



22 June 2018

To the Chair and Members of the Toronto and East York Community Council:

Re: TE34.36

Campbell House Museum, at 160 Queen Street West, is a designated heritage property adjacent to the north side of 250 University. Campbell House itself, built in 1822, was the home of the sixth Chief Justice of Upper Canada, and it is one of the oldest surviving buildings from the original Town of York.

The Board of the Sir William Campbell Foundation, which operates the museum (with a significant grant from the City of Toronto) has not yet discussed the proposal for 250 University; however, any change to this building has a direct bearing on the museum's mission, which is (in part) to inform and inspire visitors "through its history ... and unique context in the heart of downtown." In the past three years we have had exhibitions that explore the urban development of the Queen & University intersection and of The Ward, and we now have a new, long-term, outdoor exhibit called "Lost & Found: Rediscovering Fragments of Old Toronto." The exhibit is comprised of surplus carved stones from the Guild Inn collection that were rescued from demolished downtown buildings about 50 years ago and can now be viewed against the skyline of the financial district. This garden display reinforces the public's appreciation of stone-clad 250 University with its stone bas-reliefs.

The proposal for 250 University is non-compliant with the zoning by-law, but my concern as the museum's Director is the effect of the proposal on the setting: the height of the building above Campbell House and its garden; and the relationship of the building not only to the ceremonial route of University Ave, but also to the low, open precinct of Osgoode Hall and Nathan Phillips Square. The total height of the proposed building and the inappropriate style of the added storeys in relation to the original structure would have a significant negative impact on this very special urban landscape that exemplifies municipal governance, the administration of justice, civic pride and culture.

Like the City Planning Division, I oppose the 250 University application in its present form.

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