

## **Frederick Crompton Buildings**

### Description

The property at 70 York Street (formerly known as 74-76 York 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 west side of York Street, north of Wellington Street West, the pair of four-storey commercial buildings was completed in 1889 for Frederick Crompton, a corset manufacturer whose factory was located next door. The first occupants of the first-floor commercial units were a druggist and a wholesale seller of fancy goods. The property was listed on the inaugural City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in June 1973, and a Heritage Easement Agreement was registered in 1988.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Frederick Crompton Buildings have design value as well-designed examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial architecture with Romanesque Revival detailing. The style was popularized in Toronto in landmark buildings such as the fourth City Hall (now known as Old City Hall) and the Legislative Building at Queen's Park, where elements of the designs were applied to commercial, industrial, institutional and residential projects. Romanesque Revival features are recognized on the Frederick Crompton Buildings with the rustic stone cladding in the lower floor, and the repetition of round-arched arcades from the base to the upper storey.

Contextually, the edifice is one of the few surviving examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings with Classical embellishments in Toronto's financial district. The Frederick Crompton Buildings complement the scale, cladding and detailing of the neighbouring Toronto Club (1888) at 107-109 Wellington Street West (on the southeast corner of York Street), which is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Frederick Crompton Buildings related to their design value as well-crafted examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial structures with Romanesque Revival features are found on the principal (east) façade and flat roofline, consisting of:

- The four-storey east façade with red brick cladding, metal detailing, and stone trim in contrasting white and red tones with both smooth and rock-faced finishes
- The organization of the first storey, where semi-circular headed bays form an arcade with wide white stone bases, slender red stone columns with moulded smooth stone capitals, and rock-faced voussoirs with moulded smooth stone keystones
- In the first floor, the entranceways in the end bays of the arcade between four windows surmounted by transom lights

- The spandrels, with patterned white rock-faced stone, between the arcade and the cornice above the first floor
- In the second and third floors, the window openings separated by pilasters with brick and moulded stone capitals
- The four window openings in the centre of the second and third stories, which are divided into pairs by moulded cast iron colonettes
- On the second floor, the fenestration with stone bases (created by the cornice above the first storey), pilasters, and stone and brick voussoirs with inset stone lintels
- The treatment of the third-storey window openings with stone lintels and sills
- In the fourth floor, the row of semi-circular headed openings with brick and stone pilasters, radiating stone and brick voussoirs, a drip mould, and a continuous sill
- The organization of the fourth-storey openings, which are paired in the centre bays and contain double-hung sash windows