

Clarkson Jones Buildings

Description

The properties at 61 and 63 Jarvis Street are worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for their cultural heritage value or interest, and meet the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the categories of design and contextual value. Located on the east side of Jarvis Street in the first block north of King Street East, the three-storey commercial buildings represent two units of a seven-row block that was in place when the tax assessment roll was compiled in 1873. The buildings were commissioned by Clarkson Jones, a barrister, and the original occupants were grocers. The properties were listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1974, and a Heritage Easement Agreement was registered in 1998.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Clarkson Jones Building have design value as good examples of late 19th century commercial architecture highlighted with Classical elements and polychromatic brickwork. With their position opposite St. James Park and proximity to local landmarks on King Street East, including St. James' Cathedral at #106, St. Lawrence Hall at #151, and the Daniel Brooke Building at #150, the commercial buildings contribute to the historical character of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Clarkson Jones Building related to their design value as representative examples of late 19th century commercial architecture with Classical detailing are found on the principal (west) facades and roofline above, consisting of:

- The three-storey west facades with red brick cladding and contrasting buff brick trim
- Along the flat roofline, the horizontal brick courses and paired wooden brackets highlighting the cornice and the parapet
- The buff brick pilasters that divide the wall into two units
- The first-floor store fronts, which have been restored to reflect the original 19th century configuration
- The narrow cornice separating the first and second stories
- The fenestration in the upper floors, with two regularly spaced, segmental-arched window openings in each storey that feature stone sills, brick hood moulds, and two-over-two sash windows

The party walls on the north and south ends are not included in the Reasons for Designation.