

Watergate Project Still Too Massive

The Fine Arts Commission, which acquired a new look when its membership changed recently, made an old complaint yesterday. The Watergate Towne project still looks too high and massive, it said.

Last year the Commission protested that the luxury residential complex planned for Foggy Bottom would dominate the Potomac shoreline and overshadow nearby monuments with its 130-foot skyline.

Discussions were held with the developers and Italian architect Luigi Moretti, and a compromise in principle worked out.

The drawings were revised and the developers obtained approval from the Zoning Commission and the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Yesterday, the Fine Arts groups said it is their belief that previous objections of the Commission to the building heights have not been met. If scaled down, they said, the project might be an attractive addition to the city's architecture. But, as it stands, it would seriously impair a segment of the National Park system.

A spokesman for Watergate Improvements, Inc., said "scaling down was done in strict accordance with the agreements reached" in working sessions with architect members of the Fine Arts Commission.