

July 11, 2018

Members of Planning & Environment Committee (PEC) of the City of London:

Councillor Stephen Turner (Chair)
Councillor Maureen Cassidy
Councillor Jesse Helmer

Councillor Anna Hopkins
Councillor Tanya Park

Members of the London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH), via Committee Secretary

Copied: Heather Lysynski, PEC Committee Secretary and Jerri Bunn, LACH Committee Secretary

Re: Demolition Request for 172 Central Avenue

Dear Councillors,

I write to inform you of the historical significance of 172 Central Avenue in consideration of the request before you for the demolition of the listed property. The property holds a rich history as the home of Dr. Oronhyatekha while he lived in London from 1874 to 1889. Dr.

Oronhyatekha was the first known indigenous Oxford scholar in Canada and pioneer of the Independent Order of Foresters (IOF), an international Fraternal Benefit Society. In addition to providing life insurance and financial services, the IOF offers valuable benefits to members and the communities in which they live in, including community volunteer grants, academic scholarship programs and emergency financial assistance.

Dr. Oronhyatekha was the organization's international leader for 26 years. He played a fundamental role in the financial growth and development of the IOF during his tenure, leading the organization to distribute more than \$20 million in social benefits and insurance payments.

Dr. Oronhyatekha was responsible for several milestones in the North American life insurance landscape, including championing the rights of women, children and minorities. He promoted and initialized the admittance of women as full members of IOF. Housing and education for orphans of deceased or struggling Foresters members, was an important fraternal benefit Dr. Oronhyatekha sponsored throughout his life. For growing the IOF into a successful fraternal organization which provided aid to many in need, Dr. Oronhyatekha was designated a Person of National Historic Significance by Parks Canada in 2001.

The home of Dr. Oronhyatekha is the only remaining structure related to his life that is still standing and should be preserved as a valuable monument to Canada's fraternal legacy.

Thank you for your consideration,



Suanne Nielsen
Global Chief Administration Officer, Foresters Financial