



North Talbot Neighbourhood Assoc.

Re: Heritage Designation of 172 Central Ave.

July 10, 2018

Dear Members of Council,

We support the staff recommendation to designate 172 Central Ave. as a heritage property. Many of us in the North Talbot area live in homes that were built in the mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> century and understand the challenges and expense of maintaining a house that is older than 100 years. We are encouraged by the staff and engineer's report that states the structure of the house at 172 Central, while in poor condition, is repairable and that if designated as a heritage property, the new owners can take advantage of provincial grant programs designed to alleviate the costs of restoring historical homes.

We will not reiterate the historical value of 172 Central Ave, as this has been well articulated in the staff report and by historians, but do wish to add that 172 Central Ave. stands as a witness not only to the history of our neighbourhood, but how Ontario came to be and celebrates those individuals and artisans that played a leading role in shaping our community today. We also support preserving the history of an extraordinary First Nations' leader that deepens our understanding of the relationship between First Canadians and New Canadians.

Witnesses of the distant past can only be preserved in structures and artifacts and old living trees. These witnesses to the past make our shared history real and ground many of us in our identity. Even for those individuals that place little value on heritage, they cannot escape the influence of our history on contemporary society. However, once a building is demolished, the history is often forgotten.

Sincerely,

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