

Shane O'Neill, 534 Princess Avenue, London, Ontario N6B 2B8

Please add my letter to the Council Agenda re: 176 Piccadilly

3.2 Request to Remove Property from Register of Cultural Heritage Resources - 176 Piccadilly Street

Dear Members of Council

I write over the possible demolition for 176 Piccadilly St. and desire to see its structure preserved.

The age of the structure of this house spans approximately 6-generations since it was built and this is a rare commodity for London. However, the wood used in this structure would probably have come from local trees that were felled after a minimum growth period of 100-years. As such, the beginnings of this house would have commenced when trees started to grow anywhere between the late-1600s to the early 1720s.

Given this accrued timeframe it is no wonder that citizens would want to see the preservation of this modest house which represents an element of the emerging history our city. This abode has prominence in local history because it has endured a test of time through the various stages of expansion for this city; from a village in the 1820s to its current city population of just over 400,000 in 2023.

Given the prospect of losing the structure, I feel that at a minimum request, I would like to see a full set of architectural plans, sections, elevations and photos lodged with a respective archival body. For an example of I attach a link to the Irish Architectural Archives and refer to the Appendix B (pp. 244-247) of the following <https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/236448/369d5dcd-2194-498c-959b-eee826195011.pdf#page=null>. This would serve as a basis for an architectural record.

However, it would be my preferred recommendation that Council request that this house structure be dismantled and re-erected at the Heritage Village, Fanshawe Lake. If this moving of the structure to a safe place could be achieved, then I would think that many citizens would support such a decision for the retention of this historic element. In the past, it was not unusual to see old houses moved to new locations in this City in order to retain the structures.

Can you please give serious consideration to the possibility of moving the house to Fanshawe Lake? Qualified carpenters can move this structure effortlessly and from a monetary perspective, it may not be expensive. Can Council please vote on the option to designate and move this structure?

Shane O'Neill

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane O'Neill', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

22nd September 2023