



Heritage Vancouver

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December 14th, 2017

Marco D'Agostini, Senior Heritage Planner

Dear Mr. D'Agostini,

We write to express our strong disappointment and dismay at the court decision and subsequent decision that may result in the potential chance of demolition of 3990 Marguerite – The Walkem House. Heritage Vancouver Society and the First Shaughnessy Advisory Design Panel both urged retention of this house and carriage house originally built in 1913-1914 for Vancouver businessman George Walkem. We are equally mystified as to why this important house was not added to the Heritage register as a 'B' when this was originally recommended.

The Walkem House, as it is known, is part of the HCA for 1st Shaughnessy and as such should have been protected. The architectural and heritage importance of the Walkem House has already been established and recognized in an earlier letter to the city from HVS. The architect, R. Mackay Fripp appears to have been influenced by the celebrated English architect Charles Voysey and his own celebrated house, The Orchard at Chorleywood, Hertfordshire (built in 1899). The house in particular meets the FSD guidelines for an English Picturesque aesthetic and is comparable to other Voyseyesque houses with flattened facades in Shaughnessy such as the Hunting House, the Lord Shaughnessy House and Grey Gables- all 'A' rated houses on the Vancouver Heritage Register.

Heritage Preservation – a first principle stated in both the First Shaughnessy Guidelines and Overall Development Plan needs to be reinforced as preservation is incremental and demolition is forever. Should this highly evaluated house be allowed to become the 52nd heritage character house to be demolished in First Shaughnessy, that could mean open season on any building that is intrinsic to the character of this heritage neighbourhood.

Therefore, we believe the case for retention of the Walkem House to be extremely compelling and urge the City of Vancouver to take actions to ensure that it is not demolished as a result of the situation with the decision, including making an appeal of the court ruling.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Guthrie-Warman
Board of Directors, Heritage Vancouver Society