

Presentation before City of Cambridge Council

June 7, 2022

File #22-066-CD Sign at McDougall Cottage

My name is Alison Jackson. I live at [REDACTED], Cambridge.

Background History

I was a member of the Executive of Heritage Cambridge ( now known as Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Cambridge Branch) in 1987, when we purchased McDougall Cottage at 89 Grand Avenue South. This building was bought at that time through the Community Heritage Fund which was available through the Province of Ontario, to be used to buy and restore/renovate properties and then resell. Heritage Cambridge matched the amount required for purchase through fund raising efforts of House Tours, publication of brochures and also the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation.

It was sold a year later to an individual with an agreement of a **one (1) foot easement** all around the perimeter of the building.

In 1990 -91 Heritage Cambridge paid for the cleaning and restoration of the murals on the ceilings and friezes of the cottage. These were added to the restoration agreement.

In 1992 the agreement between Heritage Cambridge and the owner at that time was signed off.

In 2001 - 2002 Heritage Cambridge again contributed funds for the purchase of the McDougall Cottage to become part of the Region of Waterloo Museum Network.

Current Proposal

The Regional Municipality of Waterloo is requesting permission to erect a huge sign (8 feet x 7 feet) in front of this small one storey worker's cottage.

1. The sign does not meet the City's own official Plan of
  - complementing the built form and minimize visual clutter.
  - incorporated into the architectural design of the building.

What is being proposed is an 8' x7' freestanding sign supposedly 10" from the building.

This cottage has a 1foot easement all around the building so it is violating the easement conditions.

It is being proposed that the sign will be mounted on concrete sonotube piles that will be driven approximately 10" in front of the building. Concrete sonotube piles are **NOT** consistent with the front of this heritage cottage.

2. This sign will obscure that section of the building and will impact the look of the building. It is inappropriate for the history of the building and its contextual significance.

Conclusion

This is not the place for this sign. That is not what was intended when the building was purchased in the first place.

This type of sign should be situated:

1. **in the Sculpture Garden** where it could certainly depict the work of Indigenous artists and/or other local artists
2. **Adjacent to 150 Main Street, Cambridge** which is the Region's focus building in Cambridge.

I ask you not to approve this request.

Thank you.