



March 7, 2024

Southampton Village  
Board of Architectural Review & Historic Presentation  
c/o Alex J. Wallach, AICP  
Planning Director  
Village of Southampton  
23 Main Street  
Southampton, NY 11968  
Via e-mail to: [awallach@southamptonvillage.org](mailto:awallach@southamptonvillage.org)

Dear Mr. Wallach:

On behalf of DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State, I submit this letter supporting the proposed designations of Modern houses by the Village of Southampton.

DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State is a local chapter of Docomomo US, which is a national working group of Docomomo International, an organization founded in 1988, to increase public awareness and appreciation of Modern movement architecture, landscapes and urban design; to identify and document local examples; and to advocate for the protection of those determined most significant. Since 1996, the chapter has been advancing this mission in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

I am writing today in support of the designation of the Sugarman House by Ward Bennett (1963-64), the Bliss House by Norman Jaffe (1978-79), Conason House by Myron Goldfinger (1981-84), and the Cohen House by Norman Jaffe (1981-83). Each property is of exceptional significance, meeting the Southampton Village criteria for properties less than 50 years old and designed by some of the region's leading designers of the Modern era.

While it is known that Modern architecture played an important role in the history and evolution of Southampton, over time, many significant properties have been lost to time and development, making the preservation of these four well preserved examples all the more important. The report commissioned by the Village laying out the case for significance of these sites is clear, concise, and compelling. It would be wonderful if more municipalities took it upon themselves to identify Modern houses worth preserving as Southampton has done.

We are not taking a position on the Roslin House by Norman Jaffe (1988-91). This is not due to the merits of its significance but rather that preserving Postmodern architecture is not part of the mission of our chapter.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frampton Tolbert'.

Frampton Tolbert  
Secretary  
DOCOMOMO US/New York Tri-State