



Heritage London Foundation 101, Windermere Road W. London ON N6G 2J4

Mr. Derek Dudek  
Chair  
L.A.C.H.  
City of London

January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017

Dear Mr. Dudek,

It has recently come to our attention that the house at **100 Stanley Street** is under threat of demolition.

The Board of Heritage London Foundation finds this to be of great concern, as this house is a designated under the Ontario Heritage Act and represents a beautiful and unspoilt example of a small Queen Anne-style house. It is situated in a neighbourhood full of historic buildings which gives it a perfect context.

100 Stanley Street is also something of a landmark, as one can easily and often admire it while waiting for the lights to change at the Stanley and Springbank crossroads. Our Board members knew **immediately** which building we were referring to when this was brought up at our Board meeting in November. They were incredulous that 100 Stanley St, which is on the east side of Wharncliffe Rd. should be under threat at all, when two houses on the west side have already been demolished to allow for the widening of Wharncliffe at the underpass. Surely in this day and age, with all the skills and design excellence that abound, we can find engineers who can realign the new crossroads so that this treasure does not have to be lost to the City.

It is disheartening to think of all the recent demolitions of precious and irreplaceable pieces of London's built history that have taken place. In this case I understand that the owner is **against** the demolition or removal of her house that she has lovingly maintained for many years, and surely that should count for a great deal. Nan Finlayson has been a remarkable steward of the City's built heritage. Ms. Finlayson has also enhanced the surroundings of her property with plantings of native species, and pioneered the use of front lawns for such a purpose, for which she was given the Urban League's Green Umbrella Award.

As a City we have recently given permission to several developers in London to destroy buildings that were poorly maintained for years (demolition by neglect) even though they could have been restored if the owner had been willing to spend the money. In this case the building is not only viable, it is in beautiful condition. It would be a genuine travesty if it were to disappear under the wrecker's ball.

If we allow this kind of cultural vandalism to continue we are really no better than the Goths who sacked Rome.

We trust that LACH will do everything in its power to see that demolition of 100 Stanley Street is prevented.

Yours sincerely,

*Susan Bentley*

Susan Bentley:

Chair, Heritage London Foundation