

THE ANTHONY CARO CENTRE

(Incorporated in England as Barford Sculptures Ltd – No. 976370)

Director:
Paul Caro

38a Georgiana Street
London NW1 0EB

12th August 2021

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Patrick Cunningham. I was employed for the last 50 years by Sir Anthony and Lady Sheila Caro as Studio Director. I am still employed by the family helping to look after the Caro Studio. Part of my job/responsibility was to look after the Caro family home. I was responsible for all the maintenance of 111 Frognal, NW3 6XR.

Sir Anthony purchased the property in the early 1950's. It was originally the stables and coach house to the main house. He had a studio there for many years. He made some of his most iconic early sculptures, both figurative and abstract, some of which are in the Tate collection in London and many other important museums throughout the world. 111 Frognal was a very small property when he first bought it, but he and Lady Sheila commissioned Smithsons Architects to increase the size of the property. He was particularly careful not to change the property too much and lose the character of the house or the garden.

I understand that the new owners, Mr and Mrs Eayrs, have had little respect for the integrity of the original building. I understand the house is undergoing massive alteration and that they have constructed a basement claiming it was repairs to what was already there. I am quite frankly horrified as I believe they have dug out a sizeable basement underneath the property; this includes where his studio was located. There was no cellar there at all and this I am prepared to vouch for. There was a simple coal hole which used to be originally a small coal bunker and we put some steps down into it and cleaned it out and Tony used to keep a few bottles of wine in there. It was in a decent state of repair. It was so small you could just about stand up in it.

I am very saddened to hear what is happening to that beautiful grade 2* listed building and I think that Camden Council should watch every detail of alterations to this property. I am aware that everything must change but it was such a pretty building and when Sir Anthony had the house, he was very particular about keeping the cobbled yard, the entrance door and the two gates that led up to the studio. Everything had to be kept in keeping with its historic and aesthetic importance as did his beloved lime grove and the gravel drive which was always maintained every couple of years along with the fencing.

I urge Camden Council to oversee every detail of what is done to this important property which is surely worthy of a blue plaque.

Patrick Cunningham