

Lonsdale Road Cottages

Description

The properties at 63 and 69 Lonsdale Road are worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural heritage value. Located on the south side of Lonsdale Road, east of Oriole Parkway, the pair of 1½-storey cottages date to the early 20th century.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Lonsdale Road Cottages are representative examples of residential buildings designed with features of the Second Empire style, identified by the distinctive mansard (double-gable) roof. Introduced to Toronto in 1866 with the designs for Government House (now demolished), the style was applied to residential and commercial buildings in the late 19th century and remained popular into the early 1900s.

The Lonsdale Road Cottages are historically associated with the evolution of the Deer Park neighbourhood, which opened as a residential suburb north of the city limits in the 1870s. The area had originally been the location of country estates, including “Deer Park,” the Heath family’s farm that provided the name for the locality. In June 1874, a plan of subdivision was registered that included the layout of lots along Clinton Street (now Lonsdale Road). While access to the area improved with the arrival of the street railway along Yonge Street in the 1880s and the opening of the short-lived Belt Line Railway in the following decade, Deer Park remained an unincorporated area until it was annexed by the City of Toronto in 1908.

The cottages at #63 and #69 were not in place in 1903 when Goad’s Fire Insurance Atlas was updated. They were recorded in the city directories in 1908 when George Pemberton, a bank manager, occupied #63 and Alfred Fletcher, a bank inspector, was his neighbour at #69. According to the tax assessment rolls, both properties were owned by Dr. D. Campbell Meyers, who retained the sites through the World War I era. The physician was linked to the historical development of Deer Park as the operator of “Dr. Meyers’ Private Hospital for Nervous Diseases” (originally known as the Deer Park Sanatorium) on Heath Street West. The institution was highlighted in the Toronto Board of Trade’s publication, Toronto Canada 1897-98.

Contextually, the Lonsdale Road Cottages form part of a residential enclave along Lonsdale Road where the buildings share complementary Second Empire styling. The cottages’ immediate neighbours include the earliest surviving residential buildings in Deer Park. Dating to the late 1870s, the cottage at #73 Lonsdale is listed on the City’s heritage inventory, while the John Ford House at #76 Lonsdale, opposite, is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Lonsdale Road Cottages related to their design, associative and contextual value as representative examples of late 19th century residential housing associated with the historical evolution of Deer Park and the character of Lonsdale Road are:

- The scale, form and massing of the near-identical 1½-storey plans
- The stucco cladding with wood and brick detailing
- The mansard roofs with gabled and round dormer windows and, at the west ends, tall brick chimneys
- The symmetrical organization of the principal (north) facades, with the main entrances protected by gable-roofed porches and centered between flat-headed openings with cornice detailing
- The fenestration on the elevations that are visible from Lonsdale Road

The attached garage on 63 Lonsdale Road is not included in the Reasons for Listing.