

To: Ann Arbor Planning Staff

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I wanted to voice my comments in writing to the Planning Staff about the George Brigham design direction for the house at 515-517 Oxford. I think this project should be approved.

As a resident of Ann Arbor and in particular that neighborhood I applaud any person that volunteers their time and resources to take an older, significant Ann Arbor home and restore it and also put it to good use. I personally rehabbed and saved from the wrecking ball the Ulrich B Phillips House designed by Emil Lorch at 1910 Hill Street and know that it takes a person that cares about houses to carefully bring an old house back to life while keeping the majority of it authentic.

I am also now the owner of one of George Brigham's outstanding mid-century modern buildings that was integrated into an existing structure at 1917 Washtenaw Ave – the former Ann Arbor Unitarian Church. I am developing an appreciation for the Brigham's work and have been studying the original drawings for my building at the Bentley Library.

I understand that the owner of 515-517 Oxford has done a lot of research at the Bentley Historical Library researching George B Brigham's house and studio and has discovered architectural details that have been removed by previous owners and wants to put them back while integrating upgrades for modern use. What a blessing that he is able to recreate the original house and also benefit the neighborhood. By fixing that house up it will look a lot better than it does now and serve the sorority girls also.

Let's celebrate the past and the present by honoring Ann Arbor's first modern architect, George B Brigham, by allowing his very own residence to be restored and used today in very near the way it was originally designed. I think George Brigham would approve and I know I do.

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