

**From:** DIANE BERWICK

**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 4:16 PM

**To:** Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>; Councillor, Keith Irish - Markham <kirish@markham.ca>

**Subject:** Development Services Committee Meeting - January 23, 2024, Item 9.2

To: Members of Development Services Committee

**Item 9.2 - 7951 Yonge Street, Thornhill - Samuel Francis House**

I agree with the "Recommendation Report" for January 23, 2024 by Evan Manning recommending that Council does **not** support the proposed demolition of the Samuel Francis House at 7951 Yonge Street, Thornhill.

7951 Yonge Street is a 100+ year-old building with historic and cultural significance. Not one example of an Edwardian Classical building appears in "The District Inventory - 2007" of the Thornhill-Markham Heritage Conservation District. It leads me to believe that none are included because none exist in the designated Heritage area. But, 7951 Yonge Street is located in Thornhill, immediately adjacent to our Thornhill Heritage Conservation District where it enhances and enriches the Heritage district. I think of it as being a beacon -- at the very gateway from the north -- to the Heritage district.

A picture of the house is used as an example of Architectural Style - Edwardian Classical 1905 - 1930 on page 63 of the Thornhill Markham Heritage Conservation District Plan. Here again, why is this particular house used as the example? I believe it is because it is either the best example or the only example.

Mr. Manning's report indicates that Markham has successfully worked with other owners to incorporate cultural heritage resources within development sites. This is an ideal opportunity for this Edwardian Classical building. A less desirable option, but one that deserves consideration only if the building cannot be saved in its original location, would be to move it to a suitable location.

It's my opinion that demolishing this landmark building by this owner/developer would be an important missed opportunity for them to enhance their reputation as a leader in this kind of redevelopment ... one who cares about the communities they redevelop ... one who cares for that particular community's local history ... and one who cares about not adding to our overflowing landfills.

Please save this significant, unique, rare in our area Edwardian Classical building for today's and future generations.

Sincerely,

Diane Berwick  
"The Robert Jarrott House"  
15 Colborne Street  
Thornhill, Ontario

**From:** Valerie Burke

**Sent:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 5:39 PM

**To:** Clerks Public <clerkspublic@markham.ca>; Gold, Laura; Manning, Evan; Wokral, Peter; Hutcheson, Regan; Mayor & Councillors <mayorandcouncillors@markham.ca>; Lue, Stephen

**Subject:** Item 9.2 - Recommendation Report - Intention to Demolish 7951 Yonge Street, Thornhill, Samuel Francis House

To the Members of Development Services Committee

Item 9.2 - Recommendation Report - Intention to Demolish a Property Listed on the Markham Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, 7951 Yonge Street, Thornhill, SaFrancismuel House

I strongly encourage you to support the staff recommendation to protect and preserve the Samuel Francis House, a significant cultural heritage resource.

This Edwardian Classical building should be preserved because it contributes to the cultural and architectural heritage of Thornhill. 7951 Yonge Street is historically significant due to its association with the jewel of Thornhill, the Heintzman House. As the staff report indicates, 7951 is situated on the parcel of land that was awarded to Anthony Hollingshead in 1798.

Subsequently, the Heintzman House was purchased by landowners including the famous George Crookshank and the Heintzman family who owned the Heintzman Piano Company of Toronto.

Throughout the years, Thornhill has experienced the loss of many of its heritage buildings on Yonge Street. We need to preserve what little we have left. The Edwardian Classical building located at 7951 Yonge Street should be preserved and incorporated into the new development so that it can continue to contribute to the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District.

Valerie Burke

**From:** jo.honsie jo.honsie

**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2024 1:14 PM

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

**Subject:** Item 9.2

Dear Sir and Madam,

Re 7951 Yonge St Samuel Francis House

I do not support the demolition of this house. It is in good condition. It is in situ to what was there before including Timber Top riding school and the rural life that was once in Thornhill. Just because our heritage buildings are along a major route like Yonge St does not negate the need to preserve it.

Please keep our heritage intact just like Unionville and Markham heritage sites.

Many thanks

Joan Honsberger

60 Elgin St., Thornhill

# Thornhill Historical Society

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To: Development Services Committee

January 22nd, 2024

Subject: Item 9.2 - **Opposition to the Proposed Demolition of the Samuel Francis House, 7951 Yonge Street, Thornhill**

Dear Members of the Development Services Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of The Thornhill Historical Society to articulate our staunch opposition to the proposed demolition of the Samuel Francis House, located at 7951 Yonge Street, Thornhill.

This letter augments and validates the comprehensive and final recommendations within the report authored by Evan Manning, Senior Heritage Planner, and reviewed by Regan Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning, and Stephen Lue, Senior Development Manager.

It's vital to recognize that the evaluations and recommendations of municipal staff, are **subject to evolution over time**. They are rooted in extensive outreach opportunities, meticulous analysis, and an unwavering commitment to preserving our cultural and heritage assets. These stepped evaluations, as outlined in the City of Markham's 2014 Official Plan, have been enriched in this case by contributions over time from a diverse array of stakeholders, including local residents, other staff, property owners, heritage advocates, preservationist organizations, a city appointed committee, the broader Thornhill community and extending to our neighbours in Vaughan too.

The Samuel Francis House, an early 20th-century edifice and integral component of the Heintzman House estate, is more than an architectural relic; it is a "Gateway" cornerstone of Thornhill's historical and cultural identity. Its proximity to the Thornhill-Markham Heritage Conservation District amplifies its significance and underscores the imperative for its preservation.

We commend and support the recommendation made by the Heritage Markham Committee on January 10, 2024, to designate the Samuel Francis House under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. This designation is pivotal in safeguarding the property's cultural heritage value, as meticulously documented by the City's staff.

The intention of Haulover Investments to demolish this historical landmark to facilitate the development of a new residential structure is deeply concerning. We acknowledge the necessity for community growth and development. However, this progress should still retain our historical landmarks. The Samuel Francis House embodies itself as a gateway to our collective history, engenders community pride, and serves as an invaluable educational resource for generations to come.

We respectfully request that the Committee embrace the following considerations:

1. That the design, historical associations, and contextual significance of the Samuel Francis House establish it as a cultural heritage resource of considerable importance, as appraised by heritage staff under Ontario Regulation 9/06.
2. The proposed demolition isn't congruent with the principles and objectives of the 2014 Official Plan, which advocates for the preservation of significant cultural heritage resources.
3. A heritage designation for the property would not only prevent its demolition, but would also foster dialogue on how the resource could be integrated into future redevelopment plans. This approach has been successfully implemented within other heritage properties within Markham.

We conclude that The Thornhill Historical Society respectfully requests that the Development Services Committee align its decision with the recommendations put forth by the Heritage Markham Committee and City staff. We advocate fervently for the preservation of the Samuel Francis House, recognizing its irreplaceable role as a northern **"Gateway"** to our Thornhill heritage landscape.

Sincerely,

Barry Nelson,  
Heritage Advocate

Adam Birrell  
President,  
Thornhill Historical Society  
[www.thornhillhistoric.org](http://www.thornhillhistoric.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/ThornhillHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ThornhillHistoricalSociety)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/channel/UCPLCMyqfPVR1sMUAWqOpgfQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPLCMyqfPVR1sMUAWqOpgfQ)  
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thornhillhistoricalsociety/>