



The Annex Residents' Association

Chair and Members of the Toronto Preservation Board
 2nd floor, West Tower, City Hall
 100 Queen Street West
 Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
 email: teycc@toronto.ca
 Attn: Ellen Devlin

August 24, 2020

Dear Chair and Board,

Re: Preservation Board Meeting August 27, 2020 Item 16.6 661-665 Huron Street

We are writing on behalf of the Annex Residents' Association (the ARA) to support the staff recommendations to designate these properties in response to our appeal and that of the British Home Children Advocacy & Research Association. The ARA was also approached by residents of the two buildings and other residents of Huron Street who do not support the buildings' demolition.

The ARA supports the designation of these buildings for several reasons:

1. The current owner/developer met with the ARA Planning and Development committee where he heard that we were not against an infill project on the large property, but we were not supportive of the demolition of the buildings. We offered to show him other infill projects in the neighbourhood that maintained historic buildings that were part of historic streetscapes, but he expressed no interest in working with us to take that approach on Huron Street,
2. Our research showed the significance of these buildings not only as a residence to the British Home Children Girls as of 1924, but for their importance in the early development of Huron Street north of Lowther Avenue and, therefore, an important contribution to the northernmost block of Huron, which is mostly intact from the period of origin from the 1890s to the early years of the 20th century,
3. Documents submitted by the owner/developer regarding the demolition request include a heritage assessment from a firm that rejected the significance of the buildings on the grounds that they were not outstanding pieces of architecture,

4. The owner/developer removed a porte-cochere between the houses at 661 and 663-665 Huron Street before it could be considered for part of the heritage assessment by City Heritage Planning staff,
5. We discovered the properties are once again for sale with an advertisement that includes wording about development potential. The ARA wants to ensure that any development on the site by the current owner or a new future owner includes the preservation of the two properties.

We wish to thank Staff of Heritage Planning for considering our appeals.

Yours sincerely,



Rita Bilerman, chair of the Annex Residents' Association
96 Lowther Avenue
Toronto ON M5R 1E2

and



Edward Leman, co-chair of the Planning and Development Committee of the Annex Residents' Association

Cc: Councillor Mike Layton