

November 17, 2022

Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee
c/o City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Attention: Alissa Denham Robinson, HMHC Chair
Heritage Committee Members

RE: Recommendation to Designate 66-68 Charlton Avenue West
under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. (PED22208) (Ward2)



The Durand Neighbourhood Association (DNA) would like to support Hamilton Heritage staff's recommendation to 'Designate' 66-68 Charlton Avenue West under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The DNA was founded in 1972 out of concern expressed by our citizens about the rampant demolition and destruction of exquisite homes within the community that were being bulldozed under the auspices for a new urban density by the City. We are now 50 years on and history is repeating itself. As a neighbourhood, we are crushed at the prospect of losing more of our contextual heritage fabric of turn of the century fine brick dwellings. These buildings were built with superior craftsmanship and style. Although 66-68 Charlton is in effect one building proposed for demolition, the loss would really amount to two original Queen Anne Revival dwellings and the sympathetic centre addition that joined them. The loss is therefore significant.

We have yet to hear from the land owner as to why the demolition is being proposed and for what reasons. We assume it is simply speculation. This is so unfortunate. There are so many great heritage attributes with this building that afford protection. It is also a crucial part of a community of similarly brick built buildings that form a critical mass that remain in the Durand and are quintessential to the contextual fabric of the neighbourhood. The moulded bricks and cut stone masonry on this building were crafted and shaped with intricate design, skill, texture, and refinement. It is a well-built building by the affluent land owners of the period. The decoration and proportions were well thought out. The dentil encrusted cornices, and large wood brackets supporting cantilevered gable pediments over three sided bays, are to be treasured. The building still retains so much of its original trim details, including the wood trimmed tripartite windows and original gable frieze detail. There are the scalloped clay tile wall shingles and delicate half-moon transom over the front doors, and the original dormers are intact and beautiful.

There were some later additions at the rear that the DNA would support removal of, but we certainly believe the original Queen Anne Revival structure(s) is worthy of designation. The DNA asks that Council recognize the inherent beauty of the building, and its contextual heritage importance to the Durand community, and protect it accordingly.

Respectfully yours,

Chris Redmond, President, Durand Neighbourhood Association
Geoffrey Roche, Chair DNA Heritage Subcommittee