

2-166 John Street,
London, Ontario, N6A 1P1
July 10, 2018

Re: the demolition request for 172 Central Avenue

I live at 166 John Street and have admired the house at 172 Central since long before living at my current address. I first became aware of this house as the residence of Gino and Marie Lorcini. Gino being a noted Canadian artist and Marie a harpist of international renown.

<https://www.artprice.com/artist/62652/gino-lorcini/biography>

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/marie-iosch-lorcini-emc/>

I have lived in the neighbourhood for more than 40 years and have walked past the house pretty much every day. I have always admired the stately symmetry of this house with its inviting circular driveway and its double iron staircase leading to the central entranceway. Other special features that distinguish this house are the deeply overhanging eaves supported by carved brackets, the attractive brickwork, the symmetry of the windows, and the central gable.

I didn't realize, until recently, that 172 Central Avenue was first lived in by Dr. Oronhyatekha, a Mohawk of the Six Nations who was among the first doctors of First Nations heritage to qualify in Canada as a medical doctor. In demolishing the house, London would be erasing some of the history that links early London to the Six Nations community and not incidentally to an outstanding individual thoroughly deserving of recognition and commemoration. Recently a book has been published by Dundurn Press that tells the story of Dr. Oronhyatekha and his significant contributions to medicine and culture in London.

I was alarmed to hear that you could be considering demolishing this architectural jewel. My hope is that you will choose instead to preserve the house at 172 Central, which is a cornerstone for the whole block of brick houses along this stretch of Central Avenue. Tear this one house down and the rest will eventually be lost, little by little, and a significant piece of London history and architecture will be lost.

In a nutshell, for cultural, historical, and architectural reasons, the house at 172 Central should be preserved as a heritage building, not torn down — as has regrettably been the fate of much of our collective built heritage.

Sincerely,

David Hallam