

To Members of the Development Committee, City of Markham:

7.1 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DEMOLISH - SINGLE DETACHED DWELLING, 83 JOHN STREET, THORNHILL HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT, WARD 1 (16.11 & 10.13)

Attached is my letter of November 8 submitted to the Heritage Markham Committee of November 9, 2022, regarding 83 John Street. I am against demolition of this property.

Heritage Markham staff - please show the Development Committee members a picture of **85** John Street. Have a good look at what it looks like today. It's an immense, mega-monster, modern home which some people may say is lovely. It does not fit in with our treasured heritage neighbourhood -- streetscape or otherwise. Period. Please walk John Street. Have a site visit. If the Government of Canada cares enough to honour DVA homes with a stamp, why are we not trying to preserve this, an important part of our local - and national - history. Developers buy into our neighbourhood, generally get to do what they want, then most move on, not caring what they leave behind.

Appendix "B" Heritage Markham Extract - November 9, 2022, Pg. 7-8: Comments under "Recommendations" include "That Heritage Markham objects to the application to demolish the dwelling located at 86 John Street for the following reasons:

- 1) Its connections to Veterans' Land Act;
- 2) Its modest character reflects the historical context of the area;
- 3) the Thornhill Conservation District Plan encourages improvements to "Class C" dwellings rather than their demolition; and
- 4) the replacement of the dwelling with a more modern structure weakens the heritage character of the area."

Thank you for listening and considering an appropriate addition to this culturally significant dwelling.

Sincerely,

Diane Berwick
The Robert Jarrott House

Attachment:
November 8, 2022

To: Heritage Markham Committee Members:

Re: 6.3 Demolition Permit - Intention to Demolish a Part-V Designated Property, 83 John Street, Thornhill

I am not in favour of the demolition of this 1946 one-storey DVA dwelling.

A review of The Thornhill-Markham Heritage Conservation District Inventory - 2007 indicates that 83 John Street is one of **only three** examples of a DVA house left in the Thornhill heritage district. There had to be more, obviously destroyed over the years to make way for much bigger, often over-sized homes. According to my internet research, DVA houses, although with issues like all homes, new or old, are considered to be better built than a lot of the homes built since.

Comments in the District inventory on 83 John Street:

"A close cousin to the Cape Cod cottage, but not so true to the original New England precedent style. ***The small scale makes it fit in to the character of the village.***

Comments in the inventory regarding 183 John Street, although not indicated as a DVA house, say "The small scale prevents it from clashing with heritage buildings in the village." Would this not apply to 83 John Street as well?

Canada Post, in 1998, featured - and honoured - the humble "Veteran's House" on a stamp. The Canadian Government obviously regards these homes as a valuable, important part of our Canadian history.



Lot by lot, foot by foot, our Thornhill heritage district continues to lose ground -- literally. If approval is given by Markham for this house to be demolished, Markham should stipulate that everything that can be salvaged from this house is salvaged.

I believe that 83 John Street could be incorporated as an important part of a larger new build ... that it would be an architect's dream to work their magic to include this special home and its history.

Sincerely,

Diane Berwick
The Robert Jarrott House