

The properties at 791, 793 and 795 Bathurst Street are worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for their cultural heritage value.

Description

The properties at 791-795 Bathurst Street contain a row of three attached three-storey commercial buildings that are located on the east side of the street between Lennox Street (south) and Bloor Street West (north). Archival records indicate that the buildings were under construction in 1906 and occupied by August 1907 when the tax assessment roll was compiled. A tailor and a cigar store proprietor were among the first tenants to Robert Harrison, who also owned commercial buildings on the opposite side of Bathurst Street.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The properties at 791-795 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 reflecting the popular Edwardian Classical style. The Robert Harrison Buildings retain their architectural integrity, and are distinguished by the symmetrical arrangement of the fenestration on the principal (west) elevations, as well as the roof detailing with the pediment incorporating the date stone.

The Robert Harrison Buildings at 791-795 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 791-795 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 791-795 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 Robert Harrison Buildings at 791-795 Bathurst were the first commercial buildings to appear on the east side of the street south of the intersection with Bloor Street West.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the commercial buildings on the properties at 791-795 Bathurst Street are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the buildings on the east side of Bathurst Street, south of Bloor Street West

- The scale, form and massing of the three-part row of three-storey buildings with the rectangular-shaped plans
- The materials, with the brick cladding and the brick, stone and wood detailing
- The rooflines, with the parapets, the corbelled brickwork, brackets and cornices and, on the centre building at 793 Bathurst, the stepped pediment with the date stone marked "A. D. 1906"
- The principal (west) elevations of the three buildings, which are organized by brick piers with decorative detailing above the first (ground) floor storefronts (the storefronts have been altered)
- On the west elevations, in the upper stories, the pairs of flat-headed window openings with lintels