



## BUFFALO PRESERVATION BOARD

901 City Hall  
Buffalo, New York 14202  
(716) 851-5029

January 11, 2010

Joelle Schatz  
Special Projects Coordinator  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. Schatz

I am writing on behalf of the Buffalo Preservation Board recommending the nomination of the Statler Building to the National Trust for Preservation's *11 Most Endangered Historic Places*.

The former Hotel Statler designed and built from 1921-1923 is a classic example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century hotel design produced by the New York City architect George P. Post. The Statler Hotel would also serve as the prototype for Ellsworth Statler, founder of the Statler Hotel chain and a Buffalo native. At the time of its construction it could argued that it was the finest hotel in America. His original design included the 18 story, 1100 room hotel, an ornate parking structure across the street, and even a theater. Today only the hotel building survives.

Now the hotel is threatened with possible demolition. The building is in bankruptcy and is deteriorating at an alarming rate. Pieces of masonry have fallen endangering the public and the new prospective owner has been unable to properly finance his purchase. The building is scheduled to be mothballed and unheated. It is sad fate for a very proud building.

The importance of this building to Buffalo can not be understated both architecturally and culturally. We hope the National Trust will share our concern for this magnificent building and your recognition will generate attention and resources necessary to save it.

Sincerely,

Paul McDonnell AIA  
Acting Chair,  
Buffalo Preservation Board.