

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, MAY 6, 2002

HALLETT BLOCK LINTEL

Recommendation

The Director of Recreation and Culture, in consultation with the Co-ordinator of Cultural Services recommends:

That owners of Market Lane, Woodbridge, be advised of the history and significance of the Hallett lintel and stone on their property and relate to them concerns associated with the location of the outdoor patio at the site and the lack of exposure of the lintel and stone along Woodbridge Avenue; and,

That the subject report be received as information.

Purpose

At the November 26, 2001, Council meeting, Staff were directed to address issues related to correspondence received from Mrs. Grace Thompson. Mrs. Thompson requested Council to find a more suitable location for the Hallett Block lintel and commemorative plaque at Market Lane, Woodbridge.

Background - Analysis and Options

Mrs. Grace Thompson, sent correspondence to Council, dated August 2001, requesting that the Hallett Block lintel/stone and commemorative plaque be relocated to a more suitable location within the historic village limits of Woodbridge.

Mrs. Thompson states in her letter, in part, the following:

...an outside eating and drinking area has been established directly in front of the Hallett Block memorial, and chairs and tables completely obscure the plaque and most of the wall.

As this is a memorial to an important time period in the history of Woodbridge, I respectfully ask Council to consider the following:

That the wall containing the lintel, plaque and Hallett Block be moved to a more deserving location within the old village limits. Failing this, I would suggest that it be turned and moved to the curb immediately behind its present location, so it will no longer be on property leased from Market Lane.

The decorative Hallett window lintel reading "Bank 1903" and stone reading "Hallett Block" were originally part of the Hallett building located at 140 Woodbridge Avenue, built in 1903 by John George Hallett. Hallett built several buildings along the north side of Woodbridge Avenue that together were referred to as the "Hallett Block".

The Hallett lintel and stone were salvaged from the former Hallett building, one of three buildings demolished in 1983 to make way for Market Lane. As a commemorative measure, the Hallett lintel and stone were salvaged and incorporated in a low-lying retaining wall along Woodbridge Avenue in Market Lane. The retaining wall, the Hallett lintel and stone are all on property owned by Market Lane and, therefore, are property of Market Lane.

The treatment of the lintel and stone, as built, were approved by Heritage Vaughan Committee in August 1984. Heritage Vaughan committee, also had a plaque placed on the same wall in

December 1984, outlining the history of the lintel and significance of John G. Hallett to Woodbridge as the founder of the first private bank in the community. The location of the Hallett lintel and stone was considered appropriate at the time, as this was the original location of the Hallett Building along Woodbridge Avenue.

In recent years, a coffee shop in Market Lane (adjacent to Woodbridge Avenue) has fenced off a section of the retaining wall holding the lintel, stone and commemorative plaque to accommodate an outdoor patio. Mrs. Thompson, in her correspondence, has expressed concern over the location of this outdoor patio as it is in front of and blocking the full view of the Hallett lintel, stone and plaque along Woodbridge Avenue. Mrs. Thompson's correspondences requested that Council move and relocate the Hallett lintel, stone and commemorative plaque from Market Lane to a City-owned site in the Woodbridge historic core area. The difficulty in facilitating this request, however, is that Market Lane and not the City of Vaughan has ownership over the retaining wall, the Hallett lintel and stone. As private property, the City cannot remove the Hallett lintel and stone and has no jurisdiction over enforcing the full exposure of the Hallett lintel and stone along Woodbridge Avenue.

Conclusion

As the Hallett lintel and stone is on private property owned by Market Lane, it is recommended that the owners of Market Lane be advised of the concerns related to the Hallett lintel and stone as outlined by Mrs. Thompson, in an effort to resolve this matter.

Attachments

1. Mrs. Grace Thompson's letter dated August 2001.
2. Mayor Jackson's letter dated October 17, 2001.

Report prepared by:

Angela Palermo, Cultural Services Co-ordinator
Joyce Epstein, Director of Recreation and Culture

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Epstein
Director of Recreation and Culture

Attachment 1

7973 Islington Ave.
Woodbridge, Ont.
L4L 1W4
August, 2001

Mrs Lorna Jackson
Mayor, City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
Maple, Ont.
L6A 1T1

Dear Mrs. Jackson,

In 1984 the original lintel from the first bank established in the Village of Woodbridge was placed in Market Lane. On the front of the wall supporting the lintel is a plaque that reads as follows:

"John George Hallett built the first bank building in Woodbridge on this site in 1903. He served as manager until 1921. This decorative lintel extended across the front of the building with the Hallett block set into brick above it. This commemorative structure was erected by Market Lane in cooperation with the local Architectural Committee of the Town of Vaughan in 1984".

The Hallett block is also set into the wall supporting the lintel.

The plaque was unveiled and all three were officially dedicated.

Mr. Hallett was my husband's maternal Grandfather. Many of the family gathered for the occasion, some from quite a distance.

It was thought at the time that the memorial would receive the respect it deserves.

Since then, an outside eating and drinking area has been established directly in front of the memorial, and chairs and tables completely obscure the plaque and most of the wall. A garbage container sits in front of the Hallett Block.

more garbage containers
As this is a memorial to an important time period in the history of Woodbridge, I respectfully ask Council to consider the following:

That the wall containing the lintel, plaque and Hallett Block be moved to a more deserving location. I would suggest Armstrong Parquette or some equally desirable location within the old Village limits. Failing this, I would suggest that it

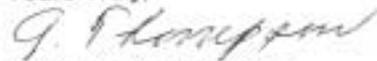
be turned and moved to the curb immediately behind its' present location, so it will no longer be on property leased from Market Lane.

This has become a most distressing situation and one that deserves Council's immediate attention.

I am enclosing copies of photographs taken on the day of the dedication and of the Hallett Block being removed prior to the demolition of the building. One picture shows the unveiling of the plaque by yourself and Mr. Gino Rosati, who I believe was at that time the manager of the Royal Bank in Woodbridge.

I thank you for your kind consideration, and look forward to a meeting to discuss this situation.

Yours Truly,



(Mrs.) Grace Thompson
905-851-0759

cc. Regional Councillor Michael Di Biase
Councillor Gino Rosati

LORNA D. JACKSON
MAYOR

Attachment 2



[Signature]
Vaughan

2141 MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE
VAUGHAN, ONTARIO L6A 1T1
TEL: (905) 832-2281
FAX: (905) 832-8642
E-mail: mayor@city.vaughan.on.ca

October 17, 2001

Mrs. Grace Thompson
7973 Islington Avenue
Woodbridge, Ontario
L4L 1W4

Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Re: Hallett Block Lintel

I wish to acknowledge your letter in which you express your concerns regarding the Hallett Block Lintel.

The lintel, plaque and Hallett Block are on private property. The coffee shop has permission from the owner/property manager, to use the patio area.

I will request the coffee shop operator to locate the garbage container to an alternative location.

I have referred your letter to Mr. John Leach, City Clerk, for inclusion at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
per Lorna Jackson
Mayor

Copy: Members of Council
John Leach, City Clerk ✓

RECEIVED
OCT 18 2001
CLERK'S DEPT