

## **Jared Sessions House**

### Description

The property at 34 Isabella Street 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 categories of design and contextual value. Located on the north side of Isabella Street in the first block east of Yonge Street, the 2½-storey house form building was completed before the recording of the tax assessment roll in 1860. The house was commissioned by Jared Sessions, a partner in Sessions, Carpenter and Company, wholesale sellers of boots and shoes, and the co-owner of the lot. A century later, the Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society (now the Children's Aid Society of Toronto) acquired the site as part of its headquarters on Charles Street East (directly north). The property at 34 Isabella Street was listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 2002, followed by authority to enter into a Heritage Easement Agreement.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Jared Sessions House has design value as a good example of the Italianate style, which was especially popular for residential buildings in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The house form building bears the characteristics of the style, particularly the hip roof with extended eaves and brackets, the projections on the south façade and side elevations with porches and bay window, and the iron cresting. Contextually, the Jared Sessions House contributes to the character of Isabella Street, east of Yonge Street, as it developed as a desirable residential neighbourhood. The neighbouring Robert Wood House (1885) at #38 Isabella, and the low-scale Brownley Apartments (1931) at #42 Isabella are recognized on the City's heritage inventory.

### Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Jared Sessions House related to its design value as a good example of Italianate residential architecture are found on the exterior walls and roof, consisting of:

- The 2½-storey square plan
- The buff brick cladding with brick, stone, wood and metal trim
- The hip roof with extended eaves, curved brackets, an oversized cornice and, on the south slope, a monumental segmental-headed dormer containing a tripartite window beneath a fanlight
- The principal (south) façade, which is symmetrically organized into three bays with the main entry centered in the lower floor
- The single-storey flat-roofed porch with iron cresting, segmental-headed window openings on its side walls, and a paneled door that is flanked by pilasters and surmounted by an entablature.
- The placement of segmental-headed window openings with brick voussoirs and stone sills on either side of the porch, which are repeated in the second floor where the sill of the central opening extends to the roof of the porch below

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- On the side elevations (east and west), the continuation of the pattern and symmetrical placement of the window openings, as well as a single-storey bay window on the west wall
- The sunporch projecting from the east elevation
- On the rear (north) wall, the 1½-storey tail with buff brick cladding