

From: Jenny Grainger
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 7:04 PM
To: Lysynski, Heather <hlysynsk@London.ca>
Subject: Camden Terrace

Dear Ms. Lysynski:

Please include this letter in the agenda package to accompany the PEC meeting of September 6.

As a downtown resident, I'm writing to you to express my concern about the fate of Camden Terrace, the Italianate townhouses on Talbot Street.

I am currently Vice President of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, London Branch, and it has recently come to our attention that Rygar Corporation intends to demolish Camden Terrace, rather than incorporate it into their new high-rise design. Our executive has received drawings of the proposed development. They include pictures of what is referred to as a "commemorative monument" to the Terrace. The façade would be replicated along the rear wall of the new building's lobby, under glass panels. The effect will be that of a museum exhibit in which a visitor looks at a dead relic. Many Londoners, including me, would prefer to have a living, breathing heritage building, adaptively reused.

Camden Terrace is significant for two main reasons:

1. It was designed by London architect Samuel Peters, Jr.
2. It is the last remaining 19th century residential architecture on the downtown stretch of Talbot St. N.

Despite Rygar's ongoing demolition by neglect, Camden Terrace remains attractive. Like our other Victorian residences, it is charming, reflects London's traditional architecture, and reminds us of our collective heritage. Conservationists such as myself are not against infill. Infill is necessary and welcome but we must respect our historic buildings as well. Heritage and high-rises can be successfully combined; just look at the London Armouries, successfully incorporated into a hotel.

Please use your influence on PEC to insist Rygar conserve and creatively use all of Camden Terrace, not just the façade, as part of their new development. The core of London is historic and therefore *must* include historic buildings.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Grainger
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