

The properties at 588, 590, 592 and 594 Markham Street are worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for their cultural heritage value.

Description

Located on the west side of Markham Street, north of Lennox Street the properties at 588-594 Markham Street contain a 2½-storey fourplex. Archival records indicate that the complex was under construction in 1892, and partially tenanted by September 1893 when the owner, Henry Mullen also occupied the unit at 588 Markham. The properties were acquired by local entrepreneur Edwin "Honest Ed" Mirvish in 1967 for the second phase of Mirvish Village, when the unit at 594 Markham housed "Captain George" Henderson's Memory Lane Bookstore.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The properties at 588-594 Markham Street have cultural heritage value for the design of the fourplex as a fine representative example of its type that is distinguished by its elaborate detailing inspired by the Queen Anne Revival style, popular at the close of the 19th century. The fourplex is set apart by its scale, the repetition of the round-arched motif for the first (ground) floor openings, and the multi-sided bay windows with turrets that mark the outer corners of the complex.

The Henry Mullen Buildings 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 588-594 Markham Street.

Contextually, Henry Mullen Buildings at 588-594 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 588-594 Markham Street are also visually, historically, physically and functionally connected to their setting on the west 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 buildings known historically as the Henry Mullen Buildings on the properties at 588-594 Markham Street are:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the fourplex on the west side of Markham Street, north of Lennox Street
- Above the raised stone base, the scale, form and massing of the 2½-storey rectangular plan of the fourplex
- The materials, with the brick cladding (now painted) and the brick, stone and wood detailing
- The hipped gable roof covering the entire fourplex, with the central gabled dormer with the flat-headed openings and the brick chimneys near the north and south ends
- The principal (east) elevations of the fourplex, where the north and south units are anchored at the northeast and southeast corners by 2½-storey multi-sided bay windows with segmental-arched openings in the second storey and paired flat-headed openings in the attic level under conical roofs
- Above the raised base on the east elevation of the fourplex, the arcade of round-arched openings that extends seven bays across the wall, with the oversized opening in the centre bay
- The east entrances to the four units, with two entries accessed through the centre bay and the remainder through the outer bays, which are placed in flat-headed openings with transoms
- The oversized round-arched window openings in the first floor (which have been lowered for retail purposes)
- In the second storey of the east elevation, the set back of the wall beneath the overhang of the roof where the four flat-headed openings with transoms access the balcony
- The decorative detailing on the east elevation, including the band courses