

Appeal of Proposed Heritage Designation for 8 Albert Street, Georgetown

[REDACTED]
8 Albert Street
Georgetown, Ontario

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
January 6th 2024

Laura Loney
Manager of Heritage Planning
Town of Halton Hills

Dear Ms Loney,

I hope this letter finds you well. First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the time and effort the municipality invests in identifying and preserving properties of historical and cultural significance. It is truly an honour that our home has been recognized as part of this important heritage conservation process. As stewards of 8 Albert Street, we deeply respect the value of preserving history and the thoughtful work that goes into these decisions.

However, after much careful consideration, and a thorough review of the Ontario Heritage Act, my family and I feel that the implications of a heritage designation for our home outweigh the benefits. I would like to respectfully present three key reasons why we believe our property may not be an ideal candidate for designation.

1. Lack of Contextual Significance

While our home has its own unique character, it does not hold the same level of contextual significance within the community as many other Georgetown Heritage Homes. Specifically, on Albert Street, where our property is located, there are no other heritage-designated homes adjacent ours, and designating ours would not be preserving any continuity to the street. This lack of surrounding heritage designations diminishes the contribution our property makes to the broader historical or architectural narrative of the neighbourhood. In this context, designating our property would appear inconsistent and arbitrary, further questioning the necessity of its inclusion as a heritage site.

2. Extensive Alterations to the Original Character of the Home

Over the years, our property has undergone significant renovations and modifications, many of which have fundamentally altered its original character. These changes include:

- The addition of a new garage.
- Updates to the porch and railing.
- An extensive addition to the back of the house.

While we have endeavoured to maintain the home's aesthetic appeal, these modifications mean the property no longer reflects its original architectural form. Given these substantial alterations, we feel the home may not meet the high standards typically associated with heritage designation.

3. Financial Implications for Our Family's Only Investment

As a young family with a three-month-old daughter, this home represents our sole financial investment and primary vehicle for savings. A heritage designation could impose restrictions that may significantly impact the property's market value and our ability to adapt the home to meet our growing family's needs. Even a small percentage decrease in value could have profound financial consequences for us at this critical stage in our lives. We respectfully submit that such a designation would place an undue burden on our family and negatively impact our ability to plan for our daughter's future.

In light of these considerations, we kindly request that the municipality reconsider the proposed designation of our property. We are fully committed to maintaining the home's beauty and integrity and would be open to exploring alternative, voluntary measures that align with the municipality's preservation goals without the formal constraints of a designation.

Thank you for your time and understanding. We truly appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective and are grateful for the important work the municipality does to preserve our shared heritage. Please do not hesitate to reach out if further discussion or additional information is required.

Warm regards,

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