

Robert Brown Row Houses

Description

The properties at 29-39 Beverley Street are worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for their cultural heritage value. Located on the southeast corner of Beverley Street and Stephanie Street, the six properties identified as 29, 21, 33, 35, 37 and 39 Beverley contain 2½-storey row houses.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The six-unit row houses have design value as representative and well-crafted examples of residential buildings from the late Victorian era. The houses are embellished with features associated with the Italianate and Gothic Revival styles favoured for residential architecture near the end of the 19th century. The Gothic Revival influences are seen in the oversized chimneys and the extended gables with wood detailing, while Italianate design is referenced for the oversized round-arched window openings, some of which retain stained glass transoms. The row houses are complemented by the neighbouring pair of semi-detached houses at 45 and 47 Stephanie Street (also constructed in 1891 by Robert Brown) that share many of their stylistic features.

Contextually, the row houses are visually and historically linked to Beverley Street in the Grange neighbourhood. This specific block on Beverley Street contains a range of residential buildings that reflects the evolution of the area from the mid 19th to the early 20th centuries. The row houses, together with the semi-detached houses at 45 and 47 Stephanie Street, appeared during the middle phase of development, as illustrated in their scale and variety of architectural features. In comparison, the modest dwelling at 15 Beverley (1858 and subsequently updated) was among the earliest buildings on the street, while the James Kelly House (1905) at 27 Beverley was the last house completed in the block and marks the return to more restrained architectural designs after 1900. Together, the built forms in the block are indicative of the transitional development of the Grange neighbourhood, where the unpretentious buildings that first appeared on the Park Lots were gradually replaced or joined by more pretentious ones that retain the residential scale of the area. The Robert Brown Row Houses, in particular, support the residential context of the Grange neighbourhood in their scale, form and massing.

Heritage Attributes:

The heritage attributes of the row houses that contribute to their design and contextual value as representative and well-crafted residential buildings from the late Victorian era that are visually and historically linked to Beverley Street in the Grange neighbourhood are:

- The scale, form and massing

- Above stone foundations with window openings, the 2½-storey rectangular plans
- The gable roofs, which are hipped on the east end, with the large brick chimneys and the cross gables with extended eaves, brackets, and shingles
- The red brick cladding with brick, stone and wood detailing
- The principal (west) facades, which have the main entrance to each unit elevated and placed in a round-arched opening with a transom
- The organization of the central units at 31 and 33 Beverley and 35 and 37 Beverley as mirror images under projecting gables, with oversized round-arched window openings with transoms in the first and second stories
- The end units at 29 and 39 Beverley, which are distinguished from the central units by the pairs of round-arched window openings in the second stories
- On all of the units, the flat-headed and segmental-arched window openings that have stone sills and, in some cases, wood entablatures or brick hood moulds
- The north elevation of 39 Beverley that faces Stephanie Street