

C30
Communication
Council – December 17, 2024
CW(1) – Report No. 41 Item No. 7

December 6, 2024

TO:

Mayor Steven Del Duca, mayor@vaughan.ca

Local and Regional Councillor Mario G. Racco, mariog.racco@vaughan.ca

Councillor Chris Ainsworth, chris.ainsworth@vaughan.ca

Heritage Specialist Katrina Guy, katrina.guy@vaughan.ca

RE: Proposed Heritage Designation 8733 Keele Street

I wish to express my concern with the way the proposed designation of 8733 Keele Street has been handled. Despite having provided the City Clerk with a letter (sent by email AND a hard copy hand-delivered to the clerk on Sept 30) expressing our objections to the proposed designation, it appears that city councillors were not provided with a copy of this letter.

I spoke with Heritage Specialist Katrina Guy to discuss my concerns. She explained the differences between a listed property and a designated one. I, and my parents who are the owners of the property, are still opposed to the designation and wish for the property to remain listed. I have outlined the reasons for our objection in the above-mentioned letter, which I have attached.

We respectfully request that all review the contents of the attached letter of objection before reaching a decision regarding our family home.

Kind Regards,



Carolina Runco (owner)



Vincent Runco (owner)



Frank Runco

Sept 29, 2024

Re: Notice of Intent to Designate 8733 Keele Street pursuant to Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

I am writing this letter to formally object to the above-mentioned notice to designate 8733 Keele Street. My family purchased this property in 1982. At that time, the house was in a state of disrepair and was basically abandoned. The basement was a crawl space with clearly rotting timbers serving as a support for the first floor. It would not have been long before this house would be torn down as was the case for the original Keffer house just behind the property, and the many neighbouring Victorian homes that were along Keele Street.

Instead, my family invested several hundred thousand dollars, (easily double the value of the house at the time) to restore the interior and exterior of the house. We did our best to research old photos to reproduce the trim and preserve many of the features. We put in a new foundation ensuring that the house would be structurally sound for many years to come. In doing so, we voluntarily consulted with Heritage Vaughan. It was only then that the Heritage Committee seemed to take notice of the property. At the time we objected to the property being designated and we see no reason to alter that objection.

While we realize that the property does have historical significance, the fact remains that the house would have been reduced to rubble had it not been for my family. In addition, this property is of great personal significance to my family. It has been our home for over 40 years and my parents live there to this day.

The only reason this beautiful home exists for the community to appreciate and admire is because of the great time and expense that my family has invested and continues to invest. As such, I believe that we have the right to decide whether it should receive designation.

A designation of this property would be tantamount to an infringement of our rights as homeowners and an infringement of our right to privacy. We respectfully request that you reconsider your intention to designate this property.

Sincerely

Frank Runco