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April 2, 2014

President Shannon and Burlington City Councilors
City Hall
149 Church Street
Burlington, VT 05401

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BURLINGTON CLERK
TREASURER'S OFFICE

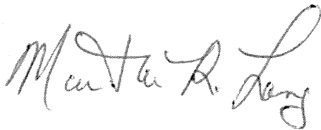
Re: Mr. Taft's Last Will and Testament

Dear President Shannon and Burlington City Councilors:

I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Taft's Last Will and Testament. Would you please read it carefully? On page three it is very clear what Mr. Taft's intentions were if the property was no longer used as a school. "...IN TRUST, to use the said homestead premises and any and all buildings thereon and the residuary portion of my estate, for the founding, erection, maintenance, and endowment of a home for indigent men...." How does an art studio, owned by UVM, meet the intent of Mr. Taft's Last Will and Testament?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Martha R. Lang

L A S T W I L L A N D T E S T A M E N T .

I, E L I H U B. T A F T, of the City of Burlington, make this my L A S T W I L L A N D T E S T A M E N T revoking all other Wills made by me.

I leave nothing to my legal heirs.

I leave nothing in my Will to my faithful house-keeper, Alice Hurson, as I have otherwise provided for her.

I direct my Executors, within one year after my death, to erect a monument on my cemetery lot, like the sketch I leave herewith of light colored Barre granite with four corner posts of the same stone with a plain letter "T" on them.

To the City of Burlington, I give FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS(\$500.) for the perpetual care and adornment of my lot in Lake View Cemetery, if I shall not have already so provided in my lifetime.

To my Executors I give certain remembrances which I wish distributed according to a written memorandum which I have prepared and will leave with my Will.

My homestead property at the southeast corner of Pearl and William Streets in the City of Burlington, Vermont, I give and bequeath to the CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT, to be kept and maintained for school purposes,- the buildings thereon to be torn down and the front steps and terrace removed, as they extend into the street.

The rest and residue of my estate , real and personal, and wherever situated, I give and devise to the CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT, with which to build a school house on my homestead lot as herein provided.

I wish a plain and substantial building of red brick

to be built and trimmed with Barre granite. I would suggest a one or two story building, with no tower or belfry, as the funds on hand will permit. The size and cost of said building to be determined by my Executors and the Building Committee of the Board of School Commissioners at the time when my Executors decide there is money enough on hand in my estate to build the same. Said building shall be called the "ELIHU B. TAFT SCHOOL".

If at my death the residue of my estate, which I have herein given to build a school building, in the judgment of my Executors is not sufficient for that purpose then I direct my Executors and authorize them to invest and re-invest such residue- say five or ten years- until such residue shall in their judgment be sufficient to build such school building.

I trust the School Commissioners will maintain a bed of flowers in front of said school building, both on Pearl and on Williams Street.

In case the City of Burlington shall not within two years after the probate of my will accept the gift of my homestead premises and the residuary portion of my estate in this Will contained, upon the conditions specified therein, or in case said homestead premises and any buildings at any time standing thereon shall not be kept or used by the City of Burlington for school purposes(except as same may be made use of by my Executors while my estate is being settled or accumulated), then and in either such event it is my will that any and all right, title and interest of the City of Burlington in and to said homestead premises and said residuary

portion of my estate shall cease and terminate, and in such event I do give, devise and bequeath my said homestead premises and any buildings standing thereon, and all the residuary portion of my estate, unto my Executors, and their successors, I N T R U S T, to use said homestead premises and any and all buildings thereon and the residuary portion of my estate, for the founding, erection, maintenance and endowment of a home for indigent aged men, to be known as "THE ELIHU B. TAFT HOME FOR AGED MEN"; and in such event I give my Executors and their successors, authority to cause a corporation to be formed under the laws of the State of Vermont for the purpose of receiving and holding this devise and bequest and accomplishing the objects thereof.

I name CLARENCE P. COWLES, EDMUND C. MOWER, HENRY B. SHAW, LEVI P. SMITH and HARVEY T. RUTTER, to be incorporators and trustees of such corporation, with power of succession.

I appoint CLARENCE P. COWLES and EDMUND C. MOWER, my EXECUTORS.

Burlington, Vermont, January 19th, 1927.

..... Elihu B. Taft

SIGNED, SEALED, PUBLISHED and DECLARED by the above named ELIHU B. TAFT, as and for his LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT in the presence of us, who in his presence and in the presence of each other, and at his request, and by his express direction have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses thereto at the City of Burlington, Vermont, this 19th day of January, A.D., 1927.

Clarence P. Cowles
Edmund C. Mower
Henry B. Shaw
Levi P. Smith
Harvey T. Rutter

C O D I C I L T O W I L L .

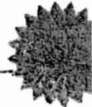
B E I T K N O W N that I, ELIHU B. TAFT, of the City of Burlington, County of Chittenden, and State of Vermont, declare this to be a first CODICIL to my LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT, which bears date of January 19, 1927.

In the event that the school-house provided for in my Will shall not for any reason be accepted and built, then and in that event instead of giving all of my estate for the establishment and maintenance of a Home for Indigent Aged Men, as provided in my Will, I do give and bequeath to the CITY OF BURLINGTON such sum of money not to exceed SIXTY THOUSAND (\$60,000) DOLLARS as may be needed to build a court-house for the City Court of the City of Burlington, and the residue of my estate to be used for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a Home for Indigent Aged Men, as provided in my Will.

In the event that neither a school-house nor City Court house is accepted by the City of Burlington, within two years after the probate of my Will, then it is my will that all of my estate, both real and personal, be used by my EXECUTORS for the establishment of a Home for Indigent Aged Men as provided in my Will.

In all other respects I ratify and confirm my said LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT.

I N W I T N E S S W H E R E O F, I hereunto set my hand and seal at the said City of Burlington, on this 29th day of October, A. D. 1928.

Elihu B. Taft 

SIGNED, SEALED, PUBLISHED AND DECLARED by the above named ELIHU B. TAFT, as and for a CODICIL to his LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT in the presence of us, who in his presence and in the presence of

each other, and at his request, and by his express direction,
have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses thereto at
the City of Burlington, Vermont, this 27th day of
October, A. D. 1928.

Edmund C. Mower

C. S. Brownell

Marion P. Lewis