

Wallace Millichamp House (1875)

Description

The property at 69 Gloucester Street is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural heritage value. Located on the south side of Gloucester Street, west of Church Street, the Wallace Millichamp House (1875) comprises the 2½-storey west portion and two-storey rear (west) wing of a former L-shaped house that faced east onto Church Street until 1910 when it was altered and attached to the apartment house at 596 Church Street.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Wallace Millichamp House (1875) has design value as a surviving example of a late 19th century house form building with Second Empire styling. As constructed, the house was one of the original dwellings that appeared in this block and reflected the Second Empire detailing typical of many of the earlier residences developed in the historical Church Street neighbourhood. With the distinctive mansard (double-gable) roofs on both structures, and the contrasting brick detailing on the house, the Wallace Millichamp House (1875) recalls the high quality of architectural designs on Gloucester Street and the adjoining neighbourhood.

Contextually, the Wallace Millichamp House (1875) is historically linked to its surroundings where it forms part of a group of surviving residential buildings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries on the west side of Church Street, north of Dundonald Street, and on the south side of Gloucester Street, west of Church Street. The house form buildings and apartment houses in this block reflect the appearance of the Church Street neighbourhood adjoining Wellesley Street East from the era when it was one of the most desirable residential areas in Toronto. As early as 1858, the Boulton Atlas showed the first subdivision of the lands adjoining this section of Church Street where additional property was subsequently severed from the “Dundonald” estate. Development began in the 1870s when the Wallace Millichamp House (1875) was among the first single and semi-detached houses in the block, and continued following the opening of Dundonald Street in 1903 when additional house form buildings and small-scaled apartment houses were introduced. As a collection, the Wallace Millichamp House (1875) and its neighbours in the block retain the scale and attention to period detailing identified with the historical Church Street neighbourhood.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Wallace Millichamp House (1875) associated with its design and contextual value as a surviving late 19th century house form building with

Second Empire styling that is historically linked to the development of the Church Street neighbourhood are:

- The scale, form and massing
- The materials, with red brick cladding and brick, stone, and wood detailing
- The mansard roof and gabled dormers on the house and wing, and the brick chimney (west) and extended eaves with brackets on the house
- The main (north) entrance, which is placed on the wing and protected by a semi-circular pediment with wood detailing
- The fenestration, with the segmental-arched window openings with hood moulds (house) and flat arches (wing)
- The setback of the house and wing on the south side of Gloucester Street