

The properties at 587 and 589 Markham Street are worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for their cultural heritage value.

Description

Located on the east side of Markham Street, north of Lennox Street the properties at 587-589 Markham Street contain a pair of 2½-storey semi-detached house form buildings. Archival records indicate that buildings were in place, but vacant in 1906 and occupied by Elizabeth Evans and William Shaw, respectively the next year. The properties were acquired by local entrepreneur Edwin "Honest Ed" Mirvish in the mid 1960s.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The properties at 587-589 Markham Street have cultural heritage value for the design of the early 20th century house form buildings as representative examples of their type with features of Edwardian Classicism, the most popular style of this era. The house form buildings retain their architectural integrity, along with the complementary pair further north at 599-601 Markham and those on the opposite of the street at 600-602 Markham.

The properties at 587-589 Markham Street are 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 properties at 587-589 Markham Street.

Contextually, the house form buildings at 587-589 Markham Street assist 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 properties at 587-589 Markham Street are also visually, historically, physically and functionally connected to their setting on the east side of Markham Street in Mirvish Village where they complement the neighbouring house form buildings in scale, setback and vintage detailing.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the house form buildings on the properties at 587-589 Markham Street are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the buildings on the east side of Markham Street, north of Lennox Street

- The scale, form and massing of the 2½-storey rectangular plans
- The materials, with the brick cladding (now painted) and the brick, stone and wood detailing
- The gable roofs, with the gabled dormer on the west slope of each building and the central brick chimney
- The principal (east) elevations, which are designed as mirror images with the main entries elevated and placed in the outer bays in the first (ground) floors (the remainder of the openings in this storey have been altered)
- On the east elevation of each building, the oriel window in the second storey, which is flanked by oval windows with voussoirs