

**Robert Brown Houses**Description

The properties at 45 and 47 Stephanie Street are worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for their cultural heritage value. The pair of 2½-storey semi-detached house form buildings (1891) are located on the south side of Stephanie Street in the first block east of Beverley Street.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The semi-detached house form buildings 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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, many of which retain stained glass transoms. The semi-detached houses are complemented by the neighbouring group of six-unit row houses at 29-39 Beverley Street (also constructed by Robert Brown in 1891) that share many of the same stylistic features.

Contextually, the semi-detached houses are visually and historically linked to Beverley Street in the Grange neighbourhood because they were constructed at the same time as the neighbouring row houses at 29-39 Beverley Street and share similar architectural detailing. The semi-detached houses complement the row houses at the north end of the group of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century residential buildings that complete the block outlined by Beverley Street, Stephanie Street and two laneways and reinforce the sense of visual continuity. This range of residential buildings reflects the evolution of the area from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> to the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The semi-detached houses and the adjoining row houses appeared during the middle phase of development, as illustrated in their scale and architectural embellishments. In comparison, the modest dwelling at 15 Beverley (1858) 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 Houses at 45 and 47 Stephanie Street support the residential context of the Grange neighbourhood in their scale, form and massing.

Heritage Attributes:

The heritage attributes of the semi-detached house form buildings 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 the raised bases with window openings, the 2½-storey rectangular plans
- The cross-gable roofs, with brick chimneys and cross-gables with wood detailing
- The red brick cladding, with brick, stone and wood trim, including the wood cornices above the first-storey window openings
- The central round-arched door opening that contains the entrances to both houses, with wood doors and transoms
- The placement, shape and detailing of the round-arched, segmental-arched and flat-headed window openings, including the stone sills, brick hood moulds and, in the outer bays, stained-glass transoms