



C4
Communication
Heritage Vaughan – March 24, 2021
Item # 3

March 24, 2021

Re: Renovation of existing heritage house, and rear addition At 7714 Yonge Street, Thornhill Heritage Conservation District

To the members of Heritage Vaughan Committee;

The Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill (SPOHT) is generally in favour of the application, and generally supports the staff recommendations, with a couple of exceptions.

The site plan drawings submitted for the renovation of the original house at 7714 Yonge St. (p.295) suggest that the second floor structure is to be removed or partially-removed to be “open to above”. SPOHT objects to the proposal to remove the second floor structure in the original house, as this feature is integral to the historical fabric of this house and the understanding of this building’s former function as a home, and such an action would limit future adaptive re-use.

Certain trees on the south property line - specifically trees 27, 28 and 29 - look like they could be put at risk by the addition of driveway access on the south side of the property. What measures will be taken to ensure these trees survive against increased salt application and the addition of an impermeable paving surface on their north side?

We are pleased to see that the later additions to the house will be documented prior to their careful removal. However, we would like to see similar documentation created for the outbuilding prior to its demolition, given certain evidence of its date and prior use that may not have been available to Golder Associates Ltd.

An article in [The Liberal, Jan. 12, 1928](#), states that Austin A. Brilinger had opened a blacksmith shop behind his home that week. This should provide some further clarification, and possibly an earlier confirmed date, to the “pre-1949” date provided for the outbuilding on p.240 of the report.

Figure 6 on p.216 shows the beautiful picket fence that once graced the front of this property in the early 20th century. If the applicant is willing, returning a similar fence to the front of this property would enhance the village atmosphere of this site.

Finally, we were pleased to see that there is a plan to include an interpretive panel on the site. It would be great if this panel could be placed close to the Yonge St. frontage so that it is visible to those passing the property.

Sincerely,

Adam Birrell

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