

MERRIMACKDESIGN

December 25, 2022

Monsignor Peter Routhier & Reverend Monsignor John McDermott,
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Burlington
svt@comcast.net
jmcdermott@vermontcatholic.org

Dear Monsignors Routhier and McDermott,

I am a preservation architect with a practice in White River Junction, Vermont, and a passionate advocate for the preservation of historically significant architectural resources. I currently serve on the Historic New England Preservation Committee and the Strafford, VT Townhouse Advisory Group. In my early career, I worked on the addition to the Fleming Museum of Art at UVM with Crissman + Solomon Architects.

I was alarmed to learn that the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Burlington, Vermont is threatened with demolition. As a person raised in the Catholic faith and traditions, I encourage the Archdiocese of Burlington to be responsible stewards to maintain and preserve its architectural heritage.

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception building and landscape were designed by the historically significant and distinguished firms of Edward Larabee Barnes architects and Kiley, Tyndall, Walker landscape architects. The rational plan and design are examples of late Brutalism and the emergence of the Post-Modern style with architectural design references to the Romanesque Revival architecture of the Billings Library at UVM.

Edward Larabee Barnes designed the IBM headquarters in New York City and Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine, among other notable building projects. I attended Haystack School during the summer of 1994 and the experience of living and working in that special place became an important influence on my work as an architect. Dan Kiley is also an important landscape architect whose body of work in the modern style includes the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Ford Foundation Headquarters, and Lincoln Center in New York City.

I strongly recommend that the Archdiocese reconsider its plan to demolish this important building with its integral relationship to the landscape at 20 Pine Street. Alternatively, I urge you to consider seeking a solution for its deconsecration and adaptive reuse in order to preserve this significant cultural, historic, and architectural resource in the Burlington community.

Sincerely,



Gregory Colling, AIA
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Copy to:

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