

The property at 597 Markham Street is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for its cultural heritage value.

### Description

Located on the east side of Markham Street north of Lennox Street, 597 Markham contains a 2½-storey detached house form building. Archival records indicate that building, along with the neighbouring semi-detached houses at 593-595 Markham were commissioned by land owner George Hall and in place by September 1888, making them the oldest buildings in Mirvish Village. Henry Shorbotham, a medical doctor was the first occupant. Purchased in the 1960s by local entrepreneur Edwin "Honest Ed" Mirvish for Mirvish Village, the building housed "Tiffany's Poster Palace," which drew media attention for its display and sale of provocative photographs of John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The property at 597 Markham Street has cultural heritage value for the design of the late 19th century house form buildings as representative examples of their type with features derived from the popular styles at the close of the Victorian era, including the Gothic Revival and Italianate. The Henry Shorbotham House complements the adjoining semi-detached houses in its decorative detailing, and retains its architectural integrity with the original surviving features.

The Henry Shorbotham 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 597 Markham Street.

Contextually, the Henry Shorbotham House at 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 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that contribute to this special area within the Palmerston neighbourhood.

The property at 597 Markham Street is also visually, historically, physically and functionally connected to their 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 and anchor the northeast corner of Lennox Street.

## Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the building known historically as the Henry Shorbotham House on the property at 597 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 above the stone bases
- The materials, with the brick cladding (now painted) and the brick, stone and wood detailing
- The cross-gable roof, with the projecting gable on the west slope
- The principal (west) elevation, which is arranged in two bays with the main entrance placed in the first (ground) floor on the left (north) side (the entry has been altered, and the second-floor window opening above it has been bricked in)
- On the west elevation, the two-storey bay window in the right (south) bay, with the round-arched window and transom in the first floor (the opening has been lowered for retain purposes), the flat-headed window openings with stone lintels and wood sills above, and the round-arched opening in the attic level