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Members of the Planning & Environment Committee

Dear PEC Councillors:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed highrise development at 175-197 Ann Street and 84-86 St. George Street. Please deny demolition permits for 179, 183 and 197 Ann Street and have these buildings designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Listed in the City's Register of Cultural Heritage Resources, **197 Ann Street** was built in 1859. It became known as the Kent Brewery in 1861, the year the business was purchased by Scottish brewer John Hamilton and partner. Eventually John was in business on his own, producing London Porter and Pale Ale at this site. He continued to operate the brewery until his death in 1887 after which his son Joseph Hamilton took over. Joseph ran the brewery until it closed in 1917 due to prohibition. Apart from a new door in the centre, the main Kent Brewery building and its one-storey washhouse still look much as they did in when the Hamilton family was in business. According to Glen C. Phillips, in *On Tap: The Odyssey of Beer and Brewing in Victorian London-Middlesex*, the building today is the "largest surviving brewery artifact from Victorian London Middlesex."

The property at **183 Ann Street** was home to the Hamilton family from 1862 to 1911, according to city directories. The original frame structure where John Hamilton lived and died was completely rebuilt in yellow brick by his son, Joseph Hamilton, in 1893. Joseph lived in the current house until 1911.

The side hall plan cottage at **179 Ann Street**, built before 1881, was the home of Joseph Hamilton from 1887 to 1890, when he moved back to 183 Ann. It has its original window openings with double hung windows and brick voussoirs and an entrance that has a brick voussoir and transom light. Of added interest is the distinctive Talbot North lintel which, according to historian Mark Tovey, is distinctive, although not exclusive, to the Talbot North area. Such details highlight the local character of London's nineteenth-century architecture.

In summary, these three buildings are a rare example of a brewery site with the brewery itself (197), a house built by the brewer (183), and a house in which the brewer lived (179). Such an extraordinary site would make a good place for a microbrewery today. At the very least, the developer should be expected to incorporate these buildings into a new design rather than demolishing them. It must be possible, surely, to intensify the population of this neighbourhood while conserving its built heritage assets?

Yours truly,

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