

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:
(REASONS FOR INCLUSION)
668 and 670 QUEEN STREET EAST

ATTACHMENT NO. 3C

The properties at 668 and 670 Queen Street East, the Richard K. O'Keefe houses, are worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register for their cultural heritage value, and meet Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under the three categories of design, associative and contextual values that is also used by the City when evaluating properties for inclusion on the Heritage Register.

Description

Located at the north side of Queen Street East between Munro and Hamilton streets, the Richard K. O'Keefe houses, (1886-1887) are a two-and-a-half storey, brick clad pair of semi-detached house form buildings with Victorian period details.

Statement of Significance

The Richard K. O'Keefe property has cultural heritage value for its design as a representative example of typical mid-late 19th century semi-detached houses built on an 'L'-shaped plan with a gable roof with dormers and red brick cladding with buff brick trim. The distinctive buff brick detailing, the rounded shape of the upper level windows and the dormers with the fish-scale shingles in the gable ends represent a high degree of craftsmanship.

The properties have value as they demonstrate the transformation of Riverdale's Queen Street East after annexation to the City of Toronto from a rural route to Kingston to a more urban commercial heart of a community. The pair of houses represents the last of the house form buildings to be constructed on Queen Street East before typical two-three storey commercial blocks with flat roofs became the normal building typology.

The properties have contextual value as they maintain a mid-late 19th century character of Queen Street East and represent an earlier history when house-form buildings, rather than commercial blocks, predominated on Queen Street East. The properties are visually, physically and historically linked to its surroundings.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the properties at 668-670 Queen Street East are the Richard K. O'Keefe building, a pair of semi-detached houses with:

- The setback, placement and orientation of the house-form building
- The scale and massing of the two-and-a-half-storey building
- The gable roof with 2 dormers
- The fish scale shingles in the gable ends of the dormers
- The red brick cladding with buff brick details including quoins, paired string courses and window headers with their pendant drop detail
- The arrangement of four window openings with curved corners on the window header openings