

Eden Court (Edward Stock House)

Description

The property at 515 Royal York Road is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value or interest, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, historical and contextual value. The site is located on the east side of Royal York Road, south of The Queensway in Etobicoke and, as documented in historical records, contains a 2½-storey house form building known as Eden Court (1886). The property is listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties, and a Heritage Easement Agreement was registered in 2006. The portions of the building described in the heritage attributes below have been identified for retention in a residential development on the site.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Eden Court is architecturally significant as a good example of a late 19th century residence with Romanesque Revival features. One of the most popular architectural styles of the late 19th century, Romanesque Revival elements were interpreted in residential buildings, particularly sandstone cladding and round-arched motifs. The property is historically notable for its associations with the Stock family, whose origins in Etobicoke date to the early 19th century. Named “Eden Court”, the house was completed in 1886 as the residence of Edward Stock (1815-1905), a farmer, businessman, politician and benefactor in Mimico. Stock served as a director of the Home Bank. Acquiring extensive real estate holdings in the area, he provided funding for Roman Catholic churches throughout the community. He was elected to the Council of Etobicoke Township and served as a trustee on the local school board. Eden Court later housed a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, the largest war veteran’s organization in Canada. With St. Leo’s Roman Catholic Church at #227 and Mimico Christ Church at #329, Eden Court is one of three surviving properties on Royal York Road that are recognized on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of Eden Court related to its cultural heritage value as a good example of a late 19th century house form building with Romanesque Revival features are found on the west and south exterior walls, consisting of:

- The 2½ storey ell-shaped plan rising above a coursed stone foundation
- The red brick cladding with brick and sandstone detailing
- On the principal (west) façade, the gabled frontispiece, which is outlined with brick corbels and a stone capstone with scrollwork
- In the first storey, the large round-arched window opening with brick voussoirs and a hood mould
- The trio of round-arched window openings found in the second floor and, reduced in size, in the attic level
- On the south wall, the flat-headed window openings with brick and stone trim

The hip roof with its chimney, turret, dormers and decorative detailing, the north elevation with its tapered chimney and flat-headed window openings, the rear (east) wall, and the subsequent additions to the building were excluded from the Heritage Easement Agreement and are not included in the Reasons for Designation.