

The property at 585 Markham Street is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for its cultural heritage value.

Description

Containing a 2½-storey detached house form building, the property at 585 Markham Street is located on the east side of the block near Lennox Street. Archival records indicate that in March 1889 land owner Charles Corbetta commissioned Toronto architect R. M. Ogilvie to design the house, which was under construction that September and rented to Reverend James Dyer the next year. In 1959, the property was acquired by local entrepreneur Edwin "Honest Ed" Mirvish.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 585 Markham Street has cultural heritage value as a representative example of a late 19th century house form building with features derived from the popular styles at the close of the Victorian era, including the Italianate. The James Dyer House retains its architectural integrity with original surviving features.

The James Dyer House is historically linked to Mirvish Village, the famed artists' enclave created by Ed Mirvish and his family on Markham Street between Bloor Street West and Lennox Street. Originally acquired for additional parking for the nearby "Honest Ed's" retail complex, the houses were saved and converted as an artists' enclave with studios as well as restaurants and unique shops. Mirvish Village became a cultural and tourist destination in Toronto, including the property at Markham Street.

Contextually, the James Dyer House at 585 Markham Street assists in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of Mirvish Village, which consists of the collection of preserved detached, semi-detached and multi-unit house form buildings dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries that contribute to this special area within the Palmerston neighbourhood.

The property at 585 Markham Street is also visually, historically, physically and functionally connected to its setting on the east side of Markham Street in Mirvish Village where it complements the neighbouring house form buildings in scale, setback and vintage detailing.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the building known historically as the James Dyer House on the property at 585 Markham Street are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the building on the east side of Markham Street, north of Lennox Street
- The scale, form and massing of the 2½-storey rectangular plan

- The materials, with the brick cladding (now painted) and the brick, stone and wood detailing
- The cross-gable roof, with the brick chimney on the south end and, on the west slope the gable containing decorative wood detailing
- The principal (east) elevation, which is organized into two bays above the first (ground) floor where the main entrance is elevated in the north bay
- On the east elevation, the fenestration, with the two-storey bay window in the south bay that incorporates flat-headed windows, the single flat-headed opening in the second floor above the main entry, and the smaller version in the attic level (the lower storey of the bay window has been altered for a storefront)
- The detailing on the window openings with the stone lintels and the wood sills