

**109 Atlantic Avenue: Gowans, Kent and Company Warehouse**Description

The property at 109 Atlantic Avenue is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural heritage value or interest. Located on the east side of Atlantic Avenue between King Street West and Hanna Avenue, the three-storey warehouse was under construction in 1906 for Gowans, Kent and Company, manufacturers of china and glassware. Historical atlases and tax assessment rolls indicate that the building was completed in stages by 1912. Gowans, Kent and Company occupied part of the building, while firms including Rice, Lewis and Son Limited (hardware merchants) and the Page Wire Fence Company were among the tenants.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Gowans, Kent and Company Warehouse has physical or design value as a representative example of an industrial building from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, which is distinguished by the Classical detailing on the northwest corner.

Contextually, the Gowans, Kent and Company Warehouse assists in maintaining, defining and supporting the industrial character of the Liberty Street neighbourhood, which continues to evolve as heritage buildings are converted to new uses. On Atlantic Avenue, the former Canadian Bank of Commerce Book Vaults (1912) at #98 and the Bradshaw and Company Factory (1905 and 1910) at #107 are listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Gowans, Kent and Company Warehouse related to its cultural heritage value as a representative example of industrial architecture are found on the exterior walls and roof. Clad with red brick and trimmed with brick, stone and wood, the building rises three stories. Cornices extend along the south, east and parts of the north edges of the flat roof.

The northwest portion of the building, extending three bays on King Street West and four bays on Atlantic Avenue, is set apart by its Classical detailing, brick banding, and the size and detailing of the first-floor door and window openings. On the north façade, the main entrance is placed in the centre bay in a round-arched opening with a transom (the original door has been replaced). The entry is flanked by large segmental-arched window openings with stone sills and radiating brick voussoirs and keystones. In the upper two stories, the segmental-arched window openings are framed by brick piers and corbelled brickwork and contain double windows with voussoirs and keystones. On the four-bay west facade, the pattern, placement and detailing of the door and window openings

continues from the north wall, apart from the upper stories where the central openings are larger and contain three-part windows (one opening in the second storey has been filled in).

On Atlantic Avenue, the remainder of the west elevation features single segmental-arched openings in all floors with brick relieving arches and stone sills. The remainder of the north wall on King Street West, the long south elevation on Hanna Avenue, and the rear (east) wall facing the railway corridor display segmental-arched openings

The single-storey wing at the southeast corner of the building is not included in the Reasons for Designation.