

201 Carlaw Avenue: Rolph-Clark-Stone Limited BuildingDescription

The property at 201 Carlaw Avenue is recommended for inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural heritage value or interest. The site is located on the east side of Carlaw Avenue in the first block north of Queen Street East. The Toronto lithography company was created in 1917 after two rival firms amalgamated to form Rolph-Clark-Stone Limited. While an essay in the periodical *Industrial Canada* (1967) dates the present building to 1913 (when it was commissioned by Rolph, Smith and Company), it was first recorded in the tax assessment rolls in 1916. By the later 20th century, Rolph-Clark-Stone Limited was described as one of Canada's largest graphic arts companies.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Rolph-Clark-Stone Limited Building has physical or design value as a representative example of an industrial building from the World War I era with a high degree of craftsmanship. The long principal (west) façade facing Carlaw Avenue is treated in the Classical manner with a centrally placed frontispiece containing the main entrance to the complex.

The contextual value of the Rolph-Clark-Stone Limited Building relates to the structure's role in maintaining, defining and supporting the industrial character of Carlaw Avenue, where the Toronto Hydro-Electric Power Station at #369 Carlaw is recognized on the City's heritage inventory.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Rolph-Clark-Stone Limited Building related to its physical or design value as a representative example of a World War I era industrial building with a high degree of craftsmanship are found on the principal (west) façade, the first three bays on the south elevation (before the wall is stepped back), the flat roof above the latter walls and, on the interior, the entrance lobby and staircase.

The structure rises two stories above a raised base with window openings at the north and south ends of the west façade. Clad with red brick, the building is trimmed with brick and cast stone. A cornice with stone coping extends along the west wall and wraps around the south elevation to mark the flat roof. The west façade is organized into three sections with an elevated frontispiece in the centre. The frontispiece is divided into three bays by two-storey fluted piers with Corinthian capitals. At the base, a trio of round arches has stone surrounds, with the main entrance is entered through the centre arch (the original doors have been replaced). Three tall flat-headed window openings are placed in the second storey of the frontispiece beneath an entablature with a stone cornice. The

painted sign reading “ROLPH CLARK STONE” remains visible on the entablature. The west façade extends 18 bays on either side of the frontispiece. Symmetrically placed flat-headed window openings have stone sills, and stone band courses link the window heads. At the north and south ends of the west elevation, secondary entrances are set in arches with Classically-detailed stone surrounds.

The pattern and detailing of the fenestration continues on the three bays of the south elevation. The north elevation, abutting the adjoining building, and the rear (east) wall, which is not visible from Carlaw Avenue, are not included in the Reasons for Listing.

On the interior, the entrance lobby with its staircase and Classical detailing is included in the Reasons for Listing.