

11 Spadina Road: George Stinson House

Description

The property at 11 Spadina Road is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the categories of design and contextual value. The 2½-storey semi-detached house form building (1890) that is known as the George Stinson House is located on the east side of Spadina Road in the first block north of Bloor Street West. The property was listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1974.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The George Stinson House has design value as a well-crafted example of late 19th century residential design that blends features of the predominant architectural styles of the period. The decorative wood detailing on the gables above the bay windows and on the two-storey verandah, and the oriel window on the north wall are drawn from the Gothic Revival style, while the oversized round-arched window opening beside the main entrance is indicative of Italianate design. While the architectural appearance of the George Stinson House is complemented by other house form buildings on Spadina Road that date to the same era, this property (with its neighbour at 9 Spadina Road) is set apart because of the survival of its original wood decorative features.

The George Stinson House also contributes to an understanding of the East Annex neighbourhood, which was developed in the late 19th century as a middle class residential subdivision. After the area was annexed by the City of Toronto in 1887 and development began in earnest, the George Stinson House was one of the first buildings constructed on Spadina Road. Its appearance was indicative of the substantial, richly detailed building stock that made the East Annex one of Toronto's most desirable residential neighbourhoods.

Contextually, the George Stinson House is visually and historically linked to its surroundings. With the adjoining semi-detached house at 9 Spadina Road, the George Stinson House stands out on the street because of its scale and late 19th century architectural features, as well as the removal of much of the other historic housing stock along Spadina Road. It is related in appearance and vintage to the late 19th century house form buildings to the north and east that form the core of the East Annex neighbourhood.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the George Stinson House related to its cultural heritage value as a well-crafted example of late 19th century residential architecture with features of the Gothic Revival and Italianate styles are:

- The scale, form and massing
- Above a rubblestone foundation with window openings, the 2½-storey rectangular plan
- The red brick cladding, and the brick, stone and wood detailing
- The steeply-pitched cross-gable roof, with a brick chimney at the north end, wood brackets, and a gabled dormer with wood bargeboard on the west slope (the dormer is shared with the adjoining semi-detached house form building at 9 Spadina Road, which is not included in the Reasons for Designation)
- On the principal (west) façade, the main entrance that is inset in the right (south) bay and contains a panelled wood door with a glass insert and a transom
- Protecting the inset entry, the two-storey verandah with wood detailing, including brackets and spoolwork, with a balcony that provides access for the door opening in the second storey
- On the west façade, the 2½-storey bay window under the gable with wood detailing, including bargeboard, scrollwork and brackets, and an inset balcony
- The round-arched, flat-headed and segmental-arched window openings on the west and north elevations, which have brick and stone trim, including a hood mould on the oversized round-arched window opening on the west facade
- On the north elevation, the oriel window and the two-storey bay window beneath a gable with bargeboard and other wood detailing
- At the rear (east), the two-storey brick-clad wing with a gable roof and segmental-arched window openings on the north elevation

The rear (north) wall of the house form building is concealed by the west wing, and the south wall adjoins the neighbouring structure at 9 Spadina Road that is not included in the Reasons for Designation.