

Kormann House Hotel

Description

The property at 229 Queen Street East (formerly known as 134-136 Sherbourne Street) is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural heritage value or interest. The three-storey hotel was completed by June 1897 when the tax assessment rolls were compiled. The earlier buildings on the site were replaced by a hotel commissioned by property owner George J. Foy, who oversaw a wholesale wine, liquors and cigars business on Front Street East. According to the city directory, in 1898 hotel keeper Frantz J. Kormann operated the “Kormann House” on-site.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Design or Physical Value

The Kormann House Hotel has design value as a representative example of a late 19th century corner hotel, typical of those found at major intersections in Toronto. Its design is highlighted by a beveled corner, the application of Classical detailing, and the varied fenestration associated with the late 19th century Renaissance Revival style. The cornice, stepped parapet, and corbelled brickwork are noteworthy architectural features.

Contextual Value

The Kormann House Hotel is an important local feature that anchors the southwest corner of Queen Street East and Sherbourne Street. Near the northeast corner of the intersection, the row of shops (1889) at 216-232 Queen Street East is recognized on the City’s heritage inventory, and the neighbouring portions of the Carlyle Block (1892-1893) at 234-242 Queen Street East are designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Kormann House Hotel related to its design and contextual value as a late 19th century hotel anchoring the corner of a prominent intersection are found on the north east corner, the north and east facades facing Queen Street East and Sherbourne Street, respectively, and the roofline above the latter walls. Rising three stories, the structure is clad with brick and trimmed with brick and stone (the surfaces have been painted). The design is highlighted by the beveled northeast corner, designed for the placement of the main entrance at the base. The adjoining walls are organized by brick pilasters. Above the first floor (where the door and window openings have been altered), the upper stories mix flat-headed and round-arched window openings. On the north and east facades, corbelled brickwork is placed beneath the cornice, which wraps around the northeast corner. The parapet along the roof is stepped in the outer bays of the east and north walls and over the northeast corner.

The alterations to the first floor, the roof behind the parapet, and the west and south walls are not included in the Reasons for Listing.