

22 April, 2022

Councillor Josh Matlow
Ward 12, Toronto-St. Paul's
City of Toronto

Re: Item PH33.19, Girl Guides Headquarters

Dear Councillor Matlow,

I am writing to you in support of the Toronto Preservation Board recommendation that the Girl Guides Headquarters building at 50 Merton Street be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. I admire the due diligence of the "report for action" as prepared by the City Planning Division: its significance for the City of Toronto is self-evident.

Carmen and Elin Corneil have been important mentors during my studies of architecture at University of Toronto. I have experienced many of their buildings, including the Girl Guides Headquarters. I had the opportunity to see a retrospective of their work exhibited at Carleton University Architecture Building a few years ago which confirmed to me their significant contribution to Canadian Architecture.

I have been a practicing architect and planner in Philadelphia for more than 35 years. I have worked on several restorations/renovations of important cultural and institutional projects several of which are on the US National Register of Historic Places. Others were under the review of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, the Philadelphia Art Commission or the City Historic Districts. From my experience, the importance of preserving buildings of integrity enhances the character of a city: beautifully detailed, expressive of its time, location and historical context, a building such as the Girl Guides Headquarters becomes an experience to learn from, one that not only speaks to designers and historians but to anyone who comes in contact with it. It conveys the uniqueness of "a place" in the city. Toronto has a responsibility to make sure that this building be repurposed in ways that respect its stature.

Please help save the Girl Guides Headquarters from demolition and destruction of its environment.

Regards,



Lyne C. Raymond
BArch, MArchUD, MCP, AAM, ICOM