

The property at 585 Bloor Street West (with the convenience addresses at 512-518 Markham Street) is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for its cultural heritage value.

Description

The property at 585 Bloor Street West contains a three-storey commercial building that anchors the southwest corner of Markham Street at the north end of Mirvish Village. The property was first recorded on the tax assessment rolls in August 1906 as an "unfinished building" owned by Janet Wrigley and afterward occupied by the Wrigley Brothers grocery store and, in the 1920s, Postal Station E.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 585 Bloor Street West has cultural heritage value for its design as a pair of early 20th century commercial buildings with features drawn from the Edwardian Classical style popularized after the turn of the 20th century. The buildings are distinguished by the near-identical design, multiple bay windows and classically-inspired detailing.

The Wrigley Buildings at 585 Bloor Street West contribute to an understanding of the cross-roads community that developed around the intersection of Bathurst and Bloor Streets in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The commercial building at 585 Bloor Street West was situated to serve the residential sectors adjoining these major streets as this area evolved from its origins as country estates and farmland northwest of the City of Toronto to suburban subdivisions that were integrated as an important city neighbourhood.

Contextually, the property at 585 Bloor Street West defines, supports and maintains the character of the area centered at the crossroads of Bathurst-Bloor as it developed in the late 19th century with the placement of commercial and institutional buildings along these major thoroughfares to serve the surrounding residential neighbourhoods. The Wrigley Buildings at 585 Bloor Street West were among the earliest commercial buildings along the south side of the street, west of Bathurst Street that followed the opening of the residential subdivision directly south.

The Wrigley Buildings at 585 Bloor Street West are also visually, historically, physically and functionally connected to their setting on the south side of the street west of Bathurst Street where they anchor the southwest corner of Markham Street and mark the north entrance to Mirvish Village.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the commercial buildings on the property at 585 Bloor Street West are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the pair of buildings on the southwest corner of Bloor Street West and Markham Street, with the principal (north) elevation facing Bloor Street
- The scale, form and massing of the three-storey rectangular-shaped plans
- The materials, with the brick cladding and the brick, stone and wood detailing (the brick has been covered with stucco on the north elevation)
- The flat roof line, with the projecting cornice that extends across the north elevation and wraps around the first bay on the east wall flanking Markham Street
- The principal (north) elevations, which have decorative quoins separating the units and marking the outer corners of the walls above the first (ground) floor storefronts (the storefronts have been altered)
- The fenestration on the north elevation, with the pairs of two-storey bay windows
- The east elevation facing Markham Street, which has segmental-headed window openings in the upper stories