

**From:** Alice Gibb  
**Date:** July 15, 2018 at 12:21:38 PM EDT  
**To:** <[csaunder@london.ca](mailto:csaunder@london.ca)>, Alice Gibb  
**Subject:** 172 Central Avenue Important City Landmark

Dear Members of the London Planning Committee:

I wish to add my voice to those of other Londoners who are supporting the designation of 172 Central Avenue, the Italianate home once occupied by Dr. Oronhyatekha. With the current interest in discovering Canada's long ignored history of aboriginal peoples, this home should be preserved to honor one of this county's first native doctors. He was also the first Canadian aboriginal to attend Oxford University and had a long involvement with charitable causes in the country. In recent years there have been several articles and biographies published on the doctor's exceptional life and career.

The home's current owner, Peter Mitsis, should have done due diligence before purchasing the beautiful home to learn that it was on the list of buildings recommended for designation. Simply putting up a plaque and poorly designed facade, as was done with the ill-fated Waverley Mansion and the Talbot Inn, does little to preserve the city's past. Both Londoners and visitors to the city want to view the actual Italianate mansion built in the 1880s - it is part of a lovely street scape along Central Avenue which is the heart of London, due to its proximity to Victoria Park. It would be criminal to demolish such a fine example of Italianate architecture - and a building with such an interesting past (Dr. Oronhyatekha as well as Tony and Jane Urquhart). Sadly more and more of London's unique heritage is being lost - as is any incentive for visitors to want to spend extended stays exploring the Forest City. I am always so impressed when visiting Kingston at how well that smaller city has preserved buildings of historical and architectural importance.

I would agree with the city's heritage planner - this building needs to be repaired and preserved. The home could still be rented out as prime real estate for either residential or commercial uses. What one dreads are more "fake" facades - or plaques to a vanished past that are either hard to locate or are vandalized shortly after being put in place.

Please designate 172 Central Avenue before it becomes another of the city's lost treasures.

Sincerely:  
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