



To: Planning Committee, Hamilton City Council

Re: Heritage Conservation at Gore Park

Heritage Permit Application HP 2016-027 and Hp 2106-028 18-22

From: Gibson and Landsdale Area (GALA) Community Planning Team

As the lead of Gibson and Landsdale's History Action Team, I fully endorse the dedicated efforts of Friends of the Gore, Heritage Hamilton Foundation and several other neighborhood associations to preserve the 19th century buildings at 18-24 King St East in the downtown core known as The Gore.

Here in the Gibson and Landsdale neighborhoods, the traditional 'industrial' working class area of Hamilton, we are at risk of losing one of the iconic structures of Hamilton's rich industrial past, namely the Westinghouse office building on Myler Avenue.

Bordered by Wellington, Sherman, Main and the CNR tracks, GALA has lost many of its historically significant structures, such as Sanford Ave's Firehall, The Barton Forum, Cathedral Girls High School and the Appleford Paper Products factory at present day Powell Park.

Declining school enrollment and consolidation by our school boards have resulted in the demolition of the Hamilton Collegiate Institute and Tweedmuir School. Soon we may lose St Brigid's Catholic elementary school on Smith Avenue. Fire has claimed other structures in recent decades such as Wentworth School, St Matthews Anglican Church and St John's Presbyterian Church.

The Gibson-Landsdale History Action team is presently embarked on an exciting oral history project. In conjunction with an enthusiastic and engaged group of students from McMaster University, we will be documenting the life and times of some of the residents who have called GALA their home for decades. Through meticulous conducting of interviews, the vibrancy and abundance of the Barton Ave commercial corridor will come to life once more. The noon factory whistle of the Westinghouse complex will sound again as our interviewees recount taking lunch at establishments such as Colonial

Inn and Waverly on Barton Street. The quiet clicking hum of the BeltlineHSR streetcars on Barton Avenue and Sanford Avenue will no doubt be fondly recalled by some of our senior residents. All of this information will hopefully be compiled into a booklet similar to what the Worker Arts and Heritage Center has done.

Heritage is an important to creating safe, engaged and vibrant communities as locally owned and operated stores and cafes, beautiful alleys, community gardens and well tended green spaces, all of which the Gibson Landsdale Planning Team supports and is actively involved in creating .

We urge you, City council and city planning staff to recognize and preserve heritage in all of our neighborhoods. They are tangible extant links to the past when Hamilton could truly be called 'The Birmingham of Canada', fully deserving of the name 'The Ambitious City'.

Yours truly

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Christine Imhoff

Brenda Duke

Gibson and Landsdale Area (GALA) Community Planning Team