STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
7-11 GLOUCESTER STREET  
(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)

Hugh Matheson Houses

Description

The properties at 7-11 Gloucester Street are worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for their cultural heritage value, and meet the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under the three categories of design, associative and contextual values. Located on the south side of Gloucester Street, east of Yonge Street, the Hugh Matheson Houses (completed 1886) are three attached 2½-storey row houses.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Hugh Matheson Houses have cultural heritage value as surviving row houses designed in the traditional Toronto Bay-n-Gable style that is identified by its two-bay principal façade where a bay window beneath a gable is placed beside the main entrance to the premises. The buildings are further distinguished by their decorative brickwork that divides the stories and highlights the recessed door openings and the fenestration, as well as the surviving wood detailing on the gables.

The Hugh Matheson Houses are valued for their visual and historical links to their surroundings on Gloucester Street near Yonge Street where they form part of an enclave of surviving mid- to late-19th century buildings of heritage interest near the intersection. The house form buildings are visual reminders of the development of Gloucester Street as a residential neighbourhood near Yonge Street where they stand opposite the Charles Levey Houses at 8 (12) Gloucester and near the landmark Masonic Hall Buildings at 2 Gloucester, which are recognized heritage properties. As a group, the Hugh Matheson Houses and their neighbours contribute to the heritage character of the area adjoining the corner of Yonge and Gloucester along Toronto's "Main Street".

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the properties at 7-11 Gloucester are:

- The three row houses known historically as the Hugh Matheson Houses
- The setback, placement and orientation of the structures on the south side of Gloucester Street, east of Yonge Street
- The scale, form and massing of the structures on 2½-storey rectangular plans
- The gabled roofs, with individual gables on the north slope over each unit and brick chimneys
- The materials, with red brick cladding and brick, stone and wood detailing
• The organization of the north facades on 7 and 9 Gloucester as mirror images, with the entrances placed beside one another in the first (ground) floor
• The organization of the north facade of 11 Gloucester, where the entrance is placed in the left (east) bay
• The main (north) entries, which are recessed in segmental-arched surrounds
• The 2½-storey bay window on each row house, with flat-headed window openings, including in the attic level, and brick, stone and wood detailing
• On each building, the flat-headed window opening above the entrance, with decorative brickwork separating the stories
• The side elevations (east and west) beneath the gable ends of the roofs, which are viewed from Gloucester Street and, in the case of 11 Gloucester, from the James Canning Gardens on the east