

Dear Council Member Thao: I have lived in Ramsey Hill for over forty years. Currently I live at 445 Summit Avenue in your district. I am on the board of directors for the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association (SARPA) and a recent member of the West Summit Neighborhood Advisory Committee (WSNAC). As a result I have learned a great deal about Loras Hall. Sadly, I have also learned about its proposed destruction by Saint Thomas. I strongly object to the proposed destruction of Loras Hall. The importance of Cass Gilbert to the City of Saint Paul, the State of Minnesota and, indeed, our country cannot be overstated. As so many experts including the Cass Gilbert Society and the Historic Preservation Committee itself have found, Loras Hall is an important irreplaceable part of Cass Gilbert's legacy. That legacy belongs to all of our citizens. Saint Thomas is at most its custodian. Saint Thomas has other reasonable ways to meet the academic needs of its students. Loras Hall is irreplaceable. The City Council must protect it. Please prevent Saint Thomas from taking an action that will be instantly regretted by our citizens and that cannot be undone. I am confident even Saint Thomas will come to regret the destruction it now seeks. However, by then, without your action, it will be too late. Please consider what is at stake: the permanent destruction of an important part of our history versus a temporary expedient toward an end that can be reached by other methods. Please deny the Saint Thomas' appeal. Tom Darling.