpose of the school is, it is no less important than the uniqueness of the building itself.

Because Hallahan was dedicated to educating women, the building itself is, a testament to women. From the images of both Biblical and Saintly Catholic women carved around the façade to the priceless D'Asenzo and Mayer-stained glass windows throughout the building, women are depicted and celebrated.

The exterior is specific to the architecture of 1910. The marble steps at the Main Entrance are distinct. The interior contains beautiful scored concrete floors and invaluable hardwood floors. The stained-glass ceiling in the third-floor auditorium is a work of art.

If this building is not placed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, the preservation of this building which exhibits unique architecture, a façade dedicated to women, priceless stained glass and beautiful marble could easily be lost forever.

Sincerely,
Margaret A. Gallagher, Retired President, JWHCGHS (2003-2010)

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 6:27 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Hallahan Nomination letter
Attachments: EE8FC3D2-BC34-4A52-8A0E-43A0EF3BFC2E.jpeg

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Krystal Whalin [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 5:26 PM
Subject: Hallahan Nomination letter
To: Lisa Kahuila <Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

I received notice that my email to Allyson Mehley was blocked. Could you forward my email to her?

Thank you!!

[REDACTED] message -----
From: Krystal Whalin [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021
Subject: Hallahan Nomination letter
To: "Allyson.mehley@phila.gov" <Allyson.mehley@phila.gov>
Cc: Lisa Kahuila <Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing this letter in regards to nominating Hallahan's building for historic preservation. The building known as John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School has such special significance for many. Not only did the building house the first all girls Catholic school in the country, it became a staple in the neighborhood. There is so much history to the building, from the cornerstone laying by Archbishop McDevitt that was blessed by Pope Pius X, to its chosen location. Young women from all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds traveled to Hallahan for a good education and were able to do so because of its accessibility. You will not find a building in the city today that has the same amazing story such as the one located at [311 N. 19th Street](#). This building was constructed to make a statement during its time and that it did. The building and school is synonymous and that is what is so great about this building. It was built to serve the purpose of educating girls and to provide them with the same education as boys. This was done during a time when woman didn't have many rights. To this day, it's the only century old building still serving its purpose. This building is not just another center city structure, it is a deeply rooted piece of history that houses a school that was the first of its kind in the country. Those walls are filled with memories and stories dated all the way back to 1901.

There is so much that has changed through the years, but the walls of that building will always house the history that remains John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School.

Sincerely,

Krystal Whalin

A proud Hallahan Mom

Allyson Mehley

From: Clare McAneny [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 6:20 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historic Designation

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Good afternoon,

I'm writing asking that the commission would consider approving John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High, a historical building in the city of Philadelphia.

This building is rich in history as well as educating women of different cultural backgrounds. Being the first all-girl Catholic Girls High School in the USA speaks for itself.

The cornerstone alone came from Rome.

The inside of the building holds lovely memories. I am still friends with people I met freshman year of high school. It is a sisterhood that has been ongoing for many years.

Our founder Mary McMichan was ahead of her time establishing a school for female students to be educated. This was before women could vote.

My wish is that you will visit 311 N. 19th Street and look outside as well as inside. If those walls could talk, they would tell you plenty. There is much history in that building.

In the year 2021, I hope you will think about Mary Hallahan McMichan's legacy, as well as all the young women who walked through those doors.

Please consider Hallahan historic.

Sincerely,

Clare Ryan McAneny
Class 1973
#savehallahan

From: Mooney, Maria (Philadelphia) [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Mooney's
Subject: Historic Designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

Thank you for accepting John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School's application for Historical Designation.

As you know Hallahan was the first Catholic Girls High School in the country and has been an integral part of the life of the City of Philadelphia since its opening. It provided girls from all backgrounds the opportunity to receive a quality education and for over a century has been producing strong women who have made valuable contributions to our city and the world. I am a graduate of the class of 1988, my eldest daughter, who is currently an engineering major at the University of Pittsburgh, was a graduate of the class of 2018. My youngest daughter is currently a senior, class of 2021. My great-aunt, Sister Stephanie Murray (nee Kathleen Murray), was a graduate of the class of 1938 before going on to become nurse and a Daughter of Charity missionary in Bolivia. She began running a hospital for Lepers in Bolivia and eventually founded Amanacer, a charity to care for the abused and abandoned street children of Cochabamba Bolivia. At her death she was hailed as the Angel of the Andes. She was a classmate of Kathleen McNulty who came to Philadelphia from Donegal Ireland, speaking only Irish, and went on to graduate from Hallahan and then Chestnut Hill and became one of the original human "computers" to program ENIAC at University of Pennsylvania, the world's first programmable, digital computer.

Being a student and later graduate of Hallahan has always brought me a feeling of being connected to a precious sisterhood of women from different races, creeds, ethnic and economic backgrounds, united by our love for the school and each other. It instilled in all of us an appreciation for the diversity of our city. I think this wonderful institution is eminently worthy of being preserved for future generations and is a unique part of the Philadelphia's History. I hope that the building can be preserved as an historic landmark and maybe one day it will even be possible to restore the beautiful stained glass roof over the school's auditorium. The stained glass sky light was tarred over during World War II to prevent any light from escaping during nightly air-raids. You can still catch a glimpse of its beauty from within the auditorium and if it could ever be restored it would shine like a jewel. The thought and obvious care put into the construction of the building stands as a testament to the strength and determination of Mary McMichan and the critical need to value the education of Philadelphia's young women and future leaders.

Thank you,

Maria (Kilpatrick) Mooney – class of 1988

Maria Mooney
Associate Director, Retirement

Willis Towers Watson
1735 Market Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103-7501
T 215 246 6686
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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From: Mary Ann Hainthaler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historic building designation for Hallahan High School

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February 22, 2021

Allyson Mehley
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to you to support the designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School as a historic building.

I am a 1988 graduate of Hallahan High School. It is widely known among Philadelphians that Hallahan is more than an old school, it is a historic school. It is the first all-girls' diocesan high school in the United States, something that not only makes Hallahan unique, but the city itself as a pioneer in such education. Unlike many American schools that have such a long history, Hallahan was not an exclusive school for the upper-class. It was a school for the working class, and many of the girls were--and some still are--first-generation Americans. In the center of Philadelphia, Hallahan has always been a school that brings together girls from all parts of the city, making it the heart of the diversity of the Philadelphia Catholic women.

In addition to Hallahan's role in bringing people together, at the time of its construction, it was a very forward-thinking place of learning. When Hallahan started in 1911, American women did not even have the right to vote yet. Schooling for girls as well as boys in many places in the United States was not as complete as it is now. However, thanks to Mary McMichan and her family, as well as the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Hallahan was a well-appointed, well-positioned, and well-planned school that prepared girls for good careers.

Hallahan has continuously been well-maintained as a building for over 100 years. A student who was there at the beginning could walk the halls now, and picture their own young self there. Such a building stands as one of the gems among the beautiful architectural landscape of center city.

Speaking as a graduate, I can say that Hallahan, as a building, had everything that students needed to succeed in school. It was built with the future in mind. As a student, I enjoyed playing in the orchestra in an auditorium that was perched in the top of a building with windows that gazed down on the historic city. The gymnasium, cafeteria, and locker areas were all large, well maintained, and built to stand the test of time. In my years at Hallahan, I traveled to numerous public and parochial high schools with the various teams, and was able to compare Hallahan with other city and suburban schools. I knew Hallahan was the oldest, but it had the most classic architecture. It was built with attention to detail. It is not a product of trends in architecture that would deteriorate in 40 to 50 years. I have no doubt that Hallahan could serve another 100 years and beyond as a working school due to both forethought in architecture and careful maintenance.

Aside from the students who have attended Hallahan, many Philadelphians are familiar with the Hallahan building, as it stands just steps from Logan Circle, the Franklin Institute, the Free Library's central branch, the Ben Franklin Parkway, and of course the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul. When I was nine years old, I was able to attend the Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II on Logan Circle. I stood steps from Hallahan, within sight of the Cathedral Basilica. The two buildings are forever linked in my mind. For many like me, Hallahan stands as the visible symbol of Philadelphia Catholic education.

Hallahan is like polished stone. It was beautiful when it was built, but the thousands of girls passing through have made it shine more and more every year.

I ask that the Historical Commission designate Hallahan as a historical building, for its place in Philadelphia's and America's history, and for its architecture that is inspirational as well as steadily lasting and functional.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Hainthaler

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Jaclyn Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan CGHS

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To Whom it May Concern:

First thank you for accepting John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School's application for Historical Designation.

Hallahan was the first Diocesan All Girls Catholic High School in the country. It was opened to give girls from all backgrounds the opportunity to receive an education that is steeped in academics and faith. It is such a diverse place to attend and receive an education in a part of the city where you are surrounded in history.

Hallahan is special to me because I am one of many in my family to attend the school. The day I walked into the building I felt like I was where I belonged. I forged many lifelong friendships and loved my time in that building.

Currently I work as an RN and have come across many people. Whenever I say I am Hallahan grad people bring up many notorious things about us Hallahan girls, please help future Hallahan grads have those same experiences by granting historical designation.

Thank you
Jaclyn Bottinger Murphy
Class of 2005

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Judith Coppage-Jervay [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 3:39 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation
Attachments: Save Hallahan.docx

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Good Afternoon,

Please find attached my letter for Historical Designation of the Hallahan Building

Regards,

Judith E. Coppage-Jervay

February 22, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission

To the Philadelphia Committee

I am writing to request that the building located at 311 N. 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 be designated as a Historical Building. The building is the home of the first Catholic All Girls High School in the country. This is where history was made, has been made, and will continue to be made. The building is located in a section of Philadelphia that surrounds history. There is the Philadelphia Art Museum, the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Barnes Foundation, the Rodin Museum, and The Franklin Institute, to name a few.

For many years, young girls have entered the doors of Hallahan and have left as strong young successful women. This building has been a place of learning and molding, encouraging young women who now live and work all over the world. There is a sense of security inside this building that one experiences when one walks into the doors. The halls, the floors, and walls give young girls a sense of belonging that will last a lifetime. What would Philadelphia be without the Art Museum, the Franklin Institute or City Hall without Billy Penn at the top of City Hall? If you can imagine Philadelphia without these landmarks and historical buildings, then why visit Philadelphia? The history of Philadelphia is in all these buildings.

Hallahan School must continue to exist throughout time. There is a great deal of history in this building. The history must be kept alive. If the walls of Hallahan could talk, there would be numerous success stories to tell. It houses and has housed women from all diversities that are now sisters and will be forever sisters. This building is in the middle of history and should remain there forever.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith E. Coppage-Jervay, Class of 73

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 3:20 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Hallahan

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: linda shank [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 2:17 PM
Subject: Hallahan
To: <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

It is so sad that this is happening to the oldest girls Catholic school in our city. I have 2 Hallahan graduates who are doing quite well as adults due to their education at Hallahan. Please do not take this school away as I have 2 grandchildren who were so looking forward to their future as Hallahan girls.

Linda Shank

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Historical Committee
Attachments: February 22,2021.pdf

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kate McTighe [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 1:12 PM
Subject: Historical Committee
To: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

February 22,2021

Historical Application Committee

John W. Hallahan High School

I am a "Golden Girl" a 50 year graduate of Hallahan High and the pride and love for the School is as strong as it was in June 1969.

This history of Hallahan runs deep and strong in my family. My Grandmother attended Hallahan in 1914 she lived around the corner in the Cathedral Parish and was elated to go to Catholic High School for Girls. Unfortunately, she could not finish as her mother passed and she was needed to care for her 5 siblings.

However, her daughters my Aunts all attended John W. Hallahan and graduated 1944,1945, and 1948 .

My days at Hallahan were some of the best days of my life. They are filled with love, sisterhood and glorious memories. Hallahan instilled in me truth, respect and desire to achieve to be my best. Although it has been 52 years since my Graduation Day, the wonderful feeling of walking down the aisle of the Cathedral again and being a part of the Graduation Class of 2019 will be in my heart and mind forever.

This is what makes the Hallahan Education priceless. "Yes you can go back" and you will still feel the Sisterhood , and pause for a moment and gaze in a Classroom and think "Yes these were the best days of my life'

Please save Hallahan, Please give the young girls of today the chance to be a GOLDEN GIRL.

God Bless You and the Committee

Kathleen Ryan McTighe '69

February 22, 2021

Historical Application Committee

John W. Hallahan High School

I am a "Golden Girl" a 50 year graduate of Hallahan High and the pride and love for the School is as strong as it was in June 1969.

This history of Hallahan runs deep and strong in my family. My Grandmother attended Hallahan in 1914 she lived around the corner in the Cathedral Parish and was elated to go to Catholic High School for Girls. Unfortunately, she could not finish as her mother passed and she was needed to care for her 5 siblings.

However, her daughters my Aunts all attended John W. Hallahan and graduated 1944, 1945, and 1948.

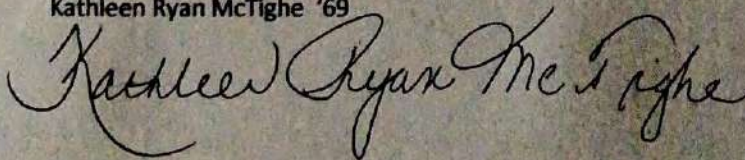
My days at Hallahan were some of the best days of my life. They are filled with love, sisterhood and glorious memories. Hallahan instilled in me truth, respect and desire to achieve to be my best. Although it has been 52 years since my Graduation Day, the wonderful feeling of walking down the aisle of the Cathedral again and being a part of the Graduation Class of 2019 will be in my heart and mind forever.

This is what makes the Hallahan Education priceless. "Yes you can go back" and you will still feel the Sisterhood, and pause for a moment and gaze in a Classroom and think "Yes these were the best days of my life"

Please save Hallahan, Please give the young girls of today the chance to be a GOLDEN GIRL.

God Bless You and the Committee

Kathleen Ryan McTighe '69

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Ryan McTighe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name.

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Hallahan building

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Andrea Sweeney <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 1:40 PM
Subject: Hallahan building
To: <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Hello! I am a proud 2001 graduate of Hallahan! The school is very important to me as I had some of the best times with lifelong friends in that building! The spirit the school has is absolutely amazing & this building should stay so other girls can experience what I experienced!

Thank you
Andrea Sweeney
Class of 2001

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 2:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan High School Historical Designation

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, the first all girl diocesan high school in the country, is so much more than the bricks in its walls. Hallahan represents history, empowerment and legacy.

Hallahan was founded in 1901, at a time when most girls did not have the opportunity to go to high school. Having a brick and mortar building for the education of girls was deemed so important, the cornerstone was sent to Rome to be blessed by Pope Pius X. When the building opened in 1911, it helped level the playing field for poor, working class girls, giving them a chance at a better life. During the past 120 years, this has continued, through dedicated teachers, joint programs with local colleges, and its location in walking distance to the many cultural institutions in Philadelphia.

Hallahan empowers young women. This starts before entering the building. Looking up at the names of powerful, Catholic women of the past always filled me with a sense of wonder, and a desire to know more. As a single sex school, girls are given the opportunity to grow. At Hallahan, I found my voice. I emerged from my shell, joined clubs, played volleyball, and made many friends. These new friends were from all over the city, from different socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds. This was an important part of my education, and helped prepare me for the real world. Because of Hallahan, I had the courage to apply to Villanova University, a school I fell in love with during a freshmen retreat.

Hallahan represents legacy, mine and many others. My grandmother was one of the first students to attend grade school in the newly built Cathedral building as a 6 year old in 1914. My mother was a member of the class of 1950, I am class of 1979, and my daughter is class of 2008. Additionally, my family consists of sisters and sisters-in-law (1983, 1984, 1997, 1998), aunts (1955, 1975), and cousins (1982, 1987, 1989, 1997) who are also graduates. My family is not unique. Hallahan binds us all together in a sisterhood that cannot be replicated.

Hallahan the building needs to be saved. Hallahan the school needs to continue. The sisterhood must be allowed to grow, educating young women with faith, purpose and vision for years to come.

Hopefully,

Janet Gillard Schwoerer '79

Allyson Mehley

From: Jane Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Letter in support of Saving Hallahan High School
Attachments: Friends of Hallahan.docx

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Ms. Mehley:
Kindly accept my letter in support of Hallahan High School.
Thank you.

Jane Caldwell Adams

Friends of Hallahan

P.O. Box 5826

Philadelphia, PA 19128

Attn: Historical Designation

Dear Fellow Friends of Hallahan:

I have to admit that my first glimpse of Hallahan didn't impress me. You see, I was born and raised in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. It was a working class area with several ethnic groups rubbing shoulders and working in the many factories that I could see from my bedroom window. My paternal grandfather had been a plumber, with a store front plumbing supply in the house where I grew up. He installed many of the indoor plumbing in the neighborhood, including the bathrooms in my grade school, St. Boniface. My maternal grandfather had been a cooper and he worked in a factory on Hope Street. There were carpet mills, lace factories and breweries galore in Kensington.

When I was in 8th grade, my dad took me downtown to take my placement test at Hallahan. I don't remember where he parked, but I do remember walking around the block at 19th and Wood looking for the school, and I remember calling his attention to what I thought was another factory building, until I noticed the ornate brickwork on the building in front of me. When I went inside, it was WOW! It was beautiful. I felt at home right away.

During my four years at Hallahan I made many friends from all parts of the city. Hallahan was not just a neighborhood school; the whole city was our campus! I met girls from Fishtown, from Roxborough, and from North Philly. Together we went to functions at the Cathedral and at the Academy of Music. Of course we were proper young ladies, all decked out in our pillbox hats and gloves, walking in line along the Parkway or down Broad Street. Our uniforms were long and our stockings were straight. Hallahan instilled such pride in our school in us!

Our education at Hallahan afforded us many opportunities. We became lawyers, scientists, doctors, teachers...everything was in our reach as graduates of the first all-girls' Catholic high school. Hallahan nurtured us academically, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. We were taught that we could accomplish anything. While at Hallahan I thoroughly enjoyed being a member of the school bowling team and, most importantly, writing for the school newspaper, Sand Script. My love for writing and for journalism was inspired by my teacher and life-long friend, Sister Agnes Gunn. Sister encouraged me to write from the heart and when she also became part of the faculty of Chestnut Hill College, I was lucky enough to have her as an English

teacher again. We kept in touch over the years, always sharing fond memories of our days at Hallahan. Sister Agnes and the other wonderful teachers at Hallahan inspired me to pursue the teaching profession. I taught English and Journalism at schools in the Archdiocese and in the School District of Philadelphia. I was honored to serve as an administrator at several District schools, and along the way I was always delighted to encounter fellow Hallahan graduates who had also become examples of the graces instilled in us as Hallahan girls.

So, you see, Hallahan is unique in a world where education can be a challenge. Hallahan is special. That beautiful building has endured all of the transition and modernization around it. It has brought together girls from all over the city in solidarity and sisterhood. Its program has grown with the years, challenging young ladies to grow in grace and confidence. Whenever I get together with fellow graduates of 1967, it's like we just left 8th period, and not like 50+ years have passed. We need to save our building and our sisterhood for the girls to come. Anything less would be unacceptable. Women are a force to be reckoned with; the Hallahan girls deserve nothing less than that courtesy!

Sincerely,

Jane C. Caldwell Adams '67

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Jane C. Caldwell Adams.

From:



2021 2:14 PM

To:

Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Subject:

Hallahan Historical Designation

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In Request for the Historical Designation of:
John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School
319 N 19th St. and 312 N 18th St

Dear Ms. Allyson Mehley,

The dream of a Catholic Girls' High School [Hallahan} was realized in 1908, the centennial year of the diocese, when a devout Catholic lay woman, Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. The building's façade marks **1911** as the construction year - **110 years ago!!!**. Since then, **thousands** of young women have attended Hallahan.

From the beginning of the 20th century, Catholic Girls' High School, the first Diocesan all-girls Catholic high school in the US, has welcomed "the daughters of the working-class families." These girls have been given the advantages of a quality secondary education at the beautiful and historic building

At the request of Mary McMichan, in 1925, the school's name was prefaced with **John W. Hallahan** in honor of her brother.

The Hallahan building has influenced the historical, architectural, economic, social, and cultural development of the City of Philadelphia. Many traditions have been born in this building. The building has decorative brickwork and historical religious significance both on the interior and exterior.

It is a major loss to the future Catholic and non-Catholic children of the City of Philadelphia that the high school will not be able to carry on the mission of girls' education as was the **SOLE** intention of the original endowment.

However, the Hallahan building must be preserved! It would be both heartbreaking and a major loss of history if this symbolic building is not preserved! It must live on as a symbol of education, history, and culture.

Sincerely,

Dorothy A. Golden Burton

Hallahan 1966



Allyson Mehley

From: MaryFrances Deviney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 1:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Preservation of the building located at 319 N. 19th St and 312 N. 18th Street
Attachments: JWHCGHS.docx

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Good Afternoon Ms. Mehley,

Attached please find a letter detailing why I feel that this building should remain, as is, for future generations.

Thank you for your time,

MaryFrances Deviney
John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, Class of 1999

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St. 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

February 20, 2021

RE: Designation of the building located at 319 N. 19th St. and 312 N. 18th St.
John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

Dear Sirs,

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School was the First Free Diocesan All Girls High School in America. This school was founded to educate young girls whose family could not afford a quality education for their daughters. It was designed to be a beacon for female education, and still is, 120 years later. Yes, 120 years. In the world there are so many places that have been in existence for far longer, but in our young country, that is quite a long time. Historically, 120 years ago, there were only 45 states in the United States. Women in this country did not yet have the right to vote. The building itself has been around since 1911. So, if we look from 1911, there were only 46 state and it was still 61 years before laws were changed to disallow discrimination in schools based on gender (Title IX). If the school is not here, the building should be, to show that this kind forward-thinking existed long before it was common. Philadelphia was and remains a forward-thinking city.

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School has been educating young women since before either World War. This building is where generations of women, from all nationalities, neighborhoods, races, and even religions have been educated on all manner of subjects. Young women from this school can be found all over the world. When I was a freshman in college, living away from home for the first time, and feeling a bit lonely, I volunteered at the Little Sisters of the Poor's Nursing Home in Washington, DC. My second day there I was introduced to my companion, Margaret. She was a sweet little old lady from South Philadelphia. Margaret was the coolest, and we became fast friends. Margaret was a 1941 graduate of Hallahan, the same class as my grandmother. She saw my high school ring and immediately started to sing our Alma Mater. That feeling of inclusion meant so much to me. We were separated by generations, neighborhoods, backgrounds, nationalities, and at the time miles from home, but we were both "Girls of the Hallahan High". That kind of community could only have been felt by another Hallahan Girl. The Building is centrally located and welcomes girls from many parts of the city. It is in the perfect location to educate and send young women into the world with more experiences than can be found anywhere else, or at any other school.

Over the years, more than 40,000 women have graduated from Hallahan. We are everywhere. In Philadelphia, everyone knows a Hallahan Girl. I have been blessed to know many; my grandmother, my great-aunts, my mother, my aunt, my sisters, my cousins, and so many crazy girls from the class of 1999, as I am sure you do too. Just think what this school means to this city.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, also for considering our request to keep this historical building as a marker, a touchstone, for future generations who may not get to know a Hallahan Girl.

Sincerely,

MaryFrances Deviney
John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School Class of 1999

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 1:44 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: My love of Hallahan

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Josephine Staffieri [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 12:42 PM
Subject: Re: My love of Hallahan
To: <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Suzanne, please send to Alison for me. Thanks

On Monday, February 22, 2021 Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com> wrote:

Thank you!! Did you forward to Allyson or should I?

Suzanne

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 11:23 AM Josephine Staffieri [REDACTED] wrote:

I loved getting off the trolley at 19th Street and looking up at the majestic building that I was a part of. I was so proud of belonging to an institution that housed young girls and teaching them all that they are a contributing group in Society. The education that we received was, in all areas, the best and still remains the best today. All of our graduates have entered society in all fazes of life because of the education received. We are a sisterhood which supports each and every one of our graduates. The building is a Philadelphia institution and historical and can never be replaced. Because of this, the building belongs to the graduates from 1901 to 1921 and to the city of Philadelphia. In our hearts we are John W. Hallahan girls and always will be.

Thank you.

Josephine Giordano Staffieri
Class of 1954

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 12:45 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Historical Designation Letters

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Nadine Boulware [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 11:44 AM
Subject: Re: Historical Designation Letters
To: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Please do that for me. Thanks.

We Believe 👍

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021, 11:54 AM Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com> wrote:
did you forward to Allyson? I can do it if needed. Thanks again! May Mary's soul be at rest indeed!

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021 at 10:53 AM Nadine Boulware [REDACTED] wrote:
Dear Historical Designation Committee,

I am a graduate of John W Hallahan class of 1976.

I believe Hallahan is a historical landmark like the Liberty Bell, the Rocky statue and so many great landmarks that make Philadelphia. This school is known all over Philadelphia and some places in the country. Hallahan needs to be landmark so all will know that a great school for Catholic women exists.

Please consider making this school a historical landmark so the soul of Mary McMichan will be at rest. She had a dream to educate women and it came true. Great women graduated from Hallahan.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Nadine Denise Boulware
Class of 76

On Mon, Feb 22, 2021, 11:21 AM Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com> wrote:

Allyson Mehley

From: Kim Kimrey [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 3:31 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Lisa Kahuila
Subject: Letter in Support of Historical Designation for Hallahan
Attachments: Hallahan Historical Designation.docx

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Good Afternoon,

My daughter, Jillian, a current junior at Hallahan has asked that her letter be included in the documentation being gathered for the hearing to give Hallahan its historical designation.

Thank you.

Jillian Kimrey



February 21, 2020

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding making John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School a historical designation. I am a current junior at Hallahan. Hallahan is not only my second home, but to some, a first safe home. I first wanted to attend Hallahan on my first visit there in the Fall of 2015. I immediately fell in love with Hallahan and continued to visit Hallahan at every chance that I had. I attended the academic summer camps before heading into 8th grade. It was there that I met some of my best friends.

As I entered into Hallahan in the Fall of 2018, I took every opportunity to soak in Hallahan, its traditions, its history and most importantly the vision that Mary McMichan had for Hallahan. Mrs. McMichan's vision for Hallahan, was something that was way before its time. She envisioned secondary Catholic education for young women in Philadelphia. This vision was made possible even before women were given the right to vote.

The façade of Hallahan shows the names of powerful women and reminds us every day of the women we could become, if we choose. I know that for me personally, Hallahan has given me every opportunity to become a leader in school and my community. Hallahan has taught me to give of myself and try to make our school and our community a better place for all.

Hallahan sits in the heart of Center City, which draws young women from all over our diverse city and surrounding areas. I would have never met my "sisters", had we not all chosen to attend Hallahan, the first all-girls' Catholic High School in our country. We come from all different neighborhoods and backgrounds, but all have Hallahan in common. When I went into my freshman year only a couple of the girls from my grade school joined me. Very quickly I met the girls I consider my family. You can feel it when you walk through the doors, it's something you can't find anywhere else. Hallahan is a family. We might not be related by blood, but by vision, purpose, and faith.

I couldn't imagine finding another place where I feel at home. The family makes the home. If I didn't choose Hallahan, I would have never met my best friends. Hallahan will always be my first choice. I have made the best memories from Hallahan Day to Fountain Jump and everything in between. All of

Jillian Kimrey
107 McKean Street
Philadelphia, PA 19148
Jill.Kimrey10@gmail.com

these memories, big and small, have shaped my high school experience. I will always cherish every day I have spent on 19th and Wood.

Hallahan is special. What other school could have I gone to where I can share all my memories from our traditions with my grandmother who graduated in 1953? What school could have taught me the core values of giving back to my school and community? What school could have given me 400 sisters? The answer is Hallahan. I am thankful for everyone that has walked the hallowed halls before me. I don't know where I would be without Hallahan. These three years have been filled with the best memories anyone could make. Hallahan has given us all opportunities that you can't find anywhere else.

From exploring the city, spending time with friends after school, and extracurricular activities. In grade school we didn't have opportunities to join clubs like we do at Hallahan. I get to be involved in anything from the cheer team to community service club, mock trial, and student council. The wide range of activities gives all of us a chance to get involved. If I knew then that Hallahan would be put in this position, I would still choose Hallahan over and over. Hallahan will always be my first choice.

As I was talking to my grandmother last night, she marveled at how Hallahan had "Golden Girls." Golden Girls are graduates of Hallahan that are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of their graduation. When she was young, she never really thought about being a golden girl, but in 2003, she became a Golden Girl. This year, she is celebrating her 68th Anniversary of her graduation and while I would love for Hallahan to remain open so that we can both celebrate next year as graduates of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, I believe even more that Hallahan's history and building should be made historical.

Hallahan is rich in history and tradition. Hallahan is the foundation that every All-Girls Catholic High Schools in our country have been built upon. As we are coming up on the 120th Anniversary of Mary Michan's vision come to life, what better way to celebrate a momentous occasion than to have the building given a historical designation.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this process.

Sincerely,

Jillian A. Kimrey
Hallahan – Class of 2022

Allyson Mehley

From: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: History

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Holly Walsh [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 6:21 AM
Subject: History
To: <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Hello,

As a friend to so many Hallahan alumni, and the community
Which represents education, friendship, commitment, and integrity spanning generations, I urge you to take the steps to
preserve this physical representation the actual building. Our world has become so dismissive, so disposable, this
beautiful building with fabulous architecture represents physical beauty and generations who have built their personal
foundations inside those walls. The history embodied in this building cannot be "trashed" and replaced with something
that only represents a financial goal. We have to assign value to the history, the architecture, and the spirit of the
communities that generations have created..as this is history!!!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards
Helyn Walsh

Allyson Mehley

From: Frances Koniers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 6:12 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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Hi Allyson

Hallahan has been in our blood for almost 80 years. My mother, mother in law, sister & myself all graduated from Hallahan. I hope the opportunity will be offered to many young women to benefit from a Hallahan Education

Sincerely

Frances Boothby Koniers

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: preservation
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fw: Historical Designation

From: ceciliayep@comcast.net [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 12:58 PM
To: preservation <preservation@Phila.gov>
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>
Subject: Historical Designation

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February 24, 2021

Philadelphia Historical Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the John W. Hallahan building to be preserved as a historical site for designation by the Historical Commission.

This unique building, at 19th and Wood Street, holds memories of school days for thousands of young women, who had the opportunity to go to school there.

I graduated from Hallahan 74 years ago. So, there are a lot of memories from my high school days in that building. Hallahan is where so many of our childhood memories are. Life-long relationships developed there and still exist today. One of my most outstanding memories, was the day I had the opportunity to walk down the aisle with my daughter on her graduation day.

Philadelphia is known as the city of "first's" notably The First US Capital, the first mint, the first bank, the first hospital, the first zoo, the first business school (Wharton), the first pharmacy, the first women's art School (Moore) and the first Catholic Girls' High School, Hallahan, which should be recognized as a first, and designated as historical.

This amazing building, over 100 years old, is such a unique structure, with detailed carved statues on the building's surface and beautiful stain glass windows. Hallahan built in 1911, has been well maintained and must continue to be a place where its purpose and educational role must be preserved and remain a pride for all Philadelphians.

Respectfully,

Cecilia Moy Yep

Allyson Mehley

From: Nadine Boulware [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: The Elder of 19th Street

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Just a poem to say Hallahan needs to be a landmark.

Thank you, Ms. Mehley

Nadine Boulware Class of 76

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Nadine Boulware [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Feb 25, 2021, 12:46 PM
Subject: The Elder of 19th Street
To: <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

Your strong foundation cultivate warriors for the future.
Your powerful song inspires fighters to save the world.
There are whispers that say you cannot live any longer but the faithful disagrees.
We 'wonder women 'won't let them retire you.
Our fortitude will never leave us, because of you.
We are grateful
Because of you
We will fight for you, beside you, with you always.
The sun rises as you await those footsteps to enter.
Those eager, anxious, hungry for knowledge feet.
Elder of 19th Street
You are our light
Keep shining
God will always be with you.

Nadine D. Boulware
Class of 76

Allyson Mehley

From: Ari Barkan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:53 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan High School

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Historic Preservation Planner

Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

To whom it may concern, let it be known that I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,
—Ari Barkan

Allyson Mehley

From: Jessica [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:20 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; Friends of Hallahan
Subject: Historic preservation

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[REDACTED] Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. It is the foundation on Catholic schools in Philadelphia! This building is a historic building and should be announced as such! The history of this building is one I love explaining to my daughter and to know the possibility of it no longer being there is upsetting! Please mark Hallahan as a historic building!

Jessica McLaughlin
Class of 2006.

Allyson Mehley

From: Terrie Hartman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:25 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School being designated historic.

Teresia Trendler Hartman

Allyson Mehley

From: Marian Ciliberti [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:28 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historic Preservation of John W.Hallahan high school

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Dear Ms.Mehley,

As a retired City of Philadelphia employee, please allow me to add my voice to beg for John W. Hallahan high school to be accepted for historic preservation.

This building has served many generations of Philadelphia women who were fortunate enough to attend this school. The proximity to the Logan Square Area and the architecture of the area screams not to surrender the property to developers. It is sad how the area around Spring Garden is so ugly and modern and out of step with the museum area. Hopefully, the Archdiocese will change their mind, or perhaps the city will recognize that the highest and best use for the property is to keep it as is.

Thank you for your attention & time to this matter.

Sincerely,
Marian Ciliberti

Allyson Mehley

From: Claire Clute [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:56 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

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I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Claire (Angeli) Clute
Class of 1978

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Andrea Sweeney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:00 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

[REDACTED] Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

ANDREA SWEENEY C/O 2001

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Tramaine Warrick [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St 13th floor
Philadelphia Pa 19102

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated Historic.

Tramaine Dancy Warrick

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Love Lynch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:19 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Keep Hallahan a Historic Site

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Streee, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19thStreet
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Love Jennings-Lynch
Class of 1991

Kindest Regards,
Love Jennings-Lynch

From: Rita Miziorko [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 1:41 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: John W. Hallahan C.G.H.S. Nomination to Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

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To: The Members of the Committee on Historic Designation of the Philadelphia Historic Commission

As a child, it was always emphasized to me that Philadelphia was a city of beautiful buildings and monuments. From the historical area of Independence Hall to the beauty of the Wanamaker Court and the Academy of Music to the expanse of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway lined with impressive structures and decorative fountains and statues, my grandparents and parents made certain that I could appreciate Philadelphia as a great city.

On visits to the Logan Circle area centered by the Logan Fountain surrounded by the inspiring structures such as the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, the Academy of Natural Science, the Parkway Central Free Library of Philadelphia, the nearby Franklin Institute of Science with the Philadelphia Museum of Art in the distance it was clear to me, as young as I was, that this must be what they were trying to impress upon me. One building always received a special explanation of its place among the other architectural gems and that was John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. My mother, a proud graduate from 1938, pointed out Hallahan's very special place in US history as the first Catholic Girls High School as well as the ornate and meaningful exterior decorations every time we found ourselves in the vicinity. I came to believe that Hallahan was as important a part of the architectural and historical importance of Philadelphia as any of the other notable buildings surrounding it.

A few years later, I had the privilege of attending Hallahan and so finally I was able to see what the inside of the building looked like. As I look back more than 50 years after graduation, there a few very special parts of the interior that come to mind. My very first visit allowed me to see the interior of the main entrance. The attention to detail in the marble foyer including the stained-glass transom impressed on me that this truly was a building of significance. Many of the interior decorations emphasize symbols of the virtues and qualities that the founders of Hallahan intended to impart to her students.

Another area that bears special mention is the auditorium. The original 1920's pipe organ and the stained-glass transom over the entrance dedicated to the mother of Mary E. McMichan and John W. Hallahan are intrinsically worthy of preservation. The auditorium has always been the setting for many of the most important rituals of the life of a "Hallahan Girl". Twice weekly as members of the orchestra, we assembled to practice under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Dr. Jeno Donath. Additionally, weekly Mass was celebrated and broadcast to the student body from here. Award ceremonies and special programs took place in the auditorium. If Hallahan receives the requested Historical Designation and is preserved as Hallahan C.G.H.S. the auditorium can continue to serve as a venue not only for student ceremonies but perhaps also for performances and special observances for the Philadelphia community at large.

In the Nomination Application for John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School to be designated as a Historic Building, Criterion(A) for designation states that the Historic resource "has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, Commonwealth or Nation or is associated with the life of a

person significant in the past.” The enormous significance of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as the first Diocesan High School dedicated to the education of young Catholic women in the United States is evidenced by the fact that Pope Pius X (later St. Pius X) sent the cornerstone from Rome. Additionally, the application notes that it drew girls from all around the city and of differing ethnic backgrounds. Educating them together furthered their assimilation into American culture. This integration of girls from all over the Philadelphia area was one of the cornerstones of the education of generations of Hallahan Girls. When I attended Hallahan, I became friends with girls from racial and ethnic backgrounds that I would never have encountered in my neighborhood. This prepared me not only for college and a post graduate degree but also for a productive adult life which has taken me to live in other parts of the US as well as in Europe.

The application thoroughly and thoughtfully treats the history of the work of Mary E. McMichan and Monsignor McDevitt in creating the high school that in the 110 years since its founding has educated more than 40,000 women many of whom have exerted significant impact on society. My own Mother and her classmates were members of “The Greatest Generation” and many of them used the skills learned at Hallahan to help end WWII. Over the years, countless other graduates became members of the medical, scientific, business, education, law, literary, artistic, military and religious professions. Additionally, many became mothers who nurtured future generations of strong women and men.

Criterion (E) of the application states that the building must be the work of an architect who has significantly influenced the historical, cultural etc. development of the city, commonwealth or nation. It is well established by the application that the firm of Ballinger and Perrot substantially fulfill that criterion not just with the significance of designing the first Catholic Girls High School in the United States but also with their work on several college and university campuses around the country.

John W. Hallahan C.G.H.S. is a unique example of the work of Ballinger and Perrot, located in the heart of the city surrounded by other outstanding examples of the fine architecture for which Philadelphia is justifiably famous. Along with the historical precedent of being the first Catholic Girls High School in the United States, it would seem that John W. Hallahan C.G.H.S. should receive serious consideration for the Historical Designation and the protection granted by that distinction.

Please deliberate thoughtfully as you consider the application. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rita McCloskey

Miziorko

ohn W. Hallahan C.G.H.S. Class of 1967

Allyson Mehley

From: Jaclyn Maisch [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:34 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

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 Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Jaclyn Moore
Class of 2009

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Nicole Fuhrmeister [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School Preservation

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To Whom It May Concern,

It has taken me quite some time to compose what I want to say about John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. Hallahan is more than a building or a school, it is an environment that helped shape who I am today and I hope that we are able to save our school so that future generations are able to grow into confident women.

Unlike others, I did not have a choice of what highschool I attended; but that was fine by me. Not only is attending Hallahan a tradition for my family, Hallahan girls were my volleyball coaches in grade school and I could not wait to be like them! Hallahan girls are unique and we need to keep the tradition alive for future generations.

I entered the doors on 19th Street as a quiet freshman, never imagining where the next four years would take me and who I would become upon graduation. During my tenure at Hallahan I played volleyball with teammates that became lifelong friends, had teachers that continue to be a positive influence to this day and I learned to give back to our community by being involved in the Community Service Corps. More importantly, I grew to be a confident woman through my service as an ambassador, a member of the student council and serving as the Class President for the Class of 2003. Hallahan was my second home and I am forever thankful for the opportunities it provided me. Years later, I returned as the volleyball coach and was thankful to be back "home." This time I took on a different role, but because I too attended Hallahan, I was able to be a positive role model and instill respect, teamwork, loyalty, dedication and confidence in my team. These too were some of the best years of my life!

Hallahan continues to bridge the gap between cultures and neighborhoods, which is needed more than ever today. Hallahan helps shape girls into ladies, but encourages girls to have fun at the same time! Hallahan provides opportunities to work in offices throughout Center City, allowing girls to dream big for the next chapter in their life. Hallahan teaches girls more than they could ever learn in a textbook.

I wanted to keep this short and sweet, please note I would be happy to elaborate on my experience as a student and coach if interested. But, bottom line, girls in Philadelphia need Hallahan and the City of Philadelphia needs Hallahan Girls! It's our time to shine and we need to keep motivating and encouraging girls in this city.

Please help preserve Hallahan, you will not be disappointed!

Best,
Nicole Spinks-Fuhrmeister
Class of 2003

Allyson Mehley

From: Kathy Gildea [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Closing of hallahan high school

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I am really concerned about the closing of J W HALLAHAN HIGH SCHOOL. I went to school there[most of the roxborough girls did] and hallahan taught me what the world is really like by meeting from all over the city. I spent 4 great years there and would hate to see other girls not given the same opportunity that I had.
Please reconsider the closing of a great school.
Thank you for your time in this matter.

Allyson Mehley

From: Maureen Malone [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:45 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Friends of Hallahan

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Hello All:

I support John W. Hallahan High School for girls' to be deemed a historic landmark and building.

Most sincerely,
Maureen Malone
Class of 1992

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Kathy Gildea [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Re: Closing of hallahan high school

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Oops. I forgot to state my name..Kathleen gildea[palkon]
Class of 1977.

On Mon, Mar 1, 2021, 2:43 PM Kathy Gildea <kgildea66@gmail.com> wrote:

I am really concerned about the closing of J W HALLAHAN HIGH SCHOOL. I went to school there[much of the roxborough girls did] and hallahan taught me what the world is really like by meeting from all over the city. I spent 4 great years there and would hate to see other girls not given the same opportunity that I had.

Please reconsider the closing of a great school.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Allyson Mehley

From: Bobby Fuhrmeister [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: J.W. Hallahan High School

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I support John. W. Hallahan Cztholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Robert Fuhrmeister III

Allyson Mehley

From: Lindsey Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Make HH a historical building

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I fully support to make HH a historical building! HH helped me in so many ways and helped me become the person I am today! I will be devastated if it closed, please do it for us girls! Thank you!

Allyson Mehley

From: Lindsey Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:50 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Re: Make HH a historical building

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This is Lindsey Kelly class of 2019

On Mon, Mar 1, 2021 at 2:48 PM Lindsey Kelly <lindseykellyy166@gmail.com> wrote:

I fully support to make HH a historical building! HH helped me in so many ways and helped me become the person I am today! I will be devastated if it closed, please do it for us girls! Thank you!

Allyson Mehley

From: Patty Mullin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: J W Hallahan

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[REDACTED] Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Please don't miss an opportunity to save a beautiful part of Philadelphia.

Sincerely

Patricia Mullin '75
2709 Brown Street
Philadelphia PA 19130

Allyson Mehley

From: MARY LARSON [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 2:55 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallaham@gmail.com
Subject: Support for John W Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19102

To Whom It ay Concern:

I am writing to let you know that I am in full support of having John W Hallahan being designated as an historic institution.

The Hallahan tradition started with my Great Aunt Nellie aka Francis Patricia Corkery. She attended Hallahan 1905 when it was known as Catholic Girls High School. The tradition continued with my Aunt, Sister Patricia Corkery RSM, class of 1940 and my dads sister, along with my Mother Mary E. Rush class of 1940. Her sister Hannah Rush was class of 1939. I continued the family tradition by attending Hallahan and graduated Class of 1964. My daughter Kirsten Larson wanted also to be a part of this family tradition and graduated class of 1992. I also have 4 sisters Anne Corkery Connelly class of 1970, Patricia Corkery Quindlen Class of 1972 , Elisa Corkery Rooney Class of 1974, and Susan Corkery Scott Class of 1984 all of whom graduated from this great Institution.

I have always felt that Hallahan should have been designated as a historical building since it has been around giving young women this chance to achieve whatever goals they desire for well over 100 years.

Sincerely,

Mary Corkery Larson

Allyson Mehley

From: Katie Fisher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan historic designation

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. The building holds a special place in this city. It's where girls from all over the city, from all walks of life, all colors of the rainbow and cultures of the world were able to come together. We were able to learn about each other's differences all while celebrating them also. This was so important not only then but even more important in today's world. Hallahan is a symbol of equality and sisterhood. It was the first one of its kind in the entire country!!

So many women found their voice there, their confidence, their purpose, and most importantly themselves!!! They were given the tools to become stronger in a world that is often telling them they're weak. Beside all of this, the history is so strong. The building has such beautiful details both inside and out. It means so much to hundreds of thousands of people. There are generations of families that have gone through that building. I got to Walk the same halls my Grandmother did! Who passed away when I was entering my snipe year in Hallahan. It was such a comfort going to school and getting to walk those halls where she did. It was such a comfort for me when I felt completely lost.

Keep Hallahan! Keep the building! Keep the symbol for all of the girls in this city and beyond that look to it as a symbol of hope, love, confidence and sister hood! So that one day they may take their daughters through the same halls and teach them the same lessons they've learned.

Thank you for your time!

Respectfully,

Katie Fisher
Class of 2003

From: Paula DiGiacomo Fan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan CGHS

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Dear Ms. Mehley

I attended catholic grade school and went on to catholic high school. From the moment I set foot in John W. Hallahan in September of 1965, I knew I made the right choice.

I was fortunate to work for Vitetta Group Architects and Engineers in the city of Philadelphia for 37 years. We were leaders in school design throughout the country and more so, leaders in historic preservation. I know beauty when I see it. We worked closely with the Historic Preservation Society and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

Hallahan is a magnificent representation of historic beauty both inside and out. From the exterior façade including the carvings of saints, to our beautiful stained glass windows, so rich in detail and tradition too. Every inch of this building means something to someone who has walked the hallowed halls. It is a true testament to the strength and courage of the women who came before me... the women who paved the way for the future generations of Hallahan graduates. I am humbled and honored to have been a graduate of the Class of 1969.

We are women of faith, purpose and vision, just like Mary McMichan who was also a devout catholic and believed that women deserved the same education and advantages that men did. She made it possible for young women of all races and nationalities to pursue their education and dreams.

When I was invited to walk in graduation in June 2019 with the graduating class, I walked proudly as a "Golden Girl". I stepped into the doors on 19th Street, greeted by young women, dressed proudly in their Hallahan uniform. I stood there and teared up! All I could remember was the joy and happiness I felt each day going to school. The memories flood my mind daily and there are no better memories.

I know your office is probably getting numerous emails and letters. Let the voices of these women be heard that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School of Philadelphia deserves the recognition of a historical designation, and deserves to continue on educating future leaders.

Thank you and God Bless,
Paula DiGiacomo-Fan, '69

Allyson Mehley

From: Karina Pollard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: I support Hallahan

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Hello,

I support John.W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you for your time and understanding

Karina Pollard

Allyson Mehley

From: Erin Dischinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:26 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To whom this may concern:

I am reaching out in support of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. As a member of the graduating class of 2003 I, like many of my peers, hold a special place in my heart for Hallahan, and am very angered and saddened with how the closing of the school has been handled by the archdiocese and the city. Hallahan may mean nothing to some, but to many it's a very special place. It's also the oldest catholic girls high school, and for that alone is historic and very meaningful, not just to the students and alumna, but also to the city of Philadelphia. I hope that you will take this all into consideration when making your decision, and I thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,
Erin (McShea) Dischinger - Hallahan Class of '03

Allyson Mehley

From: Nikki [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:35 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: J.W. Hallahan High school Historic Designation

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Hi Allyson,

I am writing to you today as a current parent of a student of J.W. Hallahan High school. I am in strong support of the nomination of the Hallahan building for historic designation. The building is not only iconic of the time period but also bears the important symbolic representation of the community that has been housed there for more than 100 years. This building represents a commitment to the educational care and development of diverse young women throughout the city into strong, smart women leaders throughout the city of Philadelphia and the nation. I am hopeful the legacy of John W Hallahan High School will live on through this important historical designation.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Nichole Stella

Allyson Mehley

From: Tiffany Murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

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[REDACTED] Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you,

Tiffany Murphy
Class of 2003

Allyson Mehley

From: Colleen Sexton [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan High School

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Hello,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Please make this happen.

Thank you,
Colleen Carpenter-Sexton
Class of 1986

Allyson Mehley

From: Lynda Dennis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:02 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: J.W. Hallahan Building - Historical Designation

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

We support the nomination of the J.W. Hallahan building for historical designation. Given all the new real estate development around Philadelphia, the Hallahan building (built in 1911) is a historical gem that must be preserved. The building itself is in pristine condition considering it's age.

On a personal note, the Hallahan building has been home to our daughter for the last 3 years. Hallahan is where she felt safe and had the opportunity to mature into a well educated and responsible young woman. She has developed life long friendships and celebrated in rich traditions with her fellow Hallahan sisters. She hopes to follow in the footsteps of the 40,000 previous Hallahan graduates upon her graduation in June 2022.

Please allow the legacy of the Hallahan building to continue to enrich the architecture in the City of Philadelphia.

Sincerely,
Michael and Lynda Dennis
Parent of Class of 2022 Student

Allyson Mehley

From: Faith Powell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Allyson Mehley

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Mom,

Can you send the following email by tomorrow, March 2:

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Faith H. Powell

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Veronica [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Building

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To whom it may concern:

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Signed,
Veronica R. Fulton

From: Rod and Erin P [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I'm writing to express my support for John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Hallahan was the first Catholic Girls High School in the country. Hallahan has been an integral part of the City of Philadelphia since its opening.

Hallahan is more than just a school. It is a place where you make friends that become family. The outstanding education and extracurricular activities offered are impressive. The school spirit at Hallahan is stronger than anywhere else. Hallahan's school spirit is like no other. I still remember the joy of Hallahan Day, jumping in the fountain, and wearing different color shoelaces each year. These traditions are not only a point of pride for graduates of Hallahan. They are a point of pride for the City of Philadelphia. The fountain jump has been covered in local and national news for years. When a drought caused the city's fountains to shut down, the Philadelphia Fire Department showed up with their hoses to ensure Hallahan girls got their fountain jump. While vacationing in Florida a few years ago, my friends and I were all sporting our favorite teams on our shirts. There were Phillies, Eagles, Flyers and a Hallahan shirt being worn. The only shirt that got a "shout out" was the Hallahan shirt. Wherever you go, if you're in your Hallahan gear, people are always excited to see you, and will strike up a joyous conversation.

Being a graduate of Hallahan has always brought me a feeling of pride and being part of a sisterhood. For many students, going to Hallahan was the first time they'd ever met someone from outside of their neighborhood. This allowed girls to appreciate the diversity of our city. My mother, aunts, sisters and daughter are all Hallahan girls. We have all been successful in life and work due in large part to the education and support we received at Hallahan. I think it would be a great loss if Hallahan wasn't preserved for future generations.

Thank you,

Erin Pierce
Class of 1989

From: Ashleigh Houck [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:26 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: FriendsofHallahan@gmail.com; Karen Houck
Subject: Re: John W. Hallahan's Importance to "ME"

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Good afternoon,

I am forwarding my mother's email who is a graduate of 1978 because I feel everything she said was spot on.

Hallahan is who I am and who I will always be.

I am a graduate of the class of 2005 and I was very involved in Hallahan during my time there and after. I played volleyball, basketball, was in a few clubs and I then came back and coached years later to give back to my alma mater. Hallahan has taught me faith, purpose and love in all different forms. I am very strong in believing in our faith that Hallahan will remain open and that future generations of my family will get to experience what I did during those four amazing years. I have met so many different types of people from going to hallahan and from being a graduate of hallahan. We come together as a sisterhood from all different parts of the city, from different backgrounds and different races. This is what makes hallahan so special. I have learned so much that I would have never have known if I didnt go to an all girl catholic highscool right in the heart of center city Philadelphia.

I hope you find it in your heart to keep our Hallahan history alive.

Thanks,
Ashleigh Houck
Class of 2005

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 10:28 AM Karen Houck [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning,

We were taught back in our Typing/Business class at Hallahan (back in 1970's 😊) to address our letters as such "To whom it may concern". This particular letter actually concerns myself and my entire family as well as our fellow classmates and the entire HH community!

Back in our day Hallahan really was the only Catholic high school of "choice" that we would have attended, because the generations before us all went there and shared such great memories and had succeeded in LIFE!

We grew up right outside the city in Manayunk/Roxborough and had attended Holy Family catholic grade school, one of many local Catholic grade schools that we were lucky enough to have on every other corner. Back then you attended the school with your heritage (Irish, Italian, German and Polish etc.) When it came time to attend high school, we did not have any locations in our immediate neighborhood. There were a few in the surrounding areas that we could commute to, but our parents chose John W. Hallahan in the heart of the city of Philadelphia for many reasons.

Some of the many reasons were:

TRADITIONS, LOCATION, SURROUNDING HISTORY AND MUSEUMS, MEETING OTHERS FROM ALL DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS/HERITAGES, REAL LIFE AND BUSINESSES THAT SURROUNDED THIS BUILDING, FUTURE CAREER

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CITY , A TRUE CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND LASTLY BECAUSE IT WAS THE FIRST "ALL GIRL ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL"

Our youngest daughter graduated from HH in 2009 and at that time it was our last Mother/Daughter tea we would be attending for the time being, so I invited all of my immediate family that attended HH and took a group picture. There were 9 of us (Aunt, sisters, nieces and daughters) representing class of 1965, 1977, 1978, 1980, 1999, 2000, 2005, 2008 and 2009. Of course we couldn't predict our future but in our hearts we had hoped that the next generation would bless us with girls and that when they were ready for high school they would get to carry on the tradition and have the opportunity to experience the "history" of John W. Hallahan!

In closing, I am hoping this letter becomes the "concern" of many others and that we will all realize together that Hallahan is not only a historical building and the first all-girls diocesan Catholic high school, but a major piece of our family history that we would like to preserve!

Sincerely,
Karen Houck (1978)

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Eryn Dennis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:27 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

-Eryn Dennis
Hallahan Class of 2022

Allyson Mehley

From: MARC WILLIAMS [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good afternoon,

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Thank you,
Sydney Parker-Williams

Allyson Mehley

From: Monica Gibson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building being a historical designation.

Monica Gibson

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Tracey House [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan

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[REDACTED] Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: 311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

To whom it may concern:

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,
Tracey Stolzer House,
Class of 1992

Sent from my iPhone.

Allyson Mehley

From: Mirlene S [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Building nomination

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

--

Mirlene SaintVal
Forever hopeful

Allyson Mehley

From: Elizabeth Lampkin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Elizabeth Lampkin
Subject: Nomination of Hallahan Building for Historical Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear City of Philadelphia and Friends of Hallahan,

I support the nomination of the Hallahan Building for Historical Designation.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Lampkin

From: Jacqueline D. Sautter [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save J. W. Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

We need to preserve J. W. Hallahan High School. Hallahan is integrated in my life in many ways. Four generation of my family have walked the halls of this school. In 1943 my grandparent brought home my Father home from the hospital to 1837 Carlton Street. This is just cobblestone street between their home and Hallahan High School. My Aunt, Alice M. Poupard, graduated from Hallahan in 1956. My Sister and I graduated in 1983 and 1987. We would wave hello across to our Grandmother from our class windows. Then after my grandmother passed away in 1991. My husband and I moved into her house. We thought we stay for a little while. John and I still live there today. We have carried on many of the old traditions pass down from my grandparents and started a few of our own. We raised both our daughters Julia and Jenevieve in that small house on that tiny street called Carton. When our daughters were ready for high school they both choose J. W. Hallahan. Julia gradated in 2016 and Jenevieve is in the Class of 2021. I am so overwelled with grief that Jenevieve will be in the last graduating class. We have pass down our class rings to one another. Having Hallahan give us the foundation to our education has been one of best women empowering lesson that we have all chosen for our high school years. I am at a total loss for words on how sad the news of closing this school. As an all girl high school is so important to preserve this empowering education so that woman can see that we can do anything. I also volunteer for Girl Scout of Eastern PA from the ages of 5 to 18. It is so vital to teach young girls that they can do anything they want to in this world. J.W. Hallahan High School is so crucial for many girls to have the school to show them how to grow into this world.

Jacqueline Sautter(Poupard)
Class of 1987

Allyson Mehley

From: Mark O'Donnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 4:58 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms Mehley,

I am writing to respectfully request your positive consideration and support for designating the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as an historic building.

Philadelphia is a proud city of many firsts in Education in America. Among these are the first public school, the first school of higher learning for African-Americans, the first Hebrew school, the first public library, the first hospital, the first college and university, the first law school, the first medical school, and the first fine arts institution.

Hallahan should be included, recognized and celebrated among these pioneering firsts of our city as it is the first Girl's Catholic High School in America. It is celebrating 125 years of excellence in education and was opened at a time when preparing women for professional careers or higher learning was only narrowly accepted in America. The challenges these women faced and the positive changes they have made through many generations should never be forgotten, paved over or destroyed. This school, and it's building, should be preserved and celebrated as its graduates have benefited Philadelphia and our nation greatly in the fields of medicine, science, business, education and much more!

Thank you again for your time and kind consideration.

Sincerely,
Mark O'Donnell
2115 Green Street
Philadelphia PA 19130

Father of a Sophomore currently enrolled in Hallahan.

Allyson Mehley

From: Ondre Hunt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:00 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Building

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.
Sincerely, Ondre Hunt

Allyson Mehley

From: Kathryn McCole [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:04 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

- Katie McCole
Hallahan Class of 2021

Allyson Mehley

From: dchesquire [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:04 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Building

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley:

This is to let you know that I support the nomination of the Hallahan Building for historical designation.

Sincerely,

Diane Howell
3468 W Queen Lane
Philadelphia, PA 19129

From: Audria Leone [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:08 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan as a Historical

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing this letter in regards to designating John W. Hallahan as a historical building. This building plays an important role in Philadelphia. It is the oldest Catholic Girls High School in the nation. It has brought many girls together from diverse backgrounds for a great education.

Every city deserves something to be proud of and has past and future generations be proud of and take part in. Hallahan has this to offer. Having Hallahan designated as historical, will help the economy in the city and bring students and families to Philadelphia.

Today, sometimes it seems like we live in a "throw-away society" which means we don't appreciate the "old and good" things that the city or life has to offer. Some people's mentality is that if it's old, get rid of it. We need to cherish the beautiful building, values, and traditions that are the heart of the building of Hallahan which is still standing over 100 years later.

Philadelphia is so rich in history, amazing architectural styles, and the home of many firsts in the nation. The Rodin Museum, The Art Museum, The Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, The Eastern State Penitentiary, The Ben Franklin Parkway are just a few to name that has unique styles. While some of the "Firsts of the Nation" include The Free Library of Philadelphia, The Philadelphia Zoo, and John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School.

To see the building not be designated historical will sadden the hearts of many students and alumnae. Most of all it will change the face of Philadelphia. John W. Hallahan is part of Philadelphia's history.

In conclusion, please let's not erase the history we are proud of and keep the history, spirit, values, and traditions of Philadelphia alive by designating John W. Hallahan as historical.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Audria Leone
Class of 1993

Allyson Mehley

From: Julia Kuneck [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:22 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: JWHH

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Julia Ann Kuneck '18

Allyson Mehley

From:

Carita [REDACTED]

To:

Allyson Mehley

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Carita M Reid

Thank you 😊

Ms Rita

Allyson Mehley

From: Ashley Harley [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:30 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historic Prevention Planner - Hallahan

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Ashley Szlanic (Harley)
Class of 2010

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:31 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: What Hallahan Means to My Mother

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

My mother, Josephine Giordano Staffieri, graduated from Hallahan in 1954. Since I was a little girl in the 70s my mother has spoken of Hallahan with pride. She would often tell stories of her time at the all girl, catholic high school with the Mickey Mouse mascot.

JW Hallahan helped to instill her Catholic faith. My mother would have gladly sent her two daughters to Hallahan had we not live too far to attend. However, she did send all five of her children to Catholic elementary and High school. Over the years she has volunteered her time to the local Catholic Church and later became a Eucharistic minister. She still serves today.

Over the years my mother has worn Hallahan apparel. She recently purchased face masks with the Hallahan name and mascot. She wears them with honor. I often think that my mother worked at Disney World for over twenty years because it was a way to feel like she was still at Hallahan, since their Mascot is also Mickey Mouse.

So you ask "What does Hallahan mean to my mother". It means pride, faith, tradition, happiness, and life.

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Hillary Hudson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:42 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan school

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the hallahan building for historical designation

Sincerely Hillary H Hudson

Allyson Mehley

From: cheryl dennis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:42 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historic Designation

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Cheryl Dennis

Allyson Mehley

From: gabriella davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:48 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the hallahan building for historical designation.

Sincerely,
Gabriella Davis, class of 2020

Sent from iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Zarami Kar [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I, Zarami, support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

-Zarami Kar
Hallahan Class of 2024

Allyson Mehley

From: Abigail Salamone [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 5:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Abigail Salamone,
Hallahan Class of 2020

Allyson Mehley

From: Giulia Aquilino [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:13 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation

Sincerely,
Giulia Aquilino- mother of class president 2020 & two current students of HH!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Melissa Gallagher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:14 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation

Melissa Gallagher
Class of 2012

Allyson Mehley

From: Emmanuel Pajibo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:15 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

- Emmanuel Pajibo
Roman Class of 2022

Allyson Mehley

From: Taylor DiVirgilio [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:19 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation Building letter

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

To whom this may concern,

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Kind regards,
Taylor C. DiVirgilio
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Re: What Hallahan Means to My Mother

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

What Hallahan Means to My Mother

My mother, Josephine Giordano Staffieri, graduated from Hallahan in 1954. Since I was a little girl in the 70s my mother has spoken of Hallahan with pride. She would often tell stories of her time at the all girl, catholic high school with the Mickey Mouse mascot.

JW Hallahan helped to instill her Catholic faith. My mother would have gladly sent her two daughters to Hallahan had we not live too far to attend. However, she did send all five of her children to Catholic elementary and High school. Over the years she has volunteered her time to the local Catholic Church and later became a Eucharistic minister. She still serves today.

Over the years my mother has worn Hallahan apparel. She recently purchased face masks with the Hallahan name and mascot. She wears them with honor. I often think that my mother worked at Disney World for over twenty years because it was a way to feel like she was still at Hallahan, since their Mascot is also Mickey Mouse.

So you ask "What does Hallahan mean to my mother". It means pride, faith, tradition, happiness, and life.

Caroline Staffieri Muller

Sent from my iPhone

> On Mar 1, 2021, at 5:30 PM, osweetcj@aol.com wrote:

>

> My mother, Josephine Giordano Staffieri, graduated from Hallahan in 1954. Since I was a little girl in the 70s my mother has spoken of Hallahan with pride. She would often tell stories of her time at the all girl, catholic high school with the Mickey Mouse mascot.

> JW Hallahan helped to instill her Catholic faith. My mother would have gladly sent her two daughters to Hallahan had we not live too far to attend. However, she did send all five of her children to Catholic elementary and High school. Over the years she has volunteered her time to the local Catholic Church and later became a Eucharistic minister. She still serves today.

> Over the years my mother has worn Hallahan apparel. She recently purchased face masks with the Hallahan name and mascot. She wears them with honor. I often think that my mother worked at Disney World for over twenty years because it was a way to feel like she was still at Hallahan, since their Mascot is also Mickey Mouse.

> So you ask "What does Hallahan mean to my mother". It means pride, faith, tradition, happiness, and life.

Allyson Mehley

From: Melissa Kromchad [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:22 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

To whom this may concern:

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Melissa Kromchad

Allyson Mehley

From: Susan Stermel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:25 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Sincerely,
Susan Stermel - Mother of 2011 Graduate.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ann-Marie Nacchio [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:28 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley....

Thank you for accepting John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School's application for Historical Designation.

Born in North Philadelphia and later moving to Roxborough/Northwest Philadelphia, I attended Catholic elementary school at Immaculate Heart of Mary and was excited to attend the prestigious John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School in Center City Philadelphia starting in 1973, graduating in 1977. My Aunts, Cousins and friends having the privilege of attending Hallahan all had spoken highly of their educational experience. I, too, was given the opportunity to witness the Hallahan experience, as many from Roxborough did. The bonds of Sisterhood at Hallahan that I enjoyed during my high school years and the legacy built over 100 years, has become part of my most treasured life experiences.

Historically, John W. Hallahan Girls Catholic High School offered a culture that I learned was a dream realized in 1908, the centennial year of the diocese, when a devout Catholic lay woman, Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. The building's façade marks 1911 as the construction year. At the request of Mary McMichan, in 1925, the school's name was prefaced with John W. Hallahan in honor of her brother.

The Hallahan Building Exterior is designed with rich and meaningful details, encompassing English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew letters, numbers, and symbols. Most are Catholic symbols, and importantly Catholics make up 25% of the United States and these symbols embedded in the architecture (for all to see) are readily interpreted by them bringing to let the world know of its significant iconography. The building's interior is very impressive without seeming opulent, but the touches of marble and stained glass that have held up well after 107 years of teenagers' wear and tear made the entrance unforgettable. The marble-lined Wood Street entrance has a stained glass transom window depicting the four virtues of a Hallahan woman: industry, faith, knowledge, and modesty. There are two portraits and plaques honoring John W. Hallahan and Mary Hallahan McMichan. The mosaic leading from the foyer also references the four virtues. Roman numerals on the right translate to 1963, and the names along the edges are those of students who graduated in 1963 and made this mosaic, along with the name of a Sister who supervised. Mosaic on the other side of the transom window from the class of 1967.

One of my favorite interior locations is the third floor auditorium, called Alumnae Hall. Since 1917, Catholic Masses, services were held weekly and the location of many special events. I would look up and be inspired by the incredible skylight (three) designed to provide natural light. There, spacious seating for 330 on the lower level, plus potentially 150 in the mezzanine was the location of many fond memories and events. Recently, I had the pleasure of bringing the subject of the Award-Winning Broadway Musical, "Come From Away" to Hallahan to speak to the students in Alumnae Hall. Beverley Bass, the first female Captain for American Airlines, was overcome with joy to visit Hallahan and was so impressed by the school's history and sisterhood. As a graduate, I was thrilled to introduce Ms. Bass to Archdiocese' most popular Girls High School and oldest Girls Catholic High School in the country.

Another favorite memory of Hallahan were the excellent teachings by the Religious, in particular, in the Business - Secretarial instruction, which allowed me to enter the business world successfully as an administrative assistant after receiving my BA at LaSalle University, creating a path for me to succeed in senior executive account and managerial positions in Philadelphia's Advertising & Public Relations industry, as well as the Motion Picture industry and Live Theater/Broadway industry.

So many great memories of Hallahan! Jumped in the "fountain" all four years! Still maintain close relationships with many of my classmates! To think my beloved Alma Mater's doors may shutter this June brings me to tears! Please reconsider and do whatever possible to #savehallahan ... "Oh Girls of the Hallahan High"!!

Respectfully,

Ann-Marie Felici Nacchio

Class of 1977

Allyson Mehley

From: Heather Hopkins [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:29 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.
Thank you
Heather Concilio

Sent from my iPhone.

Allyson Mehley

From: Kate Rintye [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:33 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Allyson,

I am an alum of John W Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, a graduate of the Class of 1992. Hallahan was my second home for four years, a place of beauty, happiness, friendships and learning.

I remember visiting the school during 8th grade and being intimidated by the building because it was so far away from my home and my grade school. Two buildings, how would I ever figure it out? I was less scared (but still scared, mind you) on my first day. I had completely forgotten where everything was from that visit so many months before. I remember thinking of bridges from one building to another but couldn't remember where they went or where I would wind up!

After a few days, I came to know those halls like the back of my hand. Navigating became easier and easier. Once that occurred, I was able to really take in Hallahan the building, the classrooms, the chapel, the cafeteria, the gym and those halls, those hallowed halls. Seeing where so many women had walked before me, many of them my relatives, was pretty neat to think of when I reflected on it.

Hallahan is an important part of the community at large, it provides an abundance of young women to work in Center City and volunteer in the area. I enjoyed walking from Hallahan to my after school job. Being fascinated looking up at Billy Penn as I walked down the Parkway. Walking into that building every day and being happy to have a chance to attend the place where Mickey Mouse was my mascot was a wonderful experience.

I have many great memories of the classrooms, I feel that the Cathedral building classrooms were probably my favorite. I loved having classes with Sr. Ida Marie, herself an alum or all of my Math classes with teachers like Ms. Bianco and Sr. Maureen and having gym class with Ms Biello who never ran out of copies of Chicken Fat!

Hallahan was not just a place to go to and come home everyday, it was a place of camaraderie, sisterhood, learning and my Catholic faith. I cannot imagine those memories occurring any place else or any other building. Please, please Save Hallahan and give it a historical designation. Please help to preserve mine and many, many others memories!

Thank you and God Bless,

Katie Branigan Rintye
Class of 1992

Allyson Mehley

From: Kennedy Wian [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:36 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: SAVE HALLAHAN

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation!!
I am an alumni from the class of 2017! This is the most historic building for WOMEN EVERYWHERE! Taking away this school and building is taking away history! Do not take away our Hallahan!

#savehallahan
Kennedy Wian
Class of 2017

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: James McCormick [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hi Allyson,

As a proud Roman alum and husband to a Hallahan grad, I am writing to you to designate Hallahan as a historic landmark.

Thank you,
Jim McCormick

Allyson Mehley

From: Jmj612 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:46 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

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[vcard] Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Please help us make this happen!

Respectfully,
Jennifer (Jordan) Miller
Class of 1993
2155003550

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Lance Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:51 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Building

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley:

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Thank you,
Lance Adams

Allyson Mehley

From: Kate Stermel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 6:52 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Katelynn Stermel
Hallahan Class of 2011

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Tori DeJesse [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:03 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Tori DeJesse

--

Ms. Tori DeJesse
Christopher Columbus Charter School
Kindergarten Teacher
KB

Allyson Mehley

From: Erin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:06 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

-Erin Lyons

Allyson Mehley

From: James Stermel [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:12 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save Hallahann

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

James Stermel
Father of a 2011 graduate

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Alexa Marie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:13 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Building Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for a historical designation.

Alexa Lalli
Class of 2011

Allyson Mehley

From: Michael Dennis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:17 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical designation of the Hallahan building

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Good evening,

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation

Thank you,

Michael Dennis

Allyson Mehley

From: Home [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:17 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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I support John W Hallahan Catholic school being designated historic.
Thank you.

Kind regards,

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Da'Vonne Hudson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:18 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Building

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

DaVonne Hudson

Allyson Mehley

From: Diane Regalbuto [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:21 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch st 13th floor
Phila pa 19102

Re; 311 North 19th St

I Diane Baron-Regalbuto support John W Hallahan Catholic Girls High School being designated historic.

Thanks,
Diane Baron-Regalbuto
Class of 1995

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Christina Lalli [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:24 PM
To: Friends of Hallahan; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Building Designation

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Christina Lalli
Hallahan Class of 2015



Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Kimberly Seltner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:24 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation. As the FIRST Catholic Girls' High School in Philadelphia, this school deserves to be a landmark, just as it's male counterpart, Roman Catholic.

Signed,
Kimberly Seltner, C/O 2011

Allyson Mehley

From: Julia Marandola [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:25 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan is Historic

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Thank you
Julia Marandola '13

Allyson Mehley

From: Jaime Aquilino [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:26 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Jaime Aquilino
Cousin to:
Melissa Gallagher class of 2012

Aunt to:
Gabriella Davis class of 2020
Vienna D'Aponte class of 2023
Alexandera D'Aponte class of 2024

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Dorothy Lemanski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:27 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan - Historic designation

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School, located at 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia PA, being designated historic.

Dorothy Lemanski
Class of 1995

Allyson Mehley

From: Gabriella Cora [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:29 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Building

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Hello,

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Gabriella Cora
Hallahan Alumni Class of 2012



Allyson Mehley

From: Christy Runowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:32 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Christy Runowski
Class of 1999

Allyson Mehley

From: Jenn Szewczak [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:30 PM
To: Friends of Hallahan; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save Hallahan

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE:

311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. I am a 2000 graduate and my daughter graduated in 2019. From the time I was a little girl and heard stories about attending Hallahan from my mother, grandmother & Aunts I could not wait to experience 4 years at Hallahan. Both of my sisters graduated from Hallahan as well (94 & 98). I hope many many many more young women get to experience the memories and SISTERHOOD of John W Hallahan.

Jennifer Szewczak

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Logan Tomaszewski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:35 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

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I support the nomination of the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School building for historical designation.
Logan Tomaszewski
Hallahan Class of 2021

From: Jillian Stewart [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:39 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' HS

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Hello Ms. Mehley,
I would like to express to you how important it is to me and my fellow Hallahan sisters that John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School be designated historic.

I'm sure you are well aware of the history of this beloved school, so I would like to briefly tell you about how Hallahan has touched my life. I have many family members who have attended Hallahan, including my aunts, mom and sister. No matter where I go in Philadelphia, I'm bound to cross paths with someone who has either attended Hallahan themselves or has a family member who attended. The history and impact of Hallahan is ingrained in our community and our lives.

Being part of the Hallahan community means feeling an overwhelming pride to be even a small piece of the huge mosaic that makes up our diverse, strong and united sisterhood. I had some of the best years of my life inside those walls. I met my best friends there. I have countless fond memories of school activities, playing in the band, playing basketball and attending dances, just to name a few.

That building is home in many ways to many women who have had the privilege to walk those halls. I truly believe it would be a disservice to our community, our city and all John W. Hallahan students, past and present, to allow this building to fall to any circumstance other than historic designation. It is a beautiful structure that has stood strong and proud for all these years. It's a symbol of all women; that we are strong, we persevere, and we refuse to give up without a fight. At a time when our country is going through turbulent times, saving and preserving this extraordinary representation of women and history is of utmost importance.

Thank you so much for your time.
Sincerely,
Jillian Stewart (née Tobin) Class of '99

Allyson Mehley

From: Karen Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:41 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: J. W Hallahan Historical Designation

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[REDACTED]

Hello,

I am writing In reference to the property at 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA.

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Respectfully,
Karen Johnson
Class of 1992

Allyson Mehley

From: Falyn Penrose [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Falyn Penrose
Hallahan Class of 2016

Allyson Mehley

From: Kelsey Hill [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:47 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save hallahan

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.
Class of 2013!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: michele aquillino [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:48 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Michelle Aquilino

Aunt to:
Melissa Gallagher class of 2012

Grandmother to:
Gabriella Davis class of 2020
Vienna D'Aponte class of 2023
Alexandra D'Aponte class of 2024

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: irishmum1 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:56 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Building

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Mrs Dennice McKelvie

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Ashley Kryszczak [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:57 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: HALLAHAN

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Thank you,
Ashley Kryszczak
Class of 2004



Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: irishmum1 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:59 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Building

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan Building for historical designation.

Margaretta McLaughlin Kelly
Class of 1943

[Sent from the all new Aol app for iOS](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Kimberly Pugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:00 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historic designation of Hallahan

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girl's High school being designated historic.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Pugh

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Susan Tobin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:05 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, Pa

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To whom it may concern:

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

“O Girls of the Hallahan High”!!!

Susan Goodwin Tobin
Class of 1987

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Lauren C [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:05 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Nomination of historical designation

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,
Lauren Cimini
Class of 2011

Allyson Mehley

From: Rachael Gartner [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:06 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan - Historic Building Designation

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. Hallahan's history as the first Catholic Girls' High School in the country should be celebrated. The school has a rich legacy of educating young women from all over Philadelphia. The school has bridged connections between Philadelphia's neighborhoods and diverse cultures. Hallahan alumnae grew to be Philadelphia's doctors, leaders, scientists, community organizers, and teachers. The school is an important part of Philadelphia's history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rachael Gartner
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Constance LaRussa [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:14 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Nomination

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Constance LaRussa '11

Allyson Mehley

From: Kate Herr [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:14 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan - Historic Building Designation

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
[1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor](#)
[Philadelphia, PA 19102](#)

RE: [311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA](#)

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. Hallahan's history as the first Catholic Girls' High School in the country should be celebrated. The school has a rich legacy of educating young women from all over Philadelphia. The school has bridged connections between Philadelphia's neighborhoods and diverse cultures. Hallahan alumnae grew to be Philadelphia's doctors, leaders, scientists, community organizers, and teachers. The school is an important part of Philadelphia's history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kate Herr
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Megan Tobin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:17 PM
To: Friends of Hallahan; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historic Hallahan High

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[REDACTED]

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Respectfully,
Megan Tobin Brown
Class of '94

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Ann Marie Walsh [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:18 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, Pa

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Ann Marie Walsh
Proud Catholic School Graduate of Philadelphia

Ann Marie Walsh
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: abc123k101 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 7:34 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.
Marisa Messina

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Dawn Monahan [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:21 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Preserve Historic Hallahan

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[REDACTED]

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. Please earnestly consider all the memories and traditions that were celebrated within these walls of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School which is not just some building for many of us who were privileged to attend this wonderful school. I am a proud graduate from the Class of 1993 following in the footsteps of my late mother, Kathryn I. Logan (nee Fital) Class of 1969. Ours is just one story of many more which include generations of women that create a family legacy and such rich history. As we currently celebrate Women's History Month this is the perfect time to dedicate and honor the first and oldest All Girls' Catholic High School a historic site preserving it's beautifully rich history.

Respectfully,
Dawn Monahan
Class of 1993

Allyson Mehley

From: Kathleen Colfer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:23 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Friends of Hallahan
Subject: 311 N. 19th Street, Phila., PA 19102

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am an alumni of John W. Catholic Girls' High School, class of 1976. I support that the school be designated as historic status.

Respectfully,
Kathleen J Colfer

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Kinzydog [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:27 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. Hallahan's history as the first Catholic Girls' High School in the country should be celebrated. The school has a rich legacy of educating young women from all over Philadelphia. The school has bridged connections between Philadelphia's neighborhoods and diverse cultures. Hallahan alumnae grew to be Philadelphia's doctors, leaders, scientists, community organizers, and teachers. The school is an important part of Philadelphia's history.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Brock (class of '74)
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Jill McManus [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:31 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historic Designation Request for 311 North 19th Street

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

Good evening,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Respectfully,
Jill Maloney McManus, RN, BSN
Class of 1993

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

8:32 PM

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Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to you to let you know that I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being placed on the register of historical places in Philadelphia. I support this as a citizen of Philadelphia and a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School (class of 1985). This building has a 110 years of history that is so important to preserve for future generations. Buildings like Hallahan add character to our great city, while providing a link to our past. Please consider adding Hallahan to the Historical Registry.

Sincerely,

Diane Benson

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Foilwall [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:39 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

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To Whom It May Concern:

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you,

David Benson
Northeast Catholic High School
Class of 1975

Allyson Mehley

From: kenz perry [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:41 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Marissa Lojewski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:41 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Allyson Mehley

From:

[REDACTED]

8:41 PM

To:

Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

Subject:

Historic Preservation for Hallahan

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

To whom it may concern:

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. The architectural style of the building would be difficult to duplicate today due to the extreme construction cost for a building with this detail.

Not only it's the building a historical landmark for the city, but it also helped fuel the desire for women, such as myself, to enter a male dominated field of architectural.

Jaime Esbensen- Kelly - 95'

Allyson Mehley

From: Carla Marandola [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:42 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: SAVE OUR SCHOOL

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Good Evening,

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Sincerely,

Carla Marandola '19

Allyson Mehley

From: alissa juliano [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:42 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Allyson Mehley

From: danaml24 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:45 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

-Dana LaMorgia

Allyson Mehley

From: Valarie Cofield [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:49 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good evening Ms. Mehley,

I strongly support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Yours in Business Success,



Connect with us



Engage • Connect • Grow

[2020 Sponsorship Package](#)

[Certification Application](#)

[Opportunity Portal](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Tiffany McNeill [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:51 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; Friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan historical Building Designation Letter

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

-Tiffany McNeill

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Angel Cerino [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:52 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Alumni

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. My twin sisters graduated in 2009, my cousin graduated in 2012, and I graduated in 2017. I want Hallahan to stay open so that I can send my future daughters to Hallahan and walk them down the aisle for their ring mass and graduation. Hallahan is one big giant diverse and crazy family. We need to keep Hallahan around especially for those girls who have a bad home and Hallahan is their safe space. Hallahan was mine and many others' second home. I wouldn't be where I am today without this school, the teachers, staff, and the friends I made along the way.

Angel Cerino
Class of 2017

From: Margie McGinnis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:53 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Historic Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

Dear Ms. Mehley,

My name is Margaret O'Donnell McGinnis and I am a proud alumnae of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School. I am writing this letter, together with my fellow Hallahan sisters, in support of the application for historic designation.

As the first all girls' Catholic high school in the country, Hallahan opened its doors in 1911 and welcomed girls from all backgrounds throughout the city. I and my family are forever grateful to Mary Hallahan McMichan for leading the way to ensure that young women were given the same opportunity as young men to pursue their education. She was definitely a woman who was ahead of her time!

Our beloved school building stands majestically at 311 N. 19th Street in the center of Philadelphia surrounded by some of the city's most prominent architectural classic such as the Main Branch of The Free Library of Philadelphia and the Family Court building. It is also neighbor to numerous museums and the center city business district. When I look at this building, I feel a sense of pride and appreciation that I was lucky enough to attend a school that gave me a strong foundation so rich in tradition! There are so many aspects of this building that need to be preserved such as the gorgeous stained glass, the Blessed Mother shrine and the chapel as well as the organ and pipes which are original to the building and irreplaceable!

I have so many memories in that glorious building! Friendships, classes, weekend plans, and prom dates as well as beloved teachers like Sister Ida Marie and Sister Elizabeth Ledger. We Hallahan girls learned so many things, both academic and life lessons! To this day, I never sit down to eat without a napkin on my lap!

The friendships formed behind those doors will never be broken! I am still friends with so many of my sisters thanks to social media and it's like we've never been apart! Friends and sisters for life. Little did I know that back in September of 1979, a nervous Freshman heading to her first day of high school with elementary school friends, that I would meet a girl who would be my best friend to this day!

Tens of thousands of young women have walked the hallowed halls of Hallahan. I personally come from a long line of Hallahan girls. My Mom graduated in 1958 and would always tell the story that the day she had me she said "Thank you God! I have a Hallahan girl!" That is how much her years at Hallahan meant to her! Her sisters (my Aunts) are also alumnae who graduated in 1951 and 1966. I myself belong to the Class of 1983 and have many cousins who are

graduates. Unbeknownst to me, years later I met my husband and found that a friend I had made in Hallahan was his cousin and that my mother-in-law and her sisters were Hallahan girls! We are EVERYWHERE!

In closing, I implore you to please do all that you can to ensure that Hallahan is designated as historical! We are truly an asset to the City of Philadelphia. Please help us protect our history, memories and traditions! Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Margaret O'Donnell McGinnis
Class of 1983

Allyson Mehley

From: JMJ675 [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:59 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

 Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Respectfully,
Stephen Miller
Husband of Jennifer (Jordan) Miller
Class of 1993
[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Anne Karpin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:03 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historical Designation of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Good evening,

I respectfully submit this request for consideration to designate John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School a historical site.

My family is just one of the many families of generations of proud women graduates. My grandmother, mother, aunts, cousins, my sister, myself, and my two daughters are representative of the proud woman who were honored to attend and graduate from the oldest all girls Catholic High School. This historical institution must remain in tact so many, many more young woman benefit from all that Hallahan offers. While the education, traditions, and sisterhood are unmatched, the building itself is also unmatched. It is rich in history and beautifully detailed architecture.

Please preserve the John W. Hallahan building...just a building to some but so very much more to the many graduates who called that beautiful building home for the 4 best years of their lives.

Respectfully yours,

Anne Sheeron Karpin, Class of 1987

Allyson Mehley

From: Tammy Felder [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:10 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Support

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historic designation.
I really hope it gets approved.

Tammy Felder

Allyson Mehley

From: D McGovern [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:13 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA. 19102

RE:

311 North 19th Street. Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. Not only was the school built for the sole purpose of educating young woman, it was the first of its kind in the nation. It is a magnificent building that was made by many proud architects, planners and builders. I am sure every brick was placed with pride. The details on the exterior of this building are beautiful and the pride of every craftsman who worked on the building is evident, along with the pride of every young woman who was educated there.

Dolores McGovern

Allyson Mehley

From: Grace Burns [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:37 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

- Grace Burns

Hallahan class of 2022

Allyson Mehley

From: Dominique Apadula [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:39 PM
To: Allyson Mehley

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Dominique
Class of '11

Allyson Mehley

From: Pagano, Gianna Marie [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:40 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: erin Barrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:46 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Forever

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Erin Barrett
Class of 2017

Allyson Mehley

From: Elsa Aponte [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:51 PM
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Elsa Aponte

Allyson Mehley

From: Mary Beth and JR Baranosky [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:52 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to you to let you know that I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being placed on the register of historical places in Philadelphia. I support this as a citizen of Philadelphia and a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School (class of 1981). This building has a 110 years of history that is so important to preserve for future generations. Buildings like Hallahan add character to our great city, while providing a link to our past.

Please consider adding Hallahan to the Historical Registry.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Lederer-Baranosky

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Katrina Powell [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:56 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Signed

Katrina Powell

Allyson Mehley

From: Christine McShane [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:58 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Christine McShane

Allyson Mehley

From: Kelly Loeffler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:01 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

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Hello,

I send this letter on behalf of my mother, a 1961 alumnus of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. Throughout my life, I have heard tales of Mickey Mouse, jumping in a fountain, Mass in the Basilica, and many other traditions of Hallahan. As my mother ages, these are the stories she remembers and tells over and over. These are the memories she holds. For my mother, and hundreds of other women, Hallahan is an historic location. I, and my mother, support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' high school being designated historic.

Thank you,
Kelly Loeffler

Allyson Mehley

From: Lynn Aguirre [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:06 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historic building

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE:

311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Margaret Lynn McCleery Aguirre
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Lauren Trimbur [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:02 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation Letter

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Ryan Trimbur . I was registered to attend John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School in September of 2021. I am hoping that I will be able to graduate from Hallahan in 2025 and join the thousands of young women who have had the opportunity to experience this amazing sisterhood!

Hallahan was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia. Please help us save our school, so myself and many more women can go on to experience this wonderful sisterhood.

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely Yours,

Ryan Trimbur

HALLAHAN class of 2025

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Lauren Trimbur [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:09 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation Letter

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Andie Trimbur . I was hoping to be able to attend John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School in September of 2023. My dream is to be able to graduate from Hallahan in 2027 just like my Mom Mom, my mom, my aunts, my cousins and my 2 older sisters. I want to be able to join the thousands of young women who have had the opportunity to experience this amazing sisterhood!

Hallahan was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia. Please help us save our school, so myself and many more women can go on to experience this wonderful sisterhood.

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely Yours,

Andie Trimbur

HALLAHAN class of 2027

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From:

Lauren Trimbur [REDACTED]

Subject:

Hallahan Historical Designation letter

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Charlie Trimbur . I am currently a student of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. I am hopeful that I will be able to graduate from John W Hallahan in June 2023 and join the thousands of young women who have graduated from Hallahan since in 1911. I would feel incredibly blessed to graduate from John W Hallahan High School at 19th and Wood!

Hallahan was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia. Please help us save our school, so myself and many more women can go on to experience this wonderful sisterhood.

Thank you for your help in our mission to save our school

Sincerely Yours,

Charlie Trimbur

Hallahan class of 2023

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Lauren Trimbur [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:04 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation Letter

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Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Chris Trimbur . My wife is graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School. My daughter Charlie is currently enrolled and hoping to graduate in 2023. My daughters Ryan and Andie plan to attend in 2021 and 2024. I am hoping that my daughters will be able to graduate from Hallahan and join the thousands of young women who have come before them since 1911 so they too can become part of the Hallahan sisterhood.

Hallahan was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world.

For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia. Please help us save our school, so my 3 daughters and many more women can go on to experience this wonderful school which is a huge part of our Philadelphia history.

Thank you for your help in our mission.

Sincerely Yours,

Christopher Trimbur

Husband of Hallahan Graduate class of 1994

Father of Hallahan Students class of 2023, 2025 and 2027

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Lauren Trimbur [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:49 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W Hallahan Historical designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good Afternoon Members of the Philadelphia Historical Commission,

My name is Lauren Omlor Trimbur . I am a graduate of John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School from the Class of 1994. I began my studies at Hallahan in 1990 where I was extremely blessed to become apart of the Hallahan sisterhood with thousands of young women since 1911.

Hallahan was established to be a high school for all girls because there had already been a high school established for boys on Broad and Vine by the Cahill family. Hallahan is known as the first all-girls Catholic high school in the world. In the late 1800s, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia began to discuss the need for a school to educate women of the Delaware Valley. Bishop McDevitt and Mrs. Mary McMichan were the leaders in the founding five "High School Centres" in 1901 which paved the way for the building of Catholic Girls High School in 1911. Mary E. H. McMichan, came forward to offer a gift of sufficient funds toward the establishment of such a school. Upon the death of Mary McMichan, the name of the school was changed to John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School in honor of her brother, as she requested. We cannot give up on her dream. We must carry on her legacy.

The building's façade marks 1911 as the construction year in Roman Numerals above the 19th street entryway. The building has rich exterior detail encompassing English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew letters, numbers, and symbols that represent the architecture design from the early 1900s. The resurrection of this building was meant to be a historical part of our great city. For 120 years, this building has allowed more than 37,000 young women to earn diplomas from Hallahan and have dedicated their talents and lives to society as mothers, medical professionals, educators, and business executives throughout the nation and the world.

The Hallahan building should be designated as historical because of the rich architecture design. The building was bought and invested to educate many ethical backgrounds of women from many diverse neighborhoods throughout the city of Philadelphia. Please allow this building to remain a historical part of our city and allow it to be the great representation of the quality secondary education received by the women of Philadelphia.

Thank you for your help in our mission to save our alma mater.

Sincerely Yours,

Lauren Omlor Trimbur

Fourseasons-director@outlook.com

[267-228-4009](tel:267-228-4009)

Allyson Mehley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:17 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: Lisa Kahuila
Subject: Historic designation of Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support JW Hallahan HS for girls to receive historic designation. I am not a graduate of Hallahan. My grandmother Elizabeth Meissler first walked the halls of Hallahan. I can't even imagine the history that lives inside that building. Young girls who had to work during the Depression to students who watched history like Obama's swearing in as President. I can't imagine being downtown without the building being there. Unlike some of the high rises surrounding it, the Hallahan Building is unique. Please consider declaring it historic.

Sincerely,
A proud Hallahan parent,
Bridget Cole

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nicole McGrath [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:18 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am writing to you to emphasize my firm belief that the John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School truly deserves the designation of a historic building. The beauty of Hallahan is superb. The school's main entrance is a treasure in itself displaying the beautiful marble, the stained glass, as well as the artistic and intricate mosaics. The numerous stained-glass windows within the chapel and throughout the building depict the building's beauty which has stood through time. The Blessed Mother's alcove, covered in light blue tile, in my opinion, is one of the most delightful areas of the Hallahan building.

I am a proud graduate of the Hallahan class of 1994. I am a second-generation Hallahan graduate, as my mother is a proud member of the class of 1961. We were so excited for my daughter, who is currently a seventh grader, to continue the legacy. Although currently we remain hopeful and continue to pray for the future of Hallahan.

My memories about the amazing four years that I spent at Hallahan bring me joy and happiness. I had the opportunity to build friendships with girls from different neighborhoods throughout the city. Hallahan is much more than a building to the alumnae and students; it is a tradition of sisterhood.

Please provide Hallahan with the historic designation that the school has earned. The building is not only priceless but serves as a symbol of the generations of women who have grown there, in both knowledge and faith, and have gone on to professionally impact the City of Philadelphia, its surrounding communities and beyond.

Respectfully yours,

Nicole Rapone McGrath
Class of 1994

Allyson Mehley

From: Rebecca Dabrowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:17 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Allyson Mehley,

My name is Rebecca Bowler and I am a proud Hallahan alumna.

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. Hallahan is the country's first all-girls diocesan Catholic high school! This is a fact and should be the only thing taken into consideration when deciding if Hallahan should be deemed a historic building.

I graduated from Hallahan in 2003 and it was the best four years of my life. Growing up in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia most kids went to either Hallahan and Roman or Archbishop Carroll. My parents didn't want me to go to a co-ed high school so they picked Hallahan for me and I couldn't be more thankful. Little did I know that I was about to enter into a sisterhood like no other. Unless you attended Hallahan, you will never understand the bond we have with our school and with each other. Hallahan accepts girls from all over the city. It is a melting pot of nationalities and cultures. This is what makes Hallahan so unique and it is because of its location.

Mary McMichan from Hallahan because there was a need to educate women. Hallahan is a school where you walk in a child and graduate as a woman. This school helped me develop and grow as a student, as an athlete, as a Catholic, but most importantly as a woman. This is the reason why Hallahan was formed and they are still true to their mission today. We cannot take this opportunity away from the current generation or the generations to come.

Thank you,
Rebecca Bowler

Alma Mater Glorify

Allyson Mehley

From: Jennifer Quinn [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:29 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Quinn

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: GERMAINE WESTERFER [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:47 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th St.

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Re: 311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Germaine Westerfer '83

Allyson Mehley

From: Mike [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:47 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Sincerely,

Michael Powell

Allyson Mehley

From: Joyce Haas [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:54 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia PA

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support John W. Hallahan being designated historic.
Regards,
Joyce Haas

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Michele Conway [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:11 AM
To: Allyson Mehley

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. Attending Hallahan was a bright spot in my life. I was immersed in a diverse environment and have maintained life-long friendships. Everywhere you go, you meet a Hallahan girl. Please designate this building as historic and continue to the tradition of educating strong women.

Michele Conway '94

Allyson Mehley

From: Mary Beth Novack [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:21 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Preservation

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE:

311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Mary Beth Tierney Novack
Class of 1979

--

Mary Beth

Allyson Mehley

From: kdss7 [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:49 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallhan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historic Site Designation

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good morning Ms. Mehley,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School being designated historic.

This school means so much to thousands of women who were educated there.

I am grateful for your support to consider this designation.

Respectfully,

Kate Dolan Samson '77

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Allyson Mehley

From: Radomicki, Patricia [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:57 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th St. Phila., PA.

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic

Signed,

Patricia A. Radomicki

--

Pattie Anne Radomicki
[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: kdss7 [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 6:58 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan designation as historic

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good morning Ms. Mehley,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School designated as historic.

This school means so much to the thousands of women who were educated there.

I am grateful for your support.

Respectfully,

Kate Dolan Samson '77

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Allyson Mehley

From: Adriana Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:04 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: #Savehallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Adriana Brown
Class of 1996
National Honor Society
French National Honor Society
Band Geek
Mathlete
Alumni St Peter the Apostle School

#savehallahan



Allyson Mehley

From: c hampton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:14 AM
To: Friends of Hallahan; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Designate Hallahan as a historical building

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: c hampton <hamtrio3@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 2, 2021 at 7:08 AM
Subject: Designate Hallahan as a historical building
To: Friends of Hallahan <friendsofhallahan@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern,

Please designate John W. Hallahan as a Historical building.

The incredible adornments on the exterior of the Hallahan building alone are worthy of historical designation. As well as the beautiful interior of this magnificent building. This building is so rich in history and deserves being saved. So many historical buildings have been lost in the city of Philadelphia. Being torn down and replaced with less interesting buildings. Thank you for taking the time to read this, have a wonderful day.

--

Claire Lederer Hampton

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life...
But by the obstacles, he has overcome while trying to succeed.

Booker T. Washington

--

Claire Lederer Hampton

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life...
But by the obstacles, he has overcome while trying to succeed.

Booker T. Washington

Allyson Mehley

From: Kara Sunderhauf (Philadelphia) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:40 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: SAVE HALLAHAN

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support the nomination
Hallahan building for h
designation.

Sign your name.

*can e
few
their*

KARA SUNDERHAUF

Allyson Mehley

From: Ruth Skalamera [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:06 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 N 19th Street

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I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic...

Mrs.Ruth McLain Skalamera

💚💚 STAY SAFE&HEALTHY 💚💚

Allyson Mehley

From: Joe Grassi [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:10 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan historic destination

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Hello Allyson,

I am the father of a current junior at Hallahan, and I can't say enough good things about what a great school and community it is that is housed in that beautiful historic building.

I am writing to say that I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historic designation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Kind Regards,
Joseph Grassi

Allyson Mehley

From: Payton Pugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:20 AM
To: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com; Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save Hallahan

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I support J. W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,

Payton Pugh

Allyson Mehley

From: Charlotte Pugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:20 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: DESIGNATING HALLAHAN HISTORIC

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I, Charlotte Pugh, support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic!!!

Sincerely,
Charlotte Pugh

Allyson Mehley

From: Maria Colozzo [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 8:34 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation

Maria Colozzo

Sent from my iPhone

From: John Hyman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Endorsing John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls H.S. as a Historic Landmark Inbox

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley,

My name is John Hyman and I am a life-long resident of Philadelphia. As background, I've been employed in the field of education for over several decades now and only recently retired from the Lower Merion School District. In addition, I've dedicated my adult life (40+ years) to the pursuit of excellence in sports, specifically coaching football and baseball at the high school and Collegiate levels, within the city of Philadelphia and the suburban Philadelphia vicinity, in both the public and parochial school systems. To say that I've seen most if not all the sports complexes and associated high school buildings/related structures within the area wouldn't be a stretch. Those who know me well would say that is a fair characterization. That is why I felt compelled to write to you about John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School when I heard of its threatened closure.

I know a winner when I see one (*this is not hyperbole; see a footnote for an excerpt of my record below***). I've spent years motivating athletes/students and developing talent on and off the football and baseball fields, but there are essential, intrinsic qualities that can't be bought or manufactured, and when manifest within the members of sport's team in the right combination are undeniable. Those ingredients virtually equate with success. Hallahan, the building, and Hallahan, the legacy/mission/students, exhibit those winning qualities with abundance.

First off: Hallahan, the building. In a word? Peerless. In sports parlance? *There's just no contest*. There isn't a high school in the city I've seen that compares to this imposing structure. I can remember my first reaction years ago when I walked down 19th Street by chance with friends approaching Wood Street and caught a glimpse of the building one afternoon. I was *stunned*. The building draws you in.... Fortunately, we weren't in a rush and others with me were equally intrigued.

Hallahan leaves an indelible impression on you—it literally stopped us in our tracks. We spent awhile strolling around the building, gazing gobsmacked, to tell you the truth. Hallahan oozes with architectural character and as passerbys the historic nature of this structure was immediately apparent. I liken my experience that day to spotting innate athletic talent when scouting. As a coach you know real, raw athleticism when you see it. With Hallahan, it's the same thing. Hallahan is unquestionably an authentic architectural jewel. Moreover, the

immediate, sudden impact we all felt that afternoon was slowly replaced with the intense realization that this building has a complex story to tell, too. The plethora of tributes to strong, noble women etched in concrete surrounding the building prompted thoughtful conversation as I recall and a curiosity about what was inside the building we didn't get a chance to see closely and wanted to know more about.

Secondly, I want to comment on Hallahan, the legacy/mission/students. Hallahan is a very special place I've since learned after that impromptu visit years ago. It's a rare combination—much like a championship sports team. As a coach you have to balance many variables just right to get a winning outcome. And Hallahan does just that.

Consider this: outside the building, Hallahan's locus within the city offers diverse young women an unparalleled opportunity to mature in a world-class cultural environment all within steps of their school doors. Inside the building, young women are reminded daily to elevate their mindset while the classic beauty of Hallahan's inspiring architecture surrounds them.

If I've learned anything in my decades working as a coach-mentor/educator it's this: motivation and inspiration are keys to driving and shaping outcomes. Believe it or not, I'm convinced that the beauty of Hallahan's architecture and pivotal location can and will continue to motivate and shape, not only the destiny of young women *if you let it*, but can serve as an inspiration to the Philadelphia community at large as well.

I wholeheartedly and emphatically endorse without reservation designating John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as a historic landmark and urge the Philadelphia Historical Commission to vote in favor of this status. Please protect this *exemplary* institution. Don't deprive future generations of the experience I enjoyed. It would be a monumental loss to this city.

Sincerely,

John J. Hyman

Retired Instructional Aide

Lower Merion High School

+++++

**** Coaching History—An excerpt:**

Varsity Football Offensive Coordinator:

LaSalle College High School (multiple winning seasons and Catholic League Titles)

Lower Merion High School

Neshaminy High School (multiple conference championships)

Archbishop Wood High School

Imhotep Institute Charter High School (multiple winning and playoff qualifying seasons)

Varsity Baseball Head Coach

University of the Sciences (post season playoff qualifier, multiple years)

Lower Merion High School (inducted in the LMHS Sports Hall of Fame)

Archbishop Kennedy High School (multiple winning seasons; Bicentennial League Championships; Awarded *Coach of the Year*)

LaSalle College High School (multiple winning, playoff qualifying seasons)

Allyson Mehley

From: Colleen Ferrara [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historic Hallahan

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 Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Allyson,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,
Colleen Ferrara
Class of 2005

Allyson Mehley

From: Donna Scotti [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:09 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan High School

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I support Hallahan High School being designated as a historic building.

Donna Scotti

Allyson Mehley

From: Mary Pownall [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: First Girls Catholic high school!

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hallahan is the first all girls Catholic high school in the nation! PLEASE keep Hallahan open!

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you,
Mary Pownall (Class of 2000)

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Allyson Mehley

From: Lourdes ortiz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 9:47 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; Friends of Hallahan
Subject: Hallahan Building for Historic designation

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Good Morning,

I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historic designation.

Please consider in keeping the memories alive of those who attended in the past, for those who have currently attended and soon to graduate from J.W. Hallahan High School for Girls Class of 2021.

We are a city of historical buildings and of brotherly love. In Hallahan's case it's sisterly love and support. Because of its history this building should never be demolished and highly considered as a historical building. I believe that this school will be a great addition to Philadelphia's historical list.

Thank you for your sincere consideration and honor of the requests of the JW Hallahan High School for Girls from the first to the current last class members.

Sincerely,

Lourdes Ortiz

Proud Parent of JW Hallahan High School for Girls 2021

Graduate

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Ki'aja Byrd [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Historical Building Designation Letter

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

- Ki'aja Byrd
Hallahan Class of 2022

Allyson Mehley

From: Michelle Goebig [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Save Hallahan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good morning,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michelle Pospieck Goebig
Class of 1981

Allyson Mehley

From: Peg McGovern [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:48 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Fwd: Hallahan high

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Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peg McGovern <lfmmom3@gmail.com>
Date: March 2, 2021 at 10:40:45 AM EST
To: allyson.mehlry@phila.gov
Subject: Hallahan high

I support John W Hallahan catholic girls' high school being designated historic.
Thank you,
Margaret Ann Mansfield McGovern class of 1975

Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Mark Pugh [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 10:50 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historic Designation of Hallahan

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> Dear Ms. Mehley,
>
> I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girl's High school being designated historic.
>
Dear Ms. Mehley,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girl's High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,
MacKenzie Pugh

Allyson Mehley

From: KEVIN TOBIN [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street, Philadelphia, Pa

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To whom it may concern:

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

“O Girls of the Hallahan High”!!!

Maria Goodwin Tobin
Class of 1983

From: Nicole Kenney [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Philadelphia Historical Commission Letter

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Hello,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my Hallahan classmates and friends, Dr. Shanel Thompson, Na Tang, and Councilwoman Tasila Lungu.

We are proud Hallahan graduates and stand in solidarity with the requests for its historical designation. The Hallahan building embodies its extraordinary legacy of developing women of faith, purpose, and friendship that impacts communities here, across the country, and around the globe.

June 2021 marks 20 years since I graduated from Hallahan and of friendship with my Hallahan classmates, Dr. Shanel Thompson, Na Tang, and Councilwoman Tasila Lungu. Some of our favorite past times included connecting in the lunchroom before homeroom and our quick check-ins while passing each other on “the bridge.”

Since graduating from Hallahan, all of our journeys are a testament to the education we received, the friendships forged, and what the Hallahan building represents:

- Dr. Shanel Thompson, became a pediatrician and works at a rural clinic in Texas;
- Na became an epic report writer in healthcare technology; and
- I own a communications firm in Philadelphia that centers Black women and girls. Last month, I became a finalist in The Pennsylvania Economy League and Independent Blue Cross’ Well City Challenge for a solution I proposed to address mental health amongst millennial women.

And the journey of our friend and Hallahan graduate Councilwoman Tasila Lungu offers a global perspective on the impact of Hallahan.

Just five years ago, Tasila was 32 and working the traditional 9 – 5 job in Philadelphia. She acquired the degrees, built the networks, and possessed the strongest work ethic to bring change for women and girls, especially in Africa. But the opportunities for international development work always elude her. Everything changed one ordinary day in 2015 when her father was unexpectedly appointed the President of Zambia. With a renewed sense of hope, Tasila returned to Zambia, the country where she was born and always loved so profoundly that she would visit in the summers, and even worked at a startup marketing firm back in 2010.

Over the first two years of Tasila relocating back to Zambia, she poured all her time, talents, and education from institutions like Hallahan, into training and advocating for local women in an unplanned settlement. This led to the women nominating Tasila as their Councilor (Councilwoman). Today, Councilor Lungu represents over 100,000 people, is currently in the middle of her re-election campaign, and has championed and brought countless investments in her community, including roads, hospitals, affordable housing, and a stadium.

This is the legacy of Hallahan. It creates foundations, sows seeds, and builds communities that have molded and shaped us to become the women we are today, our work, and the legacy we aim to leave in the world.

Women and girls continue to live in a less equitable world. At this time in our history, we need institutions like Hallahan in Philadelphia, across the country, and around the globe as a reminder that every girl must have the opportunity to learn and lead.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole E. Kenney, M.P.P.

Nicole E. Kenney

Founder + Vision Architect at It Starts With Me!, LLC

[Schedule a Free Discovery Call!](#)



We power brands with strategies, campaigns, and experiences to create a more equitable society.

Allyson Mehley

From: John [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:21 AM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Please preserve the Hallahan building

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Dear Ms. Mehley

I ask that the Commission approve Hallahan's application for the historic registry. It is amazing that Hallahan is the only building built on bare ground in the area. It is also still used for its original function. The carving of the school seal and cross are beautiful!

Sincerely,

John J. Entz, CPA
Daniel Ferrari & Co., P.C.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Allyson Mehley

From: Kenneth Romanowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 11:33 AM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan High School - Historic

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hello:

I fully support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

It is not only my beloved alma mater, it is also a beautiful period building. I understand it is the only one remaining in the area of that time period in which it was built.

Philadelphia, show your pride! Save Hallahan. Black Lives Matter. Diversity Matters. Classic buildings matter.

Thank you!

Linda Romanowski

Allyson Mehley

From: Jean Kristie [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:00 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Catholic Girls High School

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Please designate Hallahan Catholic Girls High School as historic.

Thank you,
Jean Kristie

Allyson Mehley

From: Madison Belz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:00 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan Highschool Building

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Hello,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High school being designated historic. I am a current Hallahan student in the class of '22. Throughout my time at Hallahan I have learned about the great history of the school and have made many great friendships with the students and faculty. Hallahan was the first all girls Catholic high school and is the home for many of the students and alumnae. I come from a long generation of Hallahan alumnae such as my great grandmother, great aunts, aunts, grandmothers, and my mother have all attended and loved Hallahan. The buildings signify the sisterhood and bond among our Hallahan sisters.

-Madison Belz '22

Allyson Mehley

From: Kim Murray [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:03 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: 311 North 19th Street Phila, Pa

Importance: High

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3/2/21

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St
13th Floor
Phila, Pa 19102

RE: 311 North 19th Street Philadelphia, Pa

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Sincerely,

Kim Donovan Murray
Class of 1985

Allyson Mehley

From: Patty LaBarbara [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:09 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

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I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Thank you,

Patricia LaBarbara

--



Patty LaBarbara
Travel Consultant, Global Travel Escapes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Free service | Luxury Travel | All destinations | Help people across the U.S. with travel plans all over the globe | Hotels | Airfare | Train tickets | Packages | Multiple suppliers for the best deals | All cruise lines | All-inclusive resorts | Tours | Excursions | Groups | Incentive Travel for Businesses

Allyson Mehley

From: Lauren Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:29 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

To Whom it May Concern,

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Signed,
Lauren Fox

Allyson Mehley

From: Christine Sullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:42 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School Historical Designation

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Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102
allyson.mehley@phila.gov

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am an alumni of this wonderful establishment and fully support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic. Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Christine T. Sullivan
Class of 1998

From: Eileen Flanagan [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:45 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Letter for Historical Commission

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Historical Commission Members,

First of all, thank you for taking the time to read my letter and the others that you have received from Hallahan Grads. My grandmother graduated from Hallahan and went on to become a funeral director after her husband died. She was able to save the business and earn money to take care of her children. She passed away when I was 2 years old, so my knowledge is based on the stories that I was told. Women did not run businesses back then. This did not stop her. She ran the business on a widow's license. My father and Aunt took over the funeral home when she passed away. By the way, women did not own funeral businesses back then. She was determined to succeed and provide for her family. She has always been a role model to me, based on the stories I was told.

My mother graduated from Hallahan in 1943. Her stories are ones of pride in her school. She was well educated and when she married my father, also became a part of the funeral home business. My mother was an only child and my grandmother was born and raised in Toreigh Island near Ireland. My mother was soft spoken but her skills were developed at Hallahan. Her kindness to others was fantastic. She raised 5 children, three of them are grads of Hallahan, class of 1967, 1968, 1984. The boys did not go to Hallahan. I have had the privilege of serving on the Hallahan Alumnae Board for quite a few years. My education at Hallahan prepared me for college and I have been a Catholic School teacher since 1972, the day after I graduated from college,

Hallahan met the needs of so many young ladies. Its location allowed us to explore our city. The Activities that we were allowed to participate in, enabled all of us to grow into valuable members of our society. Please reconsider closing a school that has done so much to give young ladies the skills and confidence to succeed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at eflanagan@waldronmercy.org

Sincerely,

Eileen Flanagan Class of 1968

Allyson Mehley

From: Kelly DiMatteo [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

311 North 19th Street
Philadelphia, PA

I support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Kelly DiMatteo
Daughter of Alumni, Frances (Friel) Fox

Allyson Mehley

From: Collish424 [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:58 PM
Cc: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Designating John W Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School a historic building

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Allyson Mehley
Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Allyson Mehley;

I support strongly and whole heartedly support John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School being designated historic.

Colleen M Smith

Allyson Mehley

From: Sherry [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 12:58 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: I support John W. Hallahan being designated historic

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Sent from my iPhone

Allyson Mehley

From: Mary Bieter [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:02 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Save Hallihan

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Good afternoon,

As a lifelong resident of Philadelphia and the suburbs, I am well aware of the rich history Hallahan brings to the city. I've been following the decision to close Hallihan through several friends who attended and want to express my support to designate the site as a historic site. Losing Hallahan would represent a tremendous loss to the city and community.

I hope the Commission will make the right decision.

Sincerely,

Mary Bieter

Allyson Mehley

From: Maureen Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:04 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: JW Hallahan High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

I support John W Hallahan High School being designated an historic site.

As a graduate of 1977 I can proudly say that I come from a long line of Hallahan women going back to the 1930s. Numerous aunts, on both sides of my family along with cousins. Between the years of 1960s thru 1980s there were always 2 to 4 cousins going to Hallahan and this was the time my sisters attended

My mother was a proud graduate of 1937 then I graduated 40 years later in 1977 and then my own daughter graduated in 2017 which would be 40 years after I graduated.

I can proudly say that family members from the Flanagan and McGee clans have attended Hallahan for more than half the time this site on 19th and Wood has stood.

Yours in SISTERHOOD
Maureen McGee Wilson
Class of 1978

Allyson Mehley

From: Maura Boland [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:07 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I am a former teacher at Hallahan and I am writing in support of our school being designated as historic. Having taught there for close to 15 years, I believe that I have a credible insight into not only the beauty of the physical building but also, the truly amazing spirit that is unique to our school. We as a faculty used to say that the school is just special...simple as that. I had never seen a school where the students actually showed up early and didn't want to leave at the end of the day. It provided then, and continues to provide a respite from the often challenging lives that our kids face (with an amazing amount of grace).

John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School is a treasure and I implore you to designate it as historic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Maura Boland

Allyson Mehley

From: Susan Parrott [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:11 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: 0c4ae931-c7d1-4565-ab87-bb3876f4ca49@reply.linkedin.com
Subject: Historic designation for Hallahan High School

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch St., 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Commissioners:

As the oldest Catholic girls school in the country, Hallahan High School for Girls has educated generations of young women who have gone on to serve our city and our country. As such, it is more than worthy of historic site designation. At a time when many are concerned about the “dumbing down” of education, Hallahan continues to provide educational value admired by Catholics and Protestants alike. I fully support this proposal.

Sincerely,
Susan C.Parrott

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Joseph Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan Building

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Planner
1515 Arch Street
13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Ms. Mehley,

I wanted to let you know that I support designating the Hallahan High School Building as a designated historic building. So many of Philadelphia's past historic buildings have been torn down and lost forever. We need to preserve these buildings so people can see the architectural beauty of these buildings. Please consider saving this building for all future generations to see.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Joseph Fox

[REDACTED]

Allyson Mehley

From: Barbara Mas [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Allyson Mehley; friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Historic site designation

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

I'm writing in support of designating John W. Hallaban Catholic Girls' High School a historic site.

Barbara Mas

Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Susan Parrott [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Historic designation for Hallahan High School

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Historic Preservation Planner
Philadelphia Historical Commission
[1515 Arch St., 13th Floor](#)
[Philadelphia, PA 19102](#)

Dear Commissioners:

As the oldest Catholic girls school in the country, John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls High School has educated generations of young women who have gone on to serve our city and our country. As such, it is more than worthy of historic site designation. At a time when many are concerned about the “dumbing down” of education, Hallahan continues to provide educational value admired by Catholics and Protestants alike. I fully support this proposal.

Sincerely,
Susan C.Parrott
Sent from my iPad

Allyson Mehley

From: Eileen McKnight [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:51 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: John W. Hallahan

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Good Afternoon Ms. Mehley, Could you please consider making John W. Hallahan a historic site. It is the oldest girls Catholic High School in the City. I have learned today that is 113 years old and this may be our last resort to save it from being sold and also to be God forbid be demolished. The Building is huge and so beautiful and so sacred to many of us, especially a great friend of mine who works there at 92 years old. Her name is Sister Frances Christi. She is so upset over all this as I and many of the present and past Hallahan Alumni. I hope you at least take the time to read this and consider overseeing the efforts of all us who hold Her great traditions in our hearts and minds. Thank you for all you can do and may God Bless you!

Yours Truly, Eileen McKnight (Class of 1978)

Allyson Mehley

From: Christine Robertson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:58 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Cc: friendsofhallahan@gmail.com
Subject: Hallahan Nomination Support

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I support the nomination of the Hallahan building for historical designation.

Christine Robertson

Allyson Mehley

From: patricia.brehony [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 2:15 PM
To: Allyson Mehley
Subject: Hallahan

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Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy Tablet

I support John W Hallahan as a historical landmark.

Thank you,

Patricia Brehony