



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

April 7, 2014

Ann Arbor Planning Commission
City Hall, 301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Re: George Brigham Home, 515/517 Oxford Road, Ann Arbor

Greetings Honored Planning Commissioners,

I am writing regarding the home of Ann Arbor architect George Brigham, located in the Ann Arbor Hills neighborhood. This is in support of the position set forth by a2modern, which requests that the Planning Commission support proposals that maintain the original design integrity instead of approving an exception to change it beyond recognition.

Washtenaw County first came in contact with the a2modern group in 2011, when we worked together on a Certified Local Government Grant-funded project to begin documentation and research on homes in the Ann Arbor Hills neighborhood. Our project produced the first of the Michigan Modern driving tours – Michigan Modern: Ann Arbor Modern/Ann Arbor Hills Tour – in the fall of 2011. This group has gone on to further raise the profile of mid-century modern buildings in Washtenaw County, and added to its interest among architects and design professionals. They have lead many tours, hosted lectures, and collaborated on curating a series of gallery exhibitions to highlight the work of many talented local architects and their impact in the larger design community.

The Brigham Home is part of this critical mass of significant mid-century modern homes in Ann Arbor. Not only is it architecturally significant, it is also historically important as the home and studio of one of the most cherished architects of this period. We as preservationists wish to see mid-century modern homes continue to serve as places of work, rest, and leisure – and do so in a way that retains their original configuration and features. I add my voice to the assertion that the home's historic character can be retained and any adaptive reuse should be sympathetic to the structure's original intent while meeting existing planning codes and setbacks.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincere regards,
MMP

Melissa Milton-Pung
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