

The properties at 756, 758 and 760 Bathurst Street are worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for their cultural heritage value.

Description

The properties at 756-760 Bathurst Street contain a row of three attached three-storey commercial buildings that are located on the west side of the street, south of Bloor Street West. When the tax assessment rolls were compiled in September 1891 the buildings were described as "unfinished" and owned by T. W. Wilson (who commissioned the neighbouring blocks at 738-746 Bathurst at the same time). The first tenants were in place by the turn of the 20th century, including the Atlas Bicycle Works at present-day 760 Bathurst.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The properties at 756-760 Bathurst Street have cultural heritage value for their design as a fine representative example of a late 19th century row of commercial buildings with a high degree of craftsmanship that was inspired by the popular architectural styles of the era. The T. W. Wilson Buildings at 756-760 Bathurst are particularly distinguished by the arrangement of the east elevations, which are treated as a single composition with elaborate brickwork that extends across the centre block with the oriel window to the end units with the distinctive fenestration.

The T. W. Wilson Buildings at 756-760 Bathurst Street 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 buildings at 756-760 Bathurst were 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 properties at 756-760 Bathurst Street define, support and maintain 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 T. W. Wilson Buildings at 756-760 Bathurst were among the earliest commercial buildings near this intersection.

The T. W. Wilson Buildings at 756-760 Bathurst Street are also visually, historically, physically and functionally connected to their setting on the west side of the street south of Bloor Street West where they complement the adjoining commercial rows at 738-746 Bathurst (which were constructed at the same time).

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the commercial buildings on the properties at 756-760 Bathurst Street are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the buildings on the west side of Bathurst Street in the block between Lennox Street (south) and Bloor Street West (north)
- The scale, form and massing of the three-row of three-storey buildings with the rectangular-shaped plans
- The materials, with the brick cladding and the brick, stone and wood detailing (the outer units at 756 and 760 Bathurst are currently painted)
- The rooflines, with the cornices with the corbelled brickwork and the brackets
- The principal (east) elevations, where the buildings are separated by brick piers with decorative detailing above the first (ground) floor storefronts with cornices (the storefronts have been altered)
- The arrangement of the window openings in the upper stories, where the outer units at 756 and 760 Bathurst have pairs of flat-headed openings with lintels and flat arches in the second floor beneath trios of round-arched openings with hood moulds, and the centre unit at 758 Bathurst has the oriel window in the second storey and the pair of flat-headed openings above