

Glen Road Houses

Description

The six properties at 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 Glen Road are worthy of designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, and meet the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual value. The three pairs of semi-detached 2½-storey house form buildings are located on the west side of Glen Road, north of Howard Street. Constructed on land formerly owned by Edgar Jarvis whose family developed the Rosedale neighbourhood, the Glen Road Houses were in place by September 1884 according to the tax assessment rolls. At that time, all but one of the units remained vacant and in the ownership of William Muir and Arthur Coleman, who developed the sites. The occupants in 1885 included merchants, an estate agent, and the owner of a livery stable. The six properties were listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1974, along with the other remaining buildings along this short stretch of Glen Road.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Glen Road Houses have design value as a surviving group of late 19th century house form buildings with patterned brickwork that are indicative of the style of residential buildings that were once prominent on Sherbourne Street and in the adjoining neighbourhood. The pairs of dwellings at 6-8 and 10-12 Glen Road are almost identical (excluding the detailing on the verandahs), while the houses at 14-16 Glen Road have different window types. Photographs in the collection of the City of Toronto Archives dating to 1913 reveal that the buildings retain most of their original features, with the pair of houses at 6-8 Glen Road displaying pattern brickwork, bargeboard and verandah detailing

Historically, the Glen Road Houses are integral parts of the collection of late 19th and early 20th century residential buildings along the street. The similar semi-detached houses at 18-20 and 22-24 Glen Road were demolished with other buildings for the eastward extension of Bloor Street East and the widening of the Glen Road Bridge to Rosedale, making the survival of the Glen Road Houses more significant.

The three pairs of semi-detached houses at 6-16 Glen Road are also important in context with the other surviving buildings on Glen Road, where the Roslyn Apartments (1911) at #1 and #7 and the house form building (1888) designed by Eden Smith at #9 are also identified on the City's heritage inventory. Directly east, St. Simon's Anglican Church (1888) at 40 Howard Street (now known as 525 Bloor Street East) is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, while a number of single and semi-detached houses on Howard Street are also recognized heritage properties.

Heritage Attributes

6 and 8 Glen Road:

The heritage attributes of the Glen Road Houses related to their design significance as good examples of late 19th century residential housing that form a cohesive group on the street are found on the exterior walls and roofs, consisting of:

- The 2½-storey structures covered by gable roofs with brick chimneys on the ends and cross gables with bargeboard on the east slopes
- The red brick cladding with contrasting yellow brick detailing, and the brick and wood trim
- The organization of the principal (east) facades as mirror images, with the main entrances placed in the centre and protected by an open single-storey wood verandah with columns, cornice and decorative spoolwork (the wood balustrade between the two units has been removed)
- On either side of the entries, the 2½-storey frontispieces under the cross gables where the first floor has bay windows with cornices and segmental-arched window openings with brick voussoirs
- The segmental-arched window openings with brick voussoirs across the second storey, where the openings above the entries are slightly wider in size
- The diminutive round-arched window openings in the attic level

10 and 12 Glen Road:

The heritage attributes of the Glen Road Houses related to their design significance as good examples of late 19th century residential housing that form a cohesive group on the street are found on the exterior walls and roofs, consisting of:

- The 2½-storey structures covered by gable roofs with brick chimneys on the ends and cross gables with bargeboard on the east slopes
- The red brick cladding with contrasting yellow brick detailing, and the brick and wood trim (the east facades have been painted)
- The organization of the principal (east) facades as mirror images, with the main entrances placed in the centre and protected by an open single-storey wood verandah with brick piers and wood columns supporting a cornice (the wood balustrade has been removed from #10)
- On either side of the entries, the 2½-storey frontispieces under the cross gables where the first floor has bay windows with cornices and segmental-arched window openings with brick voussoirs
- The segmental-arched window openings with brick voussoirs across the second storey, where the openings above the entries are slightly wider in size
- The diminutive round-arched window openings in the attic level

14 and 16 Glen Road:

The heritage attributes of the Glen Road Houses related to their design significance as good examples of late 19th century residential housing that form a cohesive group on the street are found on the exterior walls and roofs, consisting of:

- The 2½-storey structures covered by gable roofs with brick chimneys on the ends and cross gables on the east slopes
- The red brick cladding with contrasting yellow brick detailing, and the brick and wood trim (although the houses have been painted, the polychromatic brickwork remains visible)
- The organization of the principal (east) facades, with the main entrances placed in the centre and featuring segmental-arched door openings with paired wood doors and transoms
- The open single-storey verandah protecting the entries
- On either side of the entries, the 2½-storey frontispieces under the cross gables where the first floor has single-storey bay windows with cornices
- On the bay windows, the single oversized segmental-arched window opening on #14 and the pair of segmental-arched window openings on #16, all with brick voussoirs
- In the second storey, the segmental-arched window openings with brick voussoirs, apart from the oriel window on #14
- The diminutive round-arched window openings in the attic level