

Pilon, Janet

Subject: Marr-Phillipo House Relocation

From: Honor Hughes

Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 4:39 PM

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FAO Mayor/Council

I am writing to object to the relocation of Marr-Phillipo House on Wilson Street in Ancaster. This period heritage-designated property is a fine example of stone architecture of the time and has sat in that spot since 1840. It doesn't take a stonemason to know that this building is fragile and is built in such a way that it would be near impossible to move without catastrophic consequences. If moving was an option, upon relocation this building then loses its heritage status too so hardly a win-win for protecting our country's finest period buildings.

I'm disappointed that we haven't learned our lesson from Brandon House, the gorgeous example of a period property that stood as the gateway into Ancaster, that was torn down over a long weekend in preparation for a future planned 7 storey residence to occupy the corner. Brandon House suffered its fate due to the fact it hadn't been designated and as a result was unlikely to be able to be saved. As a result of this loss, Ancaster Village Heritage Community was born to raise awareness to residents of Ancaster. Volunteers, including myself, after this tragic loss in our community, stepped up to assist the Council in inventorying Ancaster's heritage properties, due to the backlog of properties needing inventorying.

Now here we are pandering to the greed of developers, who claim they can't or won't build something on the lot that allows for this building to remain in its current location. I'm of the opinion, and it is an opinion widely shared, that the developers know that this building cannot be moved and know that it will disintegrate upon relocation which is why they are not spending any money in doing the due diligence from structural engineers and other professionals that would quite likely back up the claim that it can't be moved. Even if it were able to be moved, it would be cost-prohibitive for a developer. Just take the Hermitage, for example, many of you were on Council when 'Save the Hermitage' was under discussion back in 2014 and the costs then were just to rebuild not move. I am disappointed that our Council is happy to see this building suffer its fate and is happy to support the developers who are threatening to withdraw should they not get what they want. I say go ahead and build elsewhere and allow a developer with a creative vision who would delight in keeping a piece of history alive. It can be done, just look at what developers are doing with the Connolly project and James Street Baptist Church in downtown Hamilton. What history will Canada have if we don't value it - when young people of Ancaster will grow up never seeing properties such as Marr-Phillipo House, just a modern building that took its rightful home.

Honor Hughes
Ancaster Resident