

Toronto Ferry Company Waiting Room

Description

The property at 145 Queen's Quay West 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. Located on the south side of Queen's Quay West at the foot of York Street, the single-storey building known historically as the Toronto Ferry Company Waiting Room was constructed in 1907 by the City of Toronto. The property was listed on the inaugural City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1973, and a Heritage Easement Agreement was registered in 1991.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Toronto Ferry Company Waiting Room has design value as a rare example of a building type associated with the development of the Central Waterfront. As described in the heritage easement agreement, it is "the oldest standing structure and only building originally constructed for a harbour-oriented use that is still located beside the water of Toronto Bay."

Historically, the Toronto Ferry Company Waiting Room is linked to Toronto's waterfront, where it has served a number of functions in different locations since its construction in 1907. Originally located at the foot of Bay Street, the building was built by the City of Toronto and leased to the Turbine Ferry Company as a freight shed. In 1911, the structure was acquired by the newly formed Toronto Harbour Commission, which leased it to the Toronto Ferry Company the following year. The building was cut in half in 1927, and the south section moved by barge to its current site at the foot of York Street. Following alterations, it was used for various purposes by the Toronto Harbour Commission, including housing the water level gauge. Between 1953 and 1980, the Royal Canadian Yacht Club leased the building as the City Station for its launches, "Kwasind" and "Hiawatha." While the east side of York Slip was prepared for a condominium development in 1988, the Toronto Ferry Company Waiting Room was temporarily moved to Terminal 51. The next year, the building was returned by barge and reinstated on new concrete foundations on the York Slip site. The Toronto Ferry Company Waiting Room was restored under the supervision of Toronto architects Natale, Scott, Browne as an information centre for the Toronto Harbour Commission and for other commercial services related to the public enjoyment of the waterfront.

With its diminutive appearance and location on Queen's Quay West, the Toronto Ferry Company Waiting Room is a landmark on the Central Waterfront. Directly west, the Toronto Terminal Building (1928) at 207 Queen's Quay West is also recognized on the City's heritage inventory.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Toronto Ferry Company Waiting Room are found on the exterior walls and roof, consisting of:

- The single-storey plan under a gable roof with extended eaves and shingles
- The corrugated prefinished steel siding, reminiscent of the original steel finishes
- The door and window openings on the exterior walls, with the main entrance on the principal (north) façade, and three garage-style door openings with transoms and reproduction sliding doors on the west elevation
- The rear (south) wall, identifying the line where the building was severed in 1927 with the glazing added in 1989

The wood decking around the building is identified in the heritage easement agreement and included in the Reasons for Designation