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From: [Myles D'Arcey](#)
To: [Kursikowski, Stacey](#)
Subject: Marr-Phillipo House
Date: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 8:38:53 AM

To the Mayor and Councillors, and city heritage staff

Re: Do not move the Marr-Phillipo House, 398 Wilson Street East, Ancaster

I am writing in opposition to the application by developers to relocate the characterful, fragile, stone-built, heritage-designated, 1840-dated Marr-Phillipo House, currently at 398 Wilson Street East in Ancaster. AVHC has well over 100 members, and is deeply engaged in preserving the heritage stock in Ancaster as a critical aspect of our mission to maintain the quality of life in our Township.

The Marr-Phillips House is one of the very few remaining buildings on Wilson Street dating from the early era when Ancaster Village was first established, beginning at the end of the 18th century. It is a crucial link with the historic origins of Ancaster. Beside it until recently there had been a contemporaneous frame building, the Marr House – dated similarly to the Marr-Phillipo House and closely associated with it – which was suddenly demolished without notice and without acknowledgment of its value to the Village by these same developers.

Developers propose to move the Marr-Phillipo House to an out-of-sight position at the rear of the lot – that is, if it survives the move, which is doubtful. If it survives, in its new location it will be lost to view, away from Wilson Street and hidden to the rear of a massive condominium development which is proposed on that large lot. According to plans presented by the developers to two local voluntary organizations, which were reported in the Ancaster News, the use of the Marr-Phillipo House in that new position will be restricted only to condominium residents, as an amenity. In their public presentations they threatened Ancaster residents that they will not go ahead with their plans if they are not allowed to move the Marr-Phillipo House.

This is another step in the destruction of Ancaster's unique position as the second earliest established village in Upper Canada.

The Marr-Phillipo building is remarkably well-preserved, but it is fragile. Moving it clearly represents a significant cost to the developers, which raises concerns about its ultimate preservation. Moving it will deprive Ancaster of another precious landmark, similar to the loss of the Brandon House over two years ago now. As you may remember, that demolition was met with serious opprobrium and fury by the residents of Ancaster and broader Hamilton, and gave rise to the efforts of our own organization to preserve our heritage.

We ask that you consider maintaining the Marr-Phillipo House in the position where it has been for over 180 years, and that you require the developers to incorporate it into their development plans.

Thank you and sincerely,

Margaret and Myles D'Arcey

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