

November 11, 2024

Anatolia Block 59 Developments Limited

Josh Berry, Senior Manager - Planning
8300 Huntington Road
Vaughan, ON, L4H 4Z6

Via E-mail: Josh.Berry@anatolia.com

Dear Mr. Berry

**RE: Commemoration Options for Henry Burton House
8811 Huntington Road, Vaughan, Ontario**

We have been retained by Anatolia Block 59 Developments Limited, the “Owner” of the property municipally addressed as 8811 Huntington Road in Vaughan, Ontario (“subject site” or “site”) to prepare a letter outlining viable commemoration options for the Henry Burton House on site, should it be demolished.

The following analysis outlines three options for commemorating the Henry Burton House, each with distinct approaches to conservation, municipal involvement, and public accessibility. Each option has been evaluated for its feasibility, conservation integrity, and impact on municipal or conservation authority resources and liability.

Option 1: Demolition with Commemorative Plaque (No Salvage)

- **Description:** This option entails the complete demolition of the Henry Burton House, with no salvaging of materials. Commemoration would be achieved through the installation of a plaque along the future trail network.
 - **Key Benefits:**
 - **Minimal Maintenance:** A plaque would require little to no maintenance, thus eliminating long-term municipal or conservation authority obligations.
 - **Zero Liability:** With no physical heritage elements remaining on-site, there is no risk of structural deterioration or liability associated with the heritage elements.
 - **Cost-Effectiveness:** This approach is the most cost-effective in terms of both initial and ongoing expenses.
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- **Drawbacks:**
 - **Loss of Heritage Material:** Complete demolition without salvage results in a loss of the physical heritage fabric, which diminishes the potential for historical connection and authenticity.
 - **Limited Public Engagement:** A plaque alone provides minimal interaction, offering only interpretive value rather than an experiential connection to the original structure.
- **Recommendation:** **An option, but not ideal** due to the irreversible loss of heritage material and limited commemorative value.

Option 2: Vertical Log Display (Limited Salvage)

- **Description:** This option involves selective salvaging of sound, non-rotted logs from the house, which would then be incorporated into an interactive vertical display along the planned future trail network. The logs could be arranged upright in a way that reflects the house's original structure or design, allowing visitors to engage with the materials in a meaningful way. Figure 1 below provides an artistic rendering (created using generative artificial intelligence) of how some of the logs can be displayed along the future trail. Note that the artistic rendering below in Figure 1 shows many logs along a trail, and only a few logs may be required to create this display.
- **Key Benefits:**
 - **Interactive and Engaging:** By using actual logs from the original structure, this display offers a tactile and visual experience that enhances public connection to the site's history. Children could play around the logs like slalom between poles.
 - **Minimal Maintenance:** Since this arrangement would involve a straightforward display of logs, maintenance requirements would be limited, and the materials could be treated to withstand outdoor conditions.
 - **Low Liability:** With a controlled arrangement and proper installation, liability is minimized, making this an ideal option for municipalities or conservation authorities seeking to avoid extensive management obligations.
 - **Cost Efficiency:** This approach represents a balance between preservation and commemoration without the high costs associated with full restoration or complex structures.
- **Drawbacks:**
 - **Partial Heritage Representation:** Salvaging only a portion of the materials limits the ability to represent the house in its entirety. However, it provides an authentic and accessible connection to the site.
 - **Moderate Initial Effort:** Some effort is required to identify sound materials, clean them and treat them for outdoor use and safety, and create the installation along the trail.
- **Recommendation:** **Recommended** as it preserves and commemorates significant materials with minimal ongoing maintenance and liability. This option aligns well with municipal and conservation authority resources and provides a respectful homage to the site's heritage.

Figure 1 - Artistic Rendering of Option 2 (Vertical Log Display)



Option 3: Gazebo or Pergola Structure Using Salvaged Materials

- **Description:** This option involves stripping the Henry Burton House down to its base logs, which would be cleaned and used to construct a gazebo or open-air shelter off an offshoot from the planned trail network in its current location. This gazebo would provide a functional and unique space for visitors while using materials from the original house. Figure 2 below provides an artistic rendering (created using generative artificial intelligence) of how the Henry Burton House could be repurposed into a free-standing gazebo / pergola structure in place.
- **Key Benefits:**
 - **Functional Public Space:** A gazebo / pergola offers both commemorative and practical value, providing a unique historical shelter that can serve as a focal point for visitors.

- **Enhanced Engagement:** Visitors can engage with the house's materials more directly through a tangible structure, encouraging a deeper connection to the site's history.
- **Drawbacks:**
 - **Higher Maintenance and Liability:** The gazebo / pergola structure would require regular inspections, maintenance, and repairs, particularly for structural stability and to meet public safety standards.
 - **Municipal or Conservation Authority Responsibility:** This option would necessitate direct oversight from the municipality or conservation authority, potentially requiring dedicated resources and a long-term maintenance plan.
 - **Increased Cost:** The initial cost of constructing a gazebo / pergola with salvaged materials is higher due to the need for careful reconstruction, stabilization, and potential modifications for public safety and accessibility.
- **Recommendation:** As the land where this structure would be maintained is to be conveyed, this option is **not recommended unless the municipality or conservation authority is prepared to assume full responsibility** for ongoing maintenance and liability. While it offers a strong commemorative experience, the resource demands may be impractical without dedicated management.

Figure 2 - Artistic Rendering of Option 3 (Gazebo or Pergola)



Summary and Recommendation

Among the three options, Option 2 (Limited Salvage and Interactive Vertical Log Display) is the most balanced approach, offering an engaging, and manageable solution for commemorating the Henry Burton House with some degree of salvaged materials. This option allows for the conservation of some heritage materials while maintaining low maintenance and liability requirements, making it the most viable choice for municipal or conservation authority partners.

Your truly,
The Biglieri Group Ltd.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Sugden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Evan Sugden, HBASc, MA, CAHP, RPP, MCIP
Associate | Heritage Lead