

## REVISED

REASONS FOR LISTING: 59 HEATH STREET WEST  
(STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE)

ATTACHMENT NO. 3

Henry R Duke House (1887)

### Description

The property at 59 Heath Street West is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural heritage value. Located mid-block on the south side of Heath Street between Yonge Street and Deer Park Crescent, the site contains the building historically known as the Henry R Duke house (1887) a two-story buff-brick house with a gable roof and bay window, as well as a garage and a rear extension to the house.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Henry R Duke house is of historical significance in Deer Park as it represents one of the earliest houses built following the partitioning of the Baron de Hoen estate in the 1870's as the current subdivision originally known as Deer Park. Heath Street was one of three streets in the subdivision named for the Heath family, the previous owners of the estate. Dating from 1887 it is one of the two earliest houses to be built on Heath Street which over the past 125 years has been developed with an unusual variety of residential dwelling types from a variety of time periods that is atypical in Toronto. The Henry R Duke house is important because it represents a house from the earliest point in the historical evolution of the street.

The house is a unique surviving example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century Bay-n-Gable style on Heath Street, which is unique to Toronto. The features of the style are evident in the steeply pitched gable roof, the decorative wood barge board in the gable and the projecting bay window. The building is rare in being narrower than is typical as the entry is located on the side instead of the front in a projecting wood entry porch. The house is built of buff clay brick likely from the Blue Hill brick yards located to the south on Yonge Street just north of Davenport Road and famous for producing white brick also known as buff or yellow brick from the 1830's onwards. Many of the original wood features, diamond-shaped shingles, shutters, bargeboards and the iron cresting on the bay window roof are still intact further establishing the architectural significance of this house.

Contextually, the Henry R Duke house stands as a defining property within a group of varied architectural types and styles on Heath Street. It's narrow form, gable roof, style and details including the buff brick, gable bargeboard and bay window with iron cresting set it apart from houses, townhouses and low-rise apartment blocks of later periods. Representing the earliest period of the subdivision Plan 365, its built form is an important component in the history and evolution of Heath Street and the Deer Park neighbourhood.

## Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the property at 59 Heath Street West are:

- The building historically known as the Henry R Duke House
- The scale, form and massing of the house-form building
- The two-storey structure with a rectangular-shaped plan featuring a single story bay window
- The materials, with buff brick cladding, and details including the projecting band at the foundation and brick window headers
- The steeply-pitched gable roof, with decorative pierced wood bargeboard
- The bay window roof with its diamond patterned wood shingles
- The iron cresting on the bay window roof with its Gothic trefoil motif
- The fenestration on the north elevation, with wood single-light double-hung sash, in the projecting bay and paired in the second floor and wood storms
- The wood shutters with movable louvers
- The projecting wood side entrance with its sloping roof, diagonal wood siding and projecting bracket with pierced floral motif and double-leafed door
- The location of the building on the west side of the lot