

Excerpts from expert letter to Village Board from international advocacy group

Docomomo is an organization working in over 70 countries, dedicated to the **D**ocumentation and **C**onservation of buildings, sites, landscapes and neighborhoods of the **M**odern **M**ovement. John Arbuckle is President of the US / Tri - States chapter which works “to increase public awareness and appreciation of Modern architecture,... to identify and document local examples. and to advocate for the protection of those determined most significant.” He writes “to express our chapter’s strong and enthusiastic support for designating Campbell Hall & Barler Hall as local landmarks.”

He details the outstanding career of Walter Netsch, architect of these buildings, and the renowned, internationally influential firm where he worked, Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. Their most stellar joint accomplishment is the 1963 US Air Force Cadet Chapel which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places when it was only 25 (not 50!) years old. In 2007 it was named 51st on the American Institute of Architects’ list of 100 most important buildings in the entire country.

Mr. Arbuckle continues that, “Netsch considered the L.J. Long Library, completed in 1968 at Wells College, to be his best building... Barler and Campbell, which Netsch designed adjacent to (and)...together with the exceptional library, ...form an important ensemble, obviously closely related through similar materials and their distinctive geometric forms. Campbell and Barler express Field Theory just as the library does. A quick look at an aerial photo of the buildings clearly shows that they are part of a whole, utilizing the same unusual angled geometric forms, and that Campbell and Barler are far from routine institutional buildings of their era. The similarities between the buildings continue on the interiors. The unusual internal columns supporting the library roof, with wood supports sprouting above masonry piers, appear again inside both Campbell and Barler, although there the wood supporting elements are replaced by steel.”

“Integrity is also an important consideration in evaluating whether buildings deserve to be designated landmarks. It is important to note that both Campbell and Barler largely retain their original design integrity both on the exterior and interior. Neither has been significantly altered from their original Netsch designs. And the interiors of Barler and Campbell still retain Netsch’s original bold colors.”

“Barler and Campbell Halls clearly deserve to be designated as local landmarks. The trio they form together with the library is arguably among the most significant grouping of Modern architecture in the Finger Lakes region. Please protect this important ensemble” for our local, state and national heritage.