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November 10, 1989

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 1P5

Dear Mayor Brewin and Members of Council:

Re: Heritage Advisory Committee Recommendations for 613 Avalon Road

The Hallmark Society would like to add its support to the Heritage Advisory Committee's recommendations against proposed alterations to "Rose Thorpe", at 613 Avalon Road.

The owner's suggestion that a sixteen-foot addition can be called a "dormer" is, at the very least, stretching the definition of the word. Even if this addition is on the back of the house, away from the street frontage, it is still a major alteration to what is now a very well preserved example of an ornate Victorian cottage. "Rose Thorpe's" previous owners went to considerable time and expense to restore and maintain it in near-perfect original condition. The current proposal seeks to undo all that.

Hallmark has received several phone-calls from the owners of neighbouring properties on Avalon, all with the same concerns. They are worried that, if this change to another designated property is allowed, if the letter of the heritage designation by-law is not adhered to, there will be no means of protecting the area from further unsympathetic developments.

This proposed addition, if allowed through against the recommendations of the H.A.C., would be further erosion of a superb cluster of period homes which has, so far, resisted alteration and development pressures. We urge Council to follow the H.A.C.'s advice and refuse this permit application.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen On'Neill-White
President