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MEMORANDUM

TO: William J Keogh, City Council President
Burlington City Council
Mayor Bob Kiss
Jonathan Leopold

FROM: Mary O'Neil, Associate Planner & CLG Coordinator

DATE: 5 March, 2010

RE: FY2010 Certified Local Government Grant Agreement

This memo is to provide background information related to a resolution from the Board of Finance authorizing the acceptance of grant funds from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

The City of Burlington has been awarded a grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation as part of the City's Certified Local Government Program. The funding is part of an annual allocation of federal funds from the National Park Service that are passed through to eligible communities in Vermont for historic preservation projects.

The project (10-010) is to complete a survey of **Modern Architecture in Burlington, Vermont**. The total of the grant awarded to the City is \$2,208.00, which represents 60% of the total project cost.

Project Budget:

VT-10-010

Federal share (grant):	\$2,028.00
Non-federal share: (Planning staff time)	1,480.00
Total project cost:	\$3,688.00

Burlington's *Historic Sites and Structures Survey Plan*, prepared by Daly and Associates in May 2000, identified potential thematic groups and prioritized specific areas for continued inventory. Among the property types identified for further research were structures associated with **Modern Architecture**. The Daly study highlighted "excellent examples of modern residential architectural design in the Prospect Park area and in the Village Green Development on North Avenue. They do not number more than **15 structures**, but are valuable gems of modern design that should be recorded before ...altered."¹ A secondary study, completed during graduate course work at UVM by Devin Colman and focused on **34 individual structures**, expanded the preliminary assessment made by Daly and suggested an inventory and richness present in the Queen City that had been heretofore unobserved. CLG grant funded projects in 2004 and 2005 for the Prospect Park Middle and South neighborhoods similarly identified an emergence of modernist residential architecture, whose

¹ Daly and Associates, *Historic Sites and Structures Survey Plan for the City of Burlington, Vermont* (Shelburne, 2000), 21.

evolution can be documented in the neighborhood's development.² The exact number of structures within this neighborhood that can be identified with the modern movement is not specifically identified in the research.

A Survey of International Style Buildings in Vermont, completed by Liz Pritchett in 2003 identified **11 buildings** of that specific genre in Burlington.³ Subsequently, CLG grant funded research to finalize the National Register nomination for the Church Street Historic District identified yet more architectural modernism (which, interestingly, has been a point of disagreement relative to contributing status with the National Park Service.) The Church Street Historic District nomination identifies **20 buildings** associated with the Modernist style, indicating that "Burlington contains the only significant cluster of Modernist and International Style buildings in Northern New England."⁴

Affirmation of the timeliness of this survey comes from acknowledgement by Preservation Burlington in **two** of its recent annual awards: The residential category was given to 75 DeForest Road, a 1960 International Style residential structure designed by Dan Kiley; and in the commercial division, 10 Alfred Street, a modest building constructed by Julian Goodrich as his own architectural office in 1958. Clearly, a nascent awareness of the significance of modern architecture is emerging.

This confluence of theme in multiple preservation projects, and the timeliness of concurrent scholarship by Professor Glenn Andres⁵, a symposium on Modern Architecture sponsored by the University of Vermont planned for June; concurrent with a planned Summer Home Tour of Modern Architecture by Preservation Burlington suggest the appropriateness of fostering further research, assessment and documentation at this time. The proposed survey will examine, for the first time within the narrow thematic focus, the extent of Modern and International Architecture in the Burlington area, its proponents, its practitioners, its articulation from commercial to institutional and residential, its social reception, its durability, its place in the greater modernist movement, and the likelihood for its longevity, vulnerability, and retention.

This project is proposed to be limited to buildings that are associated with the "modern" aesthetic, including Streamlined Moderne, International Style, Formalism, Brutalism, Expressionism and Exaggerated Modern. Explicitly excluded from this study will be Craftsman and Prairie style buildings, which although examples of 20th century architecture, reflect an evolution of traditional style rather than emergence of a newly articulated architecture with experimentation in new building methods and materials.

As this survey is proposed to be City-Wide, and as information suggesting the importance of this study has been collected from various individual research reports and studies, no preliminary mapping can be provided but is proposed to be a product of this thematic survey. Similarly, resource estimates are inexact as some previously identified modern examples have been razed or significantly altered, and other examples are anticipated to be identified.

² Andre, Eliz; Barlow, Phillip, et al; *Burlington Surveys of Prospect Park South* (Burlington, 2005), 9; and *Burlington Survey of Prospect Park North and Middle Neighborhoods* (Burlington, 2005), 7. Of particular note in the survey narrative are residential structures in the DeForest Road area, some designed by Freeman French Freeman Architects.

³ Liz Pritchett Associates, *Survey of International Style Buildings in Vermont* (Montpelier, 2003).

⁴ Inamorati, Jean et al, *Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, The Church Street Historic District* (Burlington, 2009), Sec. 8 p. 38.

⁵ Andres, Glenn; *Modern Architecture in Vermont*, Lecture and Home Tours, September 2009.

Status of City-Wide Survey

Of the city's over 10,000 buildings, about 3,846 have been surveyed or resources identified as having national, state, or local historic significance. (746 or 19.29% of those have been added since 2005.) Much of the original survey work was completed in the 1970's with the assistance of the VT Division for Historic Preservation as part of a statewide initiative. Subsequent surveying has been completed by the City's Dept. of Planning & Zoning using Certified Local Government Grants. For the City of Burlington to complete a comprehensive historic sites and structures survey, a targeted, multi-year, effort has been underway. CLG grant activities of FY2007 was the fifth of such an effort (The Five Sisters Neighborhood) with previous urban format Historic Sites and Structures Survey completed under CLG00-2a, CLG01-2, CLG04-02, and CLG05-02. Other CLG grant funds have targeted specific National Register projects (A Multiple Property Documentation Form for Multi-Unit Worker Housing; Church Street Historic District) and preservation education initiatives (Design Review Guides.)

Please feel free to call me directly at 865-7556 with any questions you may have.
Thank you.