

Architectural Conservancy Ontario – London Region Branch
Grosvenor Lodge
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April 21, 2022

Members of Planning & Environment Committee:

Anna Hopkins (Chair) – ahopkins@london.ca
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Mayor Ed Holder – mayor@london.ca

Re: Designation of 183 Ann Street & 197 Ann Street under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

Dear Councillors and Mayor Holder,

On behalf of the London Region branch of Architectural Conservancy Ontario (ACO London), I am writing to express full support for the recommendation by City staff to designate **183 Ann Street and 197 Ann Street** under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

197 ANN STREET was built in 1859 and became known as the Kent Brewery in 1861, the year that the business was purchased by John Hamilton and a partner. John eventually became the sole owner. After his death in 1887, his son Joseph took over the business and the brewery continued to operate until it closed in 1917 due to Prohibition. The main brewery building has been referred to as the “largest surviving brewery artifact from Victorian London-Middlesex” (*On Tap: The Odyssey of Beer and Brewing in Victorian London-Middlesex*, by Glen Phillips). The brewery building has been adaptively re-used for 105 years and counting. It has housed a cigar factory, a cheese factory, a bicycle shop, and – at present – an automotive repair shop.

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 local yellow brick by his son, Joseph, in 1893. Joseph lived in the current house from then until 1911.

These two buildings together, along with **179 Ann Street** (built before 1881 and home to Joseph Hamilton from 1887 to 1890), 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) all still standing and in good condition.

In addition to their individual and collective importance in recalling and highlighting London's industrial past, these two properties sit within the expected study area for the North Talbot Heritage Conservation District. The Kent Brewery complex is an important component of this heritage neighbourhood. 183 and 197 Ann Street must be conserved and thoughtfully integrated *in situ* into any future development on the site.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wes Kinghorn
President, Architectural Conservancy Ontario – London Region

Copies: Cathy Saunders, City Clerk - csaunder@london.ca
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