

39-250 North Centre Rd

London, On

N6G 5A4

Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 2016

Chair and Members of PEC

City Hall

London

Dear PEC Committee:

**Camden Terrace**

I am dismayed at the proposed development at the site of Camden Terrace, 479-489 Talbot St and Dufferin Avenue. And it seems that the developer now plans to demolish this historic and cultural landmark.

I hope that you won't be misled by proposals to 'commemorate' or 'replicate' this fine and unique Italianate terrace in the heart of London. We do know, and have frequently encountered these proposals which, somehow, mysteriously come to nothing...the bricks can't be reused etc etc. And in any case from seeing the proposals – the recreated 'facade' of Camden Terrace would take a back seat. Many people have commented on the importance of this last attractive landmark on lower Talbot St – it is pleasing and 'special' to many Londoners. They notice it, and are proud of it. Please do not replace it with yet another faceless, dead looking 'black box'.

And why replicate when you have the real thing? Authenticity – certainly in the minds of most - trumps replication and is of course the most important fact of heritage conservation. These buildings were in serviceable state a few years ago. We know that because they were being used. Suddenly, within two or three years, they are no longer salvageable. What has happened in that short space of time? Excuse the cynicism – but these buildings have stood for over 140 years, in full use, and then suddenly they are collapsing.

Authentic is not only real and honest but also helps to lend much needed character in this bland array of apartment buildings on lower Talbot St. And I am sure that you are already aware of the historical and architectural importance of these buildings – they have been mentioned in many publications, and acknowledged as of vital importance in City studies. London should really try to come and respect its heritage!

I would suggest that PEC strongly emphasise the need to designate these buildings for the sake of London's reputation as a knowledgeable and responsible conservator of our irreplaceable architectural

heritage and show that it is proud of its heritage. Designation has been mooted for this terrace for some time, and then suddenly delayed. Who is guiding the process at this point?

We are not against development, but development and conservation principles can be effectively combined with a little political will and imagination. Consider and urge for bonusing. Numerous other projects in other cities in Ontario have learnt that it is possible to incorporate the old in the new.

I do hope that you will consider all these points when reaching your decision. We do really *care* about Camden Terrace!

Yours sincerely,

Maggie Whalley