

From: T. C. Ben Benedict <ben_72@hotmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 23, 2023 1:56 PM

To: Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: oldest house in London? 176 Piccadilly Street Heritage - waiting for direction

Importance: High

I wish to add my name to the letter submitted by Shane O'Neill re: 176 Piccadilly St. I give permission to display my name on the public agenda

Dear City Council and Neighbours,

City Heritage Staff are recommending that this cottage house (176 Piccadilly Street) at the corner of Piccadilly and St. George Street be removed from the city's heritage inventory list. This little wooden cottage house is over 200 years old and is representative of the time of when John Kent owned much of North Talbot, when it was only farmland and woods. Staff acknowledge that it remains an important cultural piece to the history of our community.

It's history is fascinating, but unfortunately changes made by Doug Ford to Ontario's Heritage Act now make it difficult for modest structures such as this house to be preserved. Also, this Council is hostile to heritage preservation. The usual suspects who oppose heritage designation because they protect buildings that are 'old' - direct quote Councillor Lehman - are likely the first to book vacations to Europe to enjoy their history - pure hypocrisy. And of course, most Councillors have no idea where North Talbot is.

Perhaps in stead of continually destroying what makes London worth Living in – i.e. our heritage. Perhaps City Council might consider moving it (they should) to Fanshawe Pioneer village at this 'developer's' expense! I am so tired of London City Council making decisions based on an individuals greed versus what's right for our community, specifically my community of North Talbot that none of you live in – stop it and start acting like responsible professionals who actually give thought to the issues affecting our community rather than simply tearing things down!!!

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