

From: Valerie Burke

Sent: Sunday, April 2, 2023 6:09 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>; Mayor & Councillors
<MayorAndCouncillors@markham.ca>; Gold, Laura

Cc: Hutcheson, Regan; Wokral, Peter; Manning, Evan

Subject: April 4 DSC - Item 9.1 Recommendation Report - Proposed Designation of 26 Langstaff Road East, Thornhill

To the Members of Development Services Committee

Item 9.1 Recommendation Report – Proposed Designation of 26 Langstaff Road East, Thornhill

I strongly urge you to designate 26 Langstaff Road (The former Baptist Church) and tell the Province to secure the building so as to prevent further deterioration.

The former Baptist Church is located in what was once a bustling and important community called Langstaff Corners. The inception of Langstaff Corners occurred in the early 1800s and it has a very interesting history that has ties with the William Berczy settlers.

In 2010 Heritage Markham Committee supported the Heritage Building Evaluation's recommendation that the subject property qualified as a Group 2 building under Markham's Heritage Resources Evaluation System. The designation and retention of the building was encouraged. Heritage Markham recently reaffirmed its support to preserve this significant cultural heritage resource and recommended its designation.

There are only a couple of significant heritage buildings left in what was once Langstaff Corners, the Baptist Church and the Munshaw House. It is unfortunate and disgraceful that the province has been a poor custodian and has not respected Markham's heritage. The retention and repurposing of 26 Langstaff Road would enhance the character of the future development and make it a more interesting, unique community for the residents and businesses. It is definitely possible for an imaginative developer to incorporate the building into their plans.

Please show the province that Markham cares and wants to preserve this building. Help us preserve what little heritage we have left in this area.

Sincerely,

Valerie Burke

From: DIANE BERWICK

Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 12:03 PM

To: Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>; Mayor & Councillors
<MayorAndCouncillors@markham.ca>

Cc: Hutcheson, Regan; Wokral, Peter; Manning, Evan

Subject: Development Services Committee - Tuesday April 4, 2023

To: Development Services Committee Members:

**Item 9.1 Recommendation Report - Proposed Designation
26 Langstaff Road East, Ward 1**

I support the designation of this former church as a significant cultural heritage resource.

By the time the subway and massive construction in that area is in the process of being built, this church -- the former Baptist Church -- will be close to being a 100 year-old (century) building, one of the last remnants of early history at Langstaff Corners. Unfortunately, only this building and the Munshaw House remain. The toll gate, the toll house, Langstaff's first post office, The Yorkshire House, and other buildings in that area -- all gone.

You can quote reasons, policies, guidelines, for this building not being worthy of preserving, but tell that to the congregations it housed -- who obviously served and nurtured a local, rural community in such times as the Great Depression ... a congregation who sent loved ones off to war. This church would have undoubtedly strongly supported those who were left behind and those who were lucky enough to return. Being a rural area at the time, there is no doubt in my mind that it was a very important part of or at the very heart of the community. How sad - and a disgrace - that it has been terribly neglected ... and by the government! Will it be just another demolition by neglect? Just "in the way". Not "pretty enough" to save? Doesn't meet the "cast in stone" guidelines?

Re-purposing this building would help bridge the old with the new. A creative architect could seamlessly work this unique building into plans for new development. If not possible at that location, why could it not be moved and repurposed to serve our community as it has done since 1935-36?

It's always an exceedingly sad day when another piece of our local history is lost and gone forever. Please preserve this deserving building.

Sincerely,

Diane Berwick
The Robert Jarrott House
15 Colborne Street
Thornhill, ON L3T 1Z4