

Joseph Sparrow House

Description

The property at 93 Gloucester Street is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the categories of design and contextual value. The 2½-storey house form building is located on the south side of Gloucester Street, between Church Street (west) and Jarvis Street (east). Archival sources indicate that the dwelling was under construction in September 1888 for Joseph W. Sparrow, a merchant who resided on-site until 1892. The property was listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1979.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Joseph Sparrow House has design value as a well-crafted example of residential architecture from the late 19th century. Its design borrows elements from the most popular styles of the late Victorian era, particularly the roof and window shapes associated with the Gothic Revival and Italianate styles. The house form building retains most of its original features, including the stained glass transoms, wood porch, and slate roof with bargeboard trim.

Contextually, the Joseph Sparrow House is an integral part of Gloucester Street in one of the City's oldest residential neighbourhoods. Through its setback, scale and detailing, it supports the residential character of Gloucester Street where many of the surviving house form buildings are recognized on the City's heritage inventory.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Joseph Sparrow House related to its design and contextual value as a representative example of a late 19th century house form building that supports the residential character of Gloucester Street are:

- The scale, form and massing
- The 2½-storey rectangular plan above a stone foundation
- The red brick cladding with brick, stone, wood and stained glass detailing
- The steeply-pitched cross-gable roof, which has slate cladding, decorative woodwork and, at the east end, a brick chimney
- On the north and east facades, the segmental-arched window openings, including the 2½-storey bay windows, with voussoirs and hood moulds
- The main entrance, which is placed in the west (right) bay on the north façade and contains double wood doors with inserts beneath a transom
- The stained glass displayed in the window transoms and door, much of which is original

- Protecting the entrance, the open single-storey wood porch with Classical detailing, brackets and spoolwork

The west elevation is concealed by the neighbouring house form building, and the rear (south) elevation is not visible from Gloucester Street.