

Heritage Vaughan Committee
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
7 pm

**Item 3. Renovation of Existing Heritage House, and Rear Addition at 7714 Yonge Street, Thornhill
Heritage Conservation District**

To the Members of Heritage Vaughan

My name is Valerie Burke and I am a Thornhill resident. I appreciate having this opportunity to speak to you this evening regarding the redevelopment application for 7714 Yonge Street.

Overall I feel that the proposal has many positive attributes, but I have some specific concerns and recommendations as follows:

- **Protection of Mature Trees** - I am very concerned about the impact of construction, and eventual paving beside the 3 black locusts, Trees 27, 28 and 29. These trees will be surrounded by impermeability and their root systems could be damaged by construction vehicles. How will all the mature trees and vegetation be protected from excessive salt applications once the property is occupied?
- **Too much hard surface** - I am concerned with the significant increase in hard surface and recommend that the applicant examine ways to reduce it. For example, some of the hard surface in the pedestrian plaza could be reduced and replaced with soft landscaping. Also, the landscaping buffers around the parking lot could be increased to help protect the trees and provide ample vegetation screening to act as a buffer between abutting neighbours' properties.
- **Snow storage** - I would like clarification regarding the location for snow storage. Snow needs to be stored in an area that will not impact mature trees and vegetation negatively.
- **Glass Breezeway** - The separation of the historic building and the new addition is to be commended; however, glass breezeways are extremely dangerous and deceptive to birds causing bird deaths/injuries through collisions. I recommend that mullions be installed on the first surface of the glass. Etched glass could also be considered as an option. It provides an opportunity to add artistic design and improve aesthetics.
- **Glass Railings** - I am concerned about the modern appearance of these railings and potential deaths/injuries to birds colliding with the glass. I recommend that the glass railings be replaced with a white picket fence. Also, a white picket fence should be installed along the Yonge Street frontage to enhance the historic ambiance. A white picket fence did exist along the Yonge Street frontage as per the attached Figure 6 illustration.

Thank you.

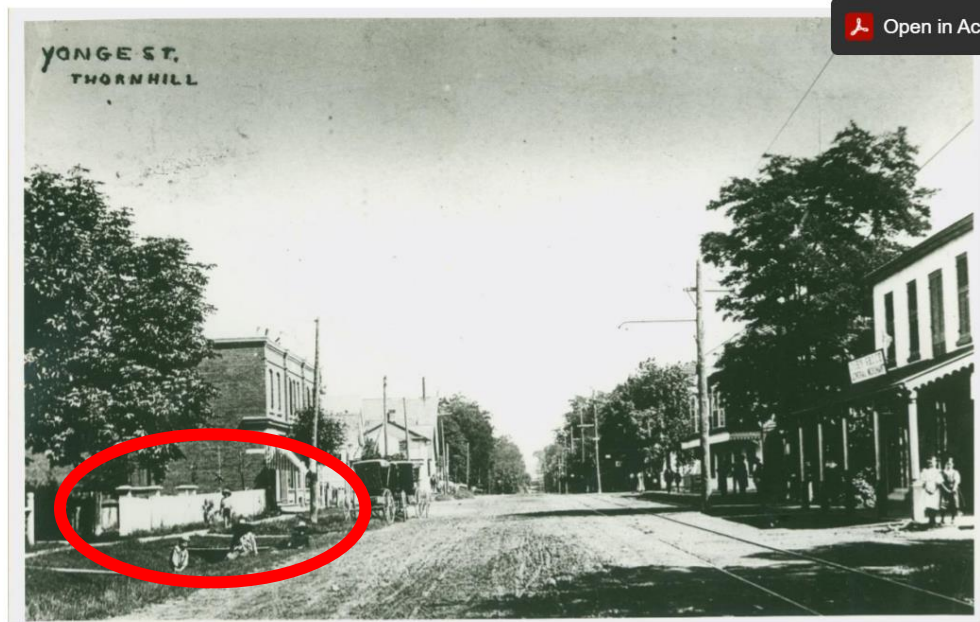


Figure 6: A circa 1900 street view with the fence, ditch, and boardwalk of the property at far left (courtesy City of Vaughan Archives).