

From:

Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 10:37 AM

To: Clerks Richmondhill <clerks@richmondhill.ca>

Subject: Richmond Hill Committee of the Whole - June 12, Item 11.18.8

Dear Sirs,

I wish to express my great concern to the Committee regarding Agenda Item 11.18.8 regarding the potential designation of 10217 Yonge Street. I had previously tried to get materially the same message before Heritage Richmond Hill.

The Staff Report SRPBS.24.063 is so deeply flawed as to render it useless. Other than the date the building was erected and by whom, the report is factually incorrect.

My name is Robert Salna, I am the owner of 10217 Yonge Street, I have owned this property since 1991 (30+ years now), I also own the next property to the north, 10225 Yonge Street which I have owned even longer, and so have extensive knowledge of them and their history.

I would first like to point out numerous glaring errors in the Staff Report. I can only assume these errors are based on the fact the Staff never visited the building prior to publishing their Report.

Staff says of the building, "Historical architectural features that contribute to the Georgian style include it's red brick construction, the medium-sloped side gable roof with the return, the symmetrical and balanced three bay composition of the main West façade, and the flat and segmental arched windows with brick lentils and sills and period wood windows." is mostly in error.

The building is built of buff-coloured bricks, not red bricks. The building might have originally had some red brick on the Yonge Street face, but the rear of building, a portion of which is unpainted, shows buff-coloured bricks. There was extensive work done to building (including several additions and the removal of the two original brick chimneys, replaced by a single newer one, after the Hill family (from whom I purchased the building) bought the property in the spring on 1927. The building does not have arched top wood windows, they are rectangular vinyl windows of approx. 30 year old except for a few in the much more recent additions to the building. The windows do not have brick sills, there is 'Angelstone' is a man-made decorative exterior cladding similar to concrete and used on many buildings built in the 1950s and 1960s. Invented by Edward Ratcliffe in 1952, Angelstone was considered the latest in decorative technology and advertised as having "the permanent graciousness of rock ashlar." According to the manufacturer Anglestone, later Arriscraft. This man-made 'dressing' up includes the faux coining on the building corners and around the windows. An examination of the south west corner of the building currently seems to indicate that at some point in time the west face of the buildings brick cladding may have been replaced. There is a very distinct vertical seam in the brick cladding there.

About the only thing the report has correct is that it has a side gable roof and 3 windows in the original part of the building.

Even a cursory glance at Richmond Hills history shows that the merchants affected by the 1866 fire were completely caught off guard and suffered a horrible loss from it, according to the best authoritative source, the book, *Early days in Richmond Hill* (Robert M. Stamp) "The blaze spread quickly to Crosby's dry goods store, Coulter's tailor shop, and Waterhouse's general store, "all of which were in a short time reduced to ashes." and "The burned-out merchants lost most of their stock, including the new "Spring importations" at Crosby's and Henderson's. Parker Crosby was particularly hard hit, with only \$2,600 of insurance to cover losses estimated at \$7,000.". This was not a particularly prosperous time for village merchants, the village was newly established and population was sparse, there was tremendous political unrest in Canada since at this time the "Fenian Raids" were ongoing and US forces occupied Fort Erie, Port Colborne, as well as Pigeon Hill, Frelighsburg, St. Armand and Stanbridge Quebec, there was no abundance of money to 'throw around' on lavish style and details, these were merchants rushing to rebuild after a devastating loss of their businesses and often their homes as well.

In summation, the staff report is simply not correct, there is very little of historical or cultural significance in a building that was so rushed together and then added on to and deeply altered so many times over the years.

Robert Salna.