

From: [Heidi Wilton](#)
To: [Bent, Emily](#); [Pilon, Janet](#)
Subject: Heritage Designation for 84 York Boulevard
Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 10:55:20 PM

External Email: Use caution with links and attachments

I am writing to document my objection to the proposed Heritage Designation of the current building at 84 York Boulevard.

The current motion is deeply concerning as it demonstrates the city's desire to **prioritize maintaining a shell of a building which is no longer fit for purpose over delivering essential housing to the community the council exists to support.**

If the Heritage Designation is passed, the gesture speaks volumes about the City's loss of vision and commitment to develop a vibrant and healthy city core with functional facilities to meet the needs of a growing population. It is undoubtedly hard to attract investment in the core and actions like this send a strong message that Hamilton is unwilling to be an active participant in working with those who are endeavoring to help the city develop and renew its identity as a desirable *livable* community.

The rationale provide in the statement of Cultural Heritage Value does not in my option make an argument that is strong enough to warrant the loss of functional housing which could not be developed with the demand to retain the existing structure.

- While I can appreciate the desire to have architecture that is diverse, this can be achieved with new built facilities creatively designed, but which are with new construction which is safe and to modern standards.
- Arguments that the building has long-standing historical value because of one individual who used to work at the facility for a short period of time is not persuasive. The exterior of a building façade is not instructive in any way. If desired, plaques could be incorporated to share historical value and context about a location the community identifies as a source of identity and pride, but a brick and mortar building does nothing to communicate this. One would expect significant support from the community to advocate for a location of long-standing historical value.
- Additionally the "*potential* to yield information that contributes to an understanding of the [Christian Workers] movement" is an even weaker rationale. It is interesting to note that a search for P.W. Philpott or even Hamilton on the Christian Workers Movement website yields no results. Clearly this organization doesn't feel any affinity to this facility, so any tie with the 84 York Boulevard location is extremely tenuous at best.

I understand that the core area has been designated for high rise development and the district encompassing the 84 York Boulevard address is in the process of being transformed to a new entertainment and residential hub. In this context the current facility is very misplaced and nothing about retaining the current structure will address that. The reality of the City's decision to zone the site for this new purpose demonstrates an incompatibility with this current push for designation of a facility in a state of serious decline that no longer meets the needs of the city in this current location.

I respectfully request the City reconsider this recommendation for designation. This site seems to provide a very simple and logical solution to provide needed housing, and it already has partners ready to put plans into action. If this door is closed through designation, can the City comment on what other strategies they are actively implementing NOW which will have tangible outcomes addressing the housing crisis that is afflicting the population?

Respectfully,
Heidi Wilton