

From: Quinn, Edythe Ann

Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2022 5:25 PM

To: PEC <pec@london.ca>

Cc: Edythe Quinn

Subject: [EXTERNAL] From Edythe Ann Quinn, Ph.D., Letter supporting Chapel Project Steering Committee acquiring HAP for moving "Fugitive Slave Chapel" to Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

21 July 2022

To the Planning and Environment Committee

London, Canada

I am writing in support of the Chapel Project Steering Committee's efforts to acquire a Heritage Alteration Permit (HAP) in the process of moving the Fugitive Slave Chapel to the Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

This Chapel is of great historical and spiritual importance to African Canadian history in London and, by inclusion, to the history of white, antislavery allies in London who offered support to the Freedom Seekers. Through the outstanding research and writings of the late Professor Fred Landon and the Journal articles of the London and Middlesex Historical Society, the Chapel's history has been well documented. What is extraordinary here is the existence of the Chapel itself, understandably in need of restoration and preservation at an appropriate site, accessible to the public to appreciate and honor its history

Why am I, an Emerita Professor of History in the United States, supporting this worthy project? I have focused my career as a New Social Historian on the community and religious history of Blacks in New York, from 1790 through the early 20th century. Also, I have experience in gaining National Historic Site registration for an A.M.E. Zion Church foundation and its Black community burying ground in Westchester County, NY, (1834-1890s).

For my in-progress manuscript concerning Abolition and the Underground Railroad at sites in Westchester County, New York, Medina County, Ohio, and Ontario, I am researching the social and religious history of Freedom Seekers and their white allies in London. I have been very fortunate in receiving research assistance from the London and Middlesex Historical Society, from its president, Dan Brock, and others.

Thus, I recognize the incredible value in this historical, African Canadian Chapel and the need to preserve and maintain it at an appropriate location.

Therefore, I am writing in support of the Chapel Project Steering Committee in acquiring a Heritage Alteration Permit in the process of moving the Fugitive Slave Chapel to the Fanshawe Pioneer Village.

Thank you very much for your attention to my letter.

Sincerely,

Edythe Ann Quinn, Ph.D.
Emerita Professor of History
Hartwick College, Oneonta NY