

SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL
HISTORIANS

New England Chapter

NE/SAH

New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

www.nesah.org

November 21, 2022

Msgr. Peter Routhier
Cathedral of St. Joseph
113 Elmwood Avenue
Burlington, VT 05401

Dear Monsignor Routhier,

On behalf of the New England Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, I am writing to express our concern about the proposed demolition of the former Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This property is featured in the Society of Architectural Historians' 2014 publication *Buildings of Vermont* and is described, in part, as follows:

From a field of fifty-four architects, the diocese selected [Edward Larrabee] Barnes and his frequent collaborator, Vermont-based landscape architect [Dan] Kiley, to design a replacement [cathedral] that eschewed the assertive monumentality of the lost building in favor of greenery and retreat...the new building is set back in the center of its block, surrounded by lawns and a grove of one hundred and twenty-three locust trees. Small in scale, it is nonetheless a significant presence, borrowing from the rounded arches and rich colorism of H. H. Richardson's Billing's Library.

This is a highly significant work of architecture and landscape design, and it is the type of urban space that most cities are trying to create, not destroy. It provides a vast greenspace full of mature trees, and a building of exquisite design and construction by one of the leading architects of the 20th century. These are assets to be treasured and protected, not scraped away by a bulldozer.

Because of the quality and significance of this site's architecture and landscape design, as well as its association with a very important architect and landscape architect, NE/SAH strongly advocates for the preservation of this valuable historic resource. We highly encourage consideration of the adaptive reuse of the building and exploration of the manner in which a sensitive addition could be designed to add more square footage to the existing building.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Gaugler
President
New England Chapter, Society of Architectural Historians