

108 Askin St.  
London ON  
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July 11, 2015

London Advisory Committee on Heritage  
Wortley Village/Old South  
City Hall

As a near neighbor to the violent orange clad eyesore that is Tuckey Hardware on the corner of Wortley and Askin/Craig, I am very upset about the demolition proposed for 138 and 136A Wortley Road, which is, I understand intended to be used to expand the hardware store.

- It is already way bigger than our village needs. There is a huge Copps within walking distance of Tuckey's. Copps can deal with the lumber/other needs that Tuckey is ambitious to take over.
- The taste shown in cladding the former heritage bakeshop at the very corner indicates that the owners have no interest in heritage buildings. I have personally examined the orange aluminum or vinyl cladding where Tuckey's has already put up its sign next door, without waiting for permission to expand into that building (whether they own it or not), and this cladding doesn't even go to the bottom of the building they propose to demolish. Brilliant green eavestroughs and downspouts do not exactly go with the brilliant orange of the modern cladding, or the clapboard underneath. In short, it is an eyesore to be reclaimed, not torn down.
- It is clear from the way the owners chose to decorate its hardware store that they have nothing but contempt for heritage.
- You can see the old clapboard underneath and at the side. It is my understanding that the original building at the corner is still in its original condition underneath the violently coloured cladding. Tearing it down or tearing both it and its neighbor down, would be truly a travesty in this heritage designated location, especially when both original buildings are underneath the cladding.
- I could agree to the removal of the dreadful covering and the careful restoration of the building underneath it along with (if truly necessary) a tasteful connection to the (also restored) additional building to its side, with both buildings repaired to the state they were in when the corner building was a bakery. Just because Tuckey's exists as an eyestore in our village now does not mean it can't be restored so that at least the outside is in keeping with the architectural structures in the village. It is the ugliest building in all of Wortley Village, but the fact that the original building remains underneath its ugly exterior makes it impossible for the Heritage Committee to consider tearing it down (or its neighbor.)
- A small business operates upstairs, whose philosophy is in keeping with the many health-oriented ancient sites in the village. That business would have to relocate, if both buildings were torn down. This is unfair to the tenant and to the village.

- Wortley Village was designated a heritage site for the consistency of its architecture, among other things. It is not desirable nor acceptable to have the site the way it is, but tearing it down will destroy two heritage buildings. We will never accept that.

Welwyn Wilton Katz and Greg Yarrow (owners)