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August 15, 2005

Gerry McGeough, Senior Heritage Planner
Community Services, City of Vancouver
453 W. 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Re: 2834 Spruce Street

We understand that this Craftsman House – B listed on the Heritage Register – is slated for demolition due to redevelopment. We commend the efforts of city staff to find solutions to incorporate the house, but also wish to express concern about the obvious – the impending loss of a highly evaluated heritage resource.

In our view, the loss of a heritage resource – particularly a ‘B’ – should be a rare, if ever, event. But in Vancouver’s robust development climate, demolition is an ever-frequent result. Our heritage management tools, developed in the 1980s in a very different context, are no longer sufficient. As part of the City’s review of the Register, it will be extremely important to develop new, creative and powerful tools for heritage preservation, and to challenge some of our assumptions about how this might be accomplished. We look forward to the discussion.

In the meantime, we suggest that the City consider ways of publicizing the availability of homes slated for demolition. House-moving companies such as Nickel Bros. should routinely be made aware of buildings that could be moved off site for potential buyers.

Sincerely,

Donald Luxton, President

cc. Richard Keate, Chair, Heritage Commission