REPORT FOR ACTION

66 Gerrard Street East - Notice of Intention to Designate a Property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

Date: October 28, 2026
To: Toronto Preservation Board
From: Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning
Wards: 13 - Toronto Centre

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council state its intention to designate the property at 66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value according to the Statement of Significance which includes a description of heritage attributes found in Attachment 1.

The subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East is located on the north side of Gerrard Street East, at the northwest corner of Church Street, within the Downtown Yonge East neighbourhood of downtown Toronto.

A location map and current photograph of the heritage property are included in Attachment 2.

Constructed circa 1855, the property comprises a row of three attached brick house-form buildings, historically known as 62, 64, and 66 Gerrard Street East, designed in the Georgian architectural style and raised to two-and-a-half storeys c. 1875 with a Second Empire mansard roof spanning the three units, together with a c. 1910 rear addition forming a streetwall along Church Street. The property forms part of the historic context of the Gerrard and Church Street area, at the southern edge of the present-day Church and Wellesley neighbourhood.

The subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East was listed on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register on November 6, 1974.

This property is one of eighteen pre-1870 listed properties citywide which have been identified as candidates for designation through the City's implementation of Bill 23 amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act and its ongoing prioritization strategy for listed properties that must be designated or removed from the Heritage Register by January 1, 2027.

Part of the strategy for the review of listed properties on the Heritage Register includes the procurement of qualified heritage consultants to research, evaluate, and prepare heritage evaluation reports for a subset of listed properties prioritized for designation. City Planning retained the services of Alex Corey Heritage Consulting ("the Consultant") to research and evaluate a citywide group of eighteen pre-1870 listed properties which includes the subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East. The Consultant evaluated the subject property and determined that it meets the provincial criteria.

The Consultant's research on the subject property is included in Attachment 3 of this report. The research, analysis, and evaluation contained within Attachment 3 reflect the Consultant's professional expertise and opinion. Staff have independently reviewed the Consultant's research and heritage evaluation and concur with the determination that the property at 66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East) has cultural heritage value and meets five of the Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. A property may be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, if it meets two or more of the nine criteria.

Designation enables City Council to review proposed alterations or demolitions to the property and enforce heritage property standards and maintenance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning recommends that:

1. City Council state its intention to designate the property at 66 Gerrard Street East under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in accordance with the Statement of Significance for 66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East) (Reasons for Designation) attached as Attachment 1, to the report, October 28, 2026, from the Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning.

2. If there are no objections to the designation, City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the Bill in Council designating the property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations included in this report in the current budget year or in future years.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council included the subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register on November 6, 1974.

On October 30, 2024, the Planning and Housing Committee received for information the item 2024.PH16.9 - Updates on Implementation of Bill 23 Amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act regarding phase two of the City's response to Bills 23 and 200. This report outlined the citywide prioritization framework developed to prioritize subsets of listed properties located within areas where growth is anticipated for designation under the Act and described the proactive strategy under development that will be used to monitor the listed properties that are deemed removed from the Register after January 1, 2027.
https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.PH16.9

POLICY AND REGULATION CONSIDERATIONS

Provincial Plans and Policies

The conservation of cultural heritage resources is an integral component of good planning, contributing to a sense of place, economic prosperity, and healthy and equitable communities. Heritage conservation in Ontario is identified as a provincial interest under the Planning Act. https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13

Further, the policies and definitions of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024) identify the Ontario Heritage Act as the primary legislation through which heritage evaluation and heritage conservation will be implemented.
Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (ontario.ca)

Ontario Regulation 9/06 sets out the criteria for evaluating properties to be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The criteria are based on an evaluation of design/physical value, historical and associative value and contextual value. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.
https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/060009

Official Plan

The City of Toronto's Official Plan implements the provincial policy regime and provides policies to guide decision making within the City. It contains a number of policies related to properties on the City's Heritage Register and properties adjacent to them, as well as the protection of areas of archaeological potential. The Official Plan should be read as a whole to understand its comprehensive and integrative intent as a policy framework for priority setting and decision making. The Official Plan can be found here:
https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/official-plan/

COMMENTS

Evaluation Analysis

The following evaluation analysis is based on the comprehensive research conducted by the Consultant on the property at 66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East) (Attachment 3). The research and heritage evaluation was reviewed by staff, who concur with the Consultant's determinations of cultural heritage value that provides the rationale for the recommendations found in this report.

The property at 66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East) meets the following five out of nine criteria:

- **Criterion 1:** The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method
- **Criterion 4:** The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community
- **Criterion 5:** The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture
- **Criterion 7:** The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area
- **Criterion 8:** The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings

For more detailed explanations of how each criterion is met, see Attachments 1-3 of this report for the Statement of Significance; Location Map and Current Photograph; and Research, Evaluation & Visual Resources pertaining to the property at 66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East), as these documents are integral to the recommendations made in this staff report.

CONCLUSION

Staff have independently reviewed the research and heritage evaluations prepared by the Consultant and agree with the determination that the property at 66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East) has cultural heritage value and meets five of the nine criteria as outlined by Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. Therefore, the property merits designation and staff recommend that Council designate this property.

The Statement of Significance: 66 Gerrard Street East (Reasons for Designation) included as Attachment 1 to this report comprises the Reasons for Designation, which is the Public Notice of Intention to Designate.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Mary L. MacDonald, MA,CAHP
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Urban Design, City Planning

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Statement of Significance (Reasons for Designation)
Attachment 2 – Location Map and Current Photograph
Attachment 3 – Research, Evaluation & Visual Resources

66 GERRARD STREET EAST ATTACHMENT 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)

The property at 66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East) is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation.

Description

The subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East) is located on the north side of Gerrard Street East, at the northwest corner of Church Street, within the Downtown Yonge East neighbourhood of downtown Toronto. Constructed circa 1855, the property comprises a row of three attached brick house-form buildings, historically known as 62, 64, and 66 Gerrard Street East, designed in the Georgian architectural style and raised to two-and-a-half storeys circa 1875 with a Second Empire mansard roof spanning the three units, together with a rear addition of circa 1910 forming a streetwall along Church Street. The property forms part of the historic context of the Gerrard and Church Street area, at the southern edge of the present-day Church and Wellesley community.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Design and Physical Value

The property at 66 Gerrard Street East has design and physical value as a representative example of a rowhouse designed in the Georgian architectural style, with later alterations in the Second Empire style. The Georgian style was commonly applied to rowhouses constructed in Toronto through the 1850s and 1860s and is classically derived, emphasizing symmetry, proportion, and restrained ornamentation. The Second Empire style, popular in Toronto through the 1860s and 1870s, was applied to institutional and government buildings, as well as detached villas and rowhouses; features representative of the style include the mansard roof and dormer windows. At 66 Gerrard Street East, the original circa 1855 row of three attached Georgian dwellings was raised circa 1875 by the addition of a mansard roof, thereby introducing Second Empire features. The distinct entrances to each rowhouse were removed in the early-20th century, coinciding with the property's conversion into a single commercial building with a primary entrance fronting onto Gerrard Street East.

The subject property displays the characteristics of the Georgian style through its row of three uniform, attached, house-form units clad in buff (yellow) brick and with rectangular window openings with stone sills and lintels arranged in a regular composition on the primary (south) façade. The Second Empire alteration is expressed through the mansard roof spanning the three units, clad in slate on the primary (south) façade and articulated by two gabled dormers set within each bay: the central bay containing single rectangular windows with sunburst panels in the gable ends, and the flanking bays containing paired dormers with pedimented gables. Further characteristic detailing on the primary façade includes the buff brick string course with cross detailing separating

the first and second storeys, the sawtooth and dentillated brick coursing defining the top of the second storey, and the metal cornice above. The circa 1910 rear addition forming a streetwall along Church Street continues the Second Empire form and styling of the row, with the facade clad in buff brick and with its own mansard roof with flat-roofed dormers, a metal cornice, and a stepped gable end wall at the rear.

Historical and Associative Value

The property at 66 Gerrard Street East has historical and associative value due to its direct associations with a person and businesses that are significant to Toronto's LGBTQ+ community. In 1978, 64 Gerrard Street East became home to Crispin's, a restaurant known as a place where gay men and women could feel comfortable and were welcomed; in the lower level was Buddy's Backroom Bar, a gay bar. Hancock Simpson Architects were commissioned for the commercial conversion work, which included the addition of two new entrances, one for Crispin's on the south (front) elevation, and another on the north (rear) elevation for Buddy's Back Room Bar. Both were associated with the prominent gay activist George Hislop (1927–2005) and his partner Ron Shearer. Buddy's is recognized as part of the shift of Toronto's gay scene from Yonge Street to Church Street in the mid-to-late 1970s, and as an establishment that fostered community, conversation, and organizing.

The same lower-level space at 64 Gerrard Street East subsequently operated as the Lizard Lounge and, later as The Bijou, an adult venue whose patrons were subject to a series of police raids in the summer of 1999 that prompted the formation of the June 13 Committee. The property later became home to the Hassle Free Clinic, a local sexual-health clinic that has provided essential health care for members of Toronto's LGBTQ+ community since the 1970s. Through these associations, the property reflects and documents the development of Toronto's LGBTQ+ community at the southern edge of the Church and Wellesley neighbourhood.

The property at 66 Gerrard Street East has historical and associative value due to its ability to yield information contributing to an understanding of Toronto's LGBTQ+ community. As one of the earliest venues to cater towards the gay community east of Yonge Street towards Church Street, and as the site of one of the last bath house raids, 66 Gerrard Street East has the potential to yield information on the establishment of The Village, and early efforts to establish businesses that publicly catered to the community.

Contextual Value

The property at 66 Gerrard Street East has contextual value as it is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the historic character of the Gerrard and Church Street area. The subject property forms part of a collection of mid- to late-19th-century house-form buildings around the intersection of Church and Gerrard Streets that together maintain a fine-grained, pedestrian-scaled, streetscape characteristic of the 19th-century neighbourhood. Anchoring the northwest corner of Church and Gerrard, the property supports this historic character amid the taller, later development that has replaced much of the surrounding fabric.

The property also has contextual value as it is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. It stands among a group of surviving mid- to late-19th-century house-form buildings in the immediate area, including 70 Gerrard Street East (circa 1845); 74 Gerrard Street East (1885); 76 and 78 Gerrard Street East (1858); 322 Church Street (1847); and 418 Church Street (1891). The property is historically linked to the medical and institutional character that developed along Gerrard Street East in the second half of the 19th century and, through the businesses it hosted during the second half of the 20th century to the development of Toronto's LGBTQ+ community and the Church-Wellesley village, at whose southern edge it stands. Through its siting and long-standing presence at the corner of Church and Gerrard Streets, the subject property is historically and visually linked to this established setting.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

Attributes that contribute to the property at 66 Gerrard Street East being a representative example of a rowhouse designed in the Georgian architectural style with later alterations in the Second Empire style include:

- The scale, form, and massing of the row of three attached two-and-a-half-storey house-form buildings on the north side of Gerrard Street East
- The buff (yellow) brick cladding
- The mansard roof spanning the three units, clad in slate on the primary (south) façade, and its stepped gable end wall
- The two gabled dormers within each bay of the primary (south) façade, including the single dormer windows with sunburst panels in the gable ends of the central bay and the paired dormers with pedimented gables in the flanking bays
- The rectangular window openings with stone sills and lintels on the primary (south) façade
- The buff brick string course with cross detailing separating the first and second storeys
- The sawtooth and dentillated brick coursing at the top of the second storey
- The metal cornice above the second storey of the primary (south) façade
- The c. 1910 rear addition forming a streetwall on Church Street, including its buff brick cladding, stone foundation, window and door openings, its mansard roof with flat-roofed dormers, its metal cornice, and its stepped gable end wall

Historical and Associative Value

Attributes that contribute to the historical and associative value of the property at 66 Gerrard Street East through its associations with businesses and organizations significant to Toronto's LGBTQ+ community include:

- The siting and orientation of the buildings on the north side of Gerrard Street East, and on the west side of Church Street
- The entrances on the south (front) and north (rear) elevations, which were added by Hancock Simpson Architects as part of the property's 1978 conversion into a

commercial space respectively related to the operation of Crispin's and Buddy's Back Room Bar.

Contextual Value

Attributes that contribute to the contextual value of the property at 66 Gerrard Street East as part of the historic character of the Gerrard and Church Street area include:

- The placement and siting of the buildings on the north side of Gerrard Street East, at the northwest corner of Church Street
- The orientation of the primary (south) façade towards Gerrard Street East
- The scale and form of the row in relation to the surrounding mid- to late-19th-century house-form buildings around the intersection of Church and Gerrard Streets

LOCATION MAP AND CURRENT PHOTOGRAPH ATTACHMENT 2

66 GERRARD STREET EAST

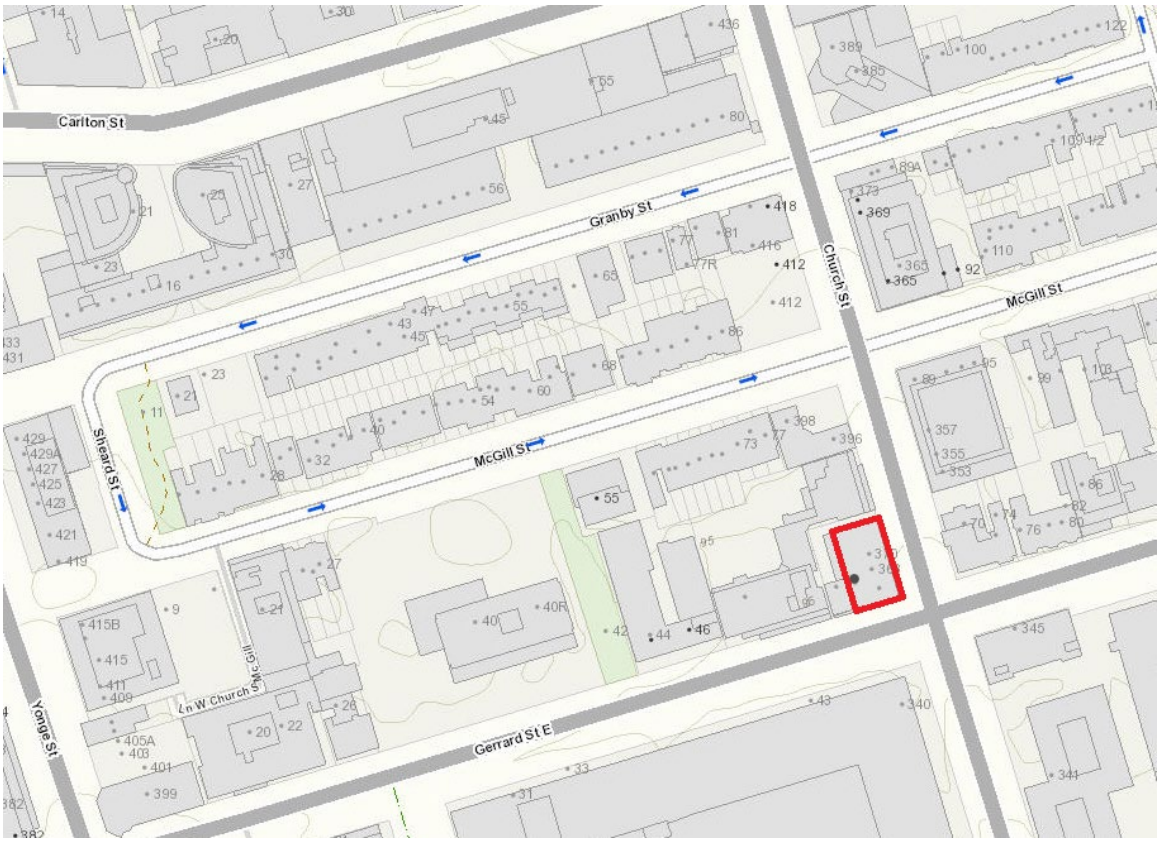


Figure 1. This location map is for information purposes only. The exact boundaries of the property are not shown. The red outline depicts the location of the subject property (City of Toronto iView Mapping, 2026).



Figure 2. 66 Gerrard Street East, primary (south) façade (Alex Corey, August 2026).

RESEARCH, EVALUATION & VISUAL RESOURCES

ATTACHMENT 3

66 GERRARD STREET EAST

In undertaking this research and evaluation, we recognize that the area now known as the City of Toronto is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit (1805), and the Williams Treaties (1923) signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.



Figure 3. 66 Gerrard Street East, primary (south) façade (Alex Corey, August 2026).

1. DESCRIPTION

66 GERRARD STREET EAST	
ADDRESS	66 Gerrard Street East (including entrance addresses at 366, 368, and 370 Church Street and 64 Gerrard Street East)
WARD	13 - Toronto Centre
NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY	Downtown Yonge East
CONSTRUCTION DATE	c. 1855
ORIGINAL USE	Residential
CURRENT USE* (*This does not refer to permitted use(s) as defined by the Zoning By-law)	Commercial

ARCHITECT/BUILDER/DESIGNER	Unknown
ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	Mansard roof addition (c. 1875); rear addition (c. 1910); primary entrance and int. alterations (1978 by Hancock Simpson)
LISTING DATE	November 6, 1974

2. ONTARIO REGULATION 9/06 CHECKLIST:

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The following checklist identifies the prescribed criteria met by the subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. There are a total of nine criteria under O. Reg 9/06. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act if the property meets two or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

The evaluation table is marked “N/A” if the criterion is “not applicable” to the property or "✓" if it is applicable to the property.

66 GERRARD STREET EAST (INCLUDING ENTRANCE ADDRESSES AT 366, 368, AND 370 CHURCH STREET AND 64 GERRARD STREET EAST)

1.	The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.	✓
2.	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	N/A
3.	The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	N/A
4.	The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.	✓
5.	The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.	✓
6.	The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.	N/A
7.	The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.	✓
8.	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.	✓
9.	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.	N/A

3. RESEARCH

This section of the report describes the history, architecture and context of the property. Visual resources related to the research are located in Section 4. Archival and contemporary sources for the research are found in Section 5 (List of Sources).

Indigenous Communities

For time immemorial, Toronto has been home to Indigenous peoples. Ojibway oral histories speak of Ice People, who lived at a time when ice covered the land.[1] Following the retreat of glaciers approximately 13,000 years ago, small groups of Indigenous peoples moved from place to place, hunting and gathering the food they needed according to the seasons. Over millennia, they adapted to dramatically changing environmental conditions, developing and acquiring new technologies as they did so. Waterways and the lake were vital sources of fresh water and nourishment, and shorelines and nearby areas were important sites for gathering, trading, hunting, fishing, and ceremonies. Long-distance trade moved valuable resources across the land.

After maize and squash were introduced to Southern Ontario, by approximately 500 CE, horticulture began to supplement food sources. By 1300 CE, villages focused on growing food became year-round settlements surrounded by crops. These villages were home to ancestors of the Huron-Wendat Nation, who would continue to occupy increasingly larger villages in the Toronto area and beyond. These villages were connected to well-established travel routes which were part of local and long-distance trail networks, including the Carrying Place trails on the Don, Rouge and Humber rivers that connected Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay. Beads made from seashells from the eastern seaboard were found at the Alexandra site in North York, which was a community of 800-1000 people in approximately 1350.

By 1600, the Wendat had formed a confederation of individual nations, and had concentrated most of their villages away from Lake Ontario, in the Georgian Bay area. Following contact with French explorers and missionaries in Southern Ontario in the early 1600s, European diseases decimated First Nations. Competition for furs to trade with Europeans and the desire to replenish numbers through absorption of captives, among other factors[2], contributed to the Beaver Wars, which after 1640, saw the Haudenosaunee Confederacy expand into Southern Ontario, dispersing the Wendat. Within the boundaries of today's Toronto, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy then occupied villages on the Carrying Place trails on the Humber and Rouge Rivers from approximately the 1660s to the 1680s.

In the late 1680s, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy chose to leave their village in the Toronto area and returned to their homelands in upstate New York. As evidenced by the 1701 Great Peace of Montreal, the 1701 Nanfan Treaty, and the Dish with One Spoon Treaty, the Haudenosaunee continued to have an interest in the resources of the area.

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1 With thanks to Philip Cote for the reference to Benton-Banai, Edward, The Mishomis book: The voice of the Ojibway (Indian Country Press, 1985), p. 26.

2 https://histindigenouspeoples.pressbooks.tru.ca/chapter/chapter-5-colonial-wars-looking-east; Gary Warrick, "The Aboriginal Population of Ontario in Late Pre-history," in Munson and Jamieson, eds., Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013), p. 72.

Anishinaabe people from the Lake Superior region then moved into the Toronto area. While the Wendat and Haudenosaunee people lived in year-round villages surrounded by crops, the Anishinaabe people continued to live primarily by seasonally moving across the land to hunt, fish and gather resources that were available at a specific time, including migrating birds and maple syrup. To the west of Toronto, the Anishinaabe people became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit. To the east, they became known as the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island.[3]

In 1787, as the British began to prepare for an influx of colonists into the area following the American Revolution, the British Crown negotiated the Toronto Purchase with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to obtain title to the land. The flawed and poorly documented agreement was invalidated, and Treaty 13 was negotiated in 1805 for lands now including much of the City of Toronto. In 1923, the Governments of Ontario and Canada signed the Williams Treaties for over 20,000 km2, including portions of eastern Toronto, with seven First Nations of the Chippewa of Lake Simcoe (Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama) and the Mississauga of the north shore of Lake Ontario (Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island).

The Mississaugas, Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, or the Wendat did not traditionally regard land as a commodity to be sold. Following the Toronto Purchase, the British government quickly set out to survey the land into lots which were either sold or granted into private ownership of settlers. In 2010, the Government of Canada settled the Toronto Purchase Claim with the Mississaugas of the Credit after agreeing that the Mississaugas were originally unfairly compensated. In 2018, the Williams Treaties First Nations settled litigation about land surrenders and harvesting rights with the Governments of Canada and Ontario.

The City of Toronto remains the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Toronto is also covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with seven Mississaugas and Chippewa First Nations.

i. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The following section outlines the history and facts related to the properties which are the basis for determining historical or associative value of Criteria 4, 5 or 6 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

Park Lot 7

In 1793, Park Lot 7 was granted to the British military officer Captain John McGill (1752-1834). McGill had previously served under John Graves Simcoe in the American Revolutionary War, after which he settled in Upper Canada before arriving in York

3 Mississaugas of the Credit, "The History of Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation." n.d.

(Toronto) where he was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1797 and as Lieutenant of the County of York in 1805.[4] In 1803, McGill constructed a house on Park Lot 7 looking south to Queen Street East, south of present-day Shuter Street.

McGill died in 1834, and, owing to his lack of a direct heir, his estate was inherited by his nephew, Peter McCutcheon, on the condition that McCutcheon would assume the surname McGill. McCutcheon was at that time a merchant newly appointed to the position of President of the Bank of Montreal; it was from his seat in Montreal that he proceeded to sell-off the lands still held within Park Lot 7. In 1836, a Plan of Subdivision was filed encompassing land from Lot Street (Queen Street East) to Gerrard Street East and from Yonge Street to Jarvis Street, maintaining McGill Cottage and Garden on the land occupied today by Metropolitan United Church, and establishing something close to the contemporary street pattern (Figure 4).

62, 64, and 66 Gerrard Street East

The subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East comprises three brick townhouses, historically known as 62, 64, and 66 Gerrard Street East, and is located on the northwest corner of Church Street and Gerrard Street East. The property includes Lot 17 and part of Lot 16 Plan 22A, which are shown on the 1836 Plan of Subdivision (Figure 4).

In 1844, Lot 17 was sold by Peter McGill to Robert Moody; along with portions of Lot 16, the lands containing the subject properties transacted multiple times before being sold to William R. Graham in 1852. The addresses first appear in the City of Toronto directories in 1856; 62 Gerrard Street East is recorded as the home of Maurice Scollard, with 64 and 66 unoccupied. In 1858, three 2-storey brick dwellings are shown on Boulton's Atlas of the City of Toronto and Vicinity (Figure 5), and the directory for 1859 lists the occupants as William Ross (#62); R. C. Fitzgerald, teller (#64); and Charles Williamson, vinegar-maker (#66).

The Graham family owned the three properties until 1880 and operated them as owner-landlords; city directories show a variety of middle-class professionals living in the premises during this period. Around 1875, the mansard roof spanning all three townhouses was constructed,[5] adding a half-storey as reflected in the 1880 Goad's Atlas (Figure 6).

In 1880, #66 was sold by the Graham family to Charles Sheard (1857-1929).[6] Sheard was a Toronto-born doctor and son of the architect and Mayor of Toronto Joseph Sheard. He was educated at Trinity College, served as Toronto's chief Medical Officer of Health from 1893 to 1910, and was elected a Member of Parliament for Toronto South from 1917 to 1925. Sheard's tenure at #66 coincides with his early medical practice; in 1884 he married and moved to 314 Jarvis Street.

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4 Mealing, S. R. "McGill, John." Dictionary of Canadian Biography, vol. 6. Accessed 26 August 2026. https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mcgill_john_6E.html

5 McHugh, Patricia, and Alex Bozikovic. Toronto Architecture: A City Guide, 3rd ed. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 2017, 165.

6 Land Registry Office, Plan 22A, Lot 17 (Graham to Sheard, 1880).

Sheard sold 66 Gerrard Street East to William Lloyd Wood, a druggist, in 1884. By this time the surrounding neighbourhood was well-developed, heavily influenced by the presence of the Toronto Normal School on the south side of Gerrard Street East, west of Church Street, alongside a variety of rowhouses, semi-detached, and detached homes. W. Lloyd Wood operated as a medical proprietor, or agent, for a range of medicinal companies, shown in the directories as the Lambert Pharmacal Company, Allen & Hanbury's Ltd, and the H.K. Mulford Company.

In 1856, the Toronto General Hospital was constructed on Gerrard Street East between Sackville and Sumach Streets in the Cabbagetown neighbourhood; in the years and decades that followed, the street and adjoining areas attracted a variety of medical schools, institutions, and practices. Notable area residents included Dr. Charles Sheard (314 Jarvis Street); one of the city's first surgeons, Dr. Petros Constantinides (56 Gerrard Street East); and the first Secretary of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, Dr. Adam H. Wright (20 Gerrard Street East).

It was during W. Lloyd Wood's ownership that the three properties were combined and converted to commercial use; the 1910 Goad's Atlas shows an extension to 66 Gerrard Street East extending north along Church Street, and between 1910 and 1912 Wood acquired 62 and 64 Gerrard Street East.[7]

In 1922, following Wood's death, the properties were transferred to a company (W. Lloyd Wood Ltd.). They were operated and held by the company until 1977 as a druggist's and pharmacy.

Following the sale of the property in 1977 to Fairway Construction Ltd., the building was leased to a range of tenants operating outside of the medical and pharmaceutical fields that had occupied the site for nearly a century. In 1978, 64 Gerrard Street East was leased to two establishments: Crispin's, a dining establishment on the ground floor, and Buddy's Backroom Bar, a gay bar that operated in the basement.[8] Both were associated with the prominent gay activist George Hislop (1927-2005) and his partner, Ron Shearer. Alterations undertaken by Hancock Simpson Architects (Figures 12 & 13) including the current central primary entrance, and the creation of a front dining room and rear bar in the basement, with separate access to the bar from the rear alleyway.

Crispin's was one of a handful of restaurants that opened in proximity to Yonge Street and Church Street that was known to cater to Toronto's gay community. The restaurant was featured in the January 1980 edition of The Body Politic as a gay eatery alongside a handful of similar establishments in the neighbourhood.[9] Celebrated and acknowledged as a restaurant where gay men could feel comfortable, it was also recognized as serving so for a "…limited 'we': employed, urban, mostly men, almost all white…"[10] The restaurant was described as comprising two dining rooms dressed as a

7 Land Registry Office, Plan 22A, Lots 16–17 (Wood acquisitions, c.1910–1912).
8 "Buddy's Backroom Bar." Lesbian and Gay Liberation in Canada (LGLC) Project. Accessed August 2026. https://lglc.ca.
9 Michael Lynch, "By-products of Liberation: Gay Eateries," The Body Politic, January 1980.
10 Lynch, "Gay Eateries."

suburban ranch style living room, replete with end tables featuring large lamps and a David Hockney nude over the fireplace, a nod to the clientele.

Crispin's was advertised widely in both queer publications like The Body Politic and mainstream media: while The Globe and Mail's Mary Walpole extolled its "charm and haute cuisine" appealing to the gallery and theatre crowd,[11] The Body Politic encouraged patrons to drop in "next door" for a drink at Buddy's (Figure 14). While Crispin's was an establishment known for being gay-friendly, Buddy's was a gay bar that explicitly catered to the community, advertised in community publications, and hosted gay-friendly events (Figure 15). Gay activist Rick Bebout described Buddy's as marking a geographic shift in the gay scene as it moved from Yonge to Church Street, beginning in the mid-1970s with The Quest, Les Cavaliers, Jo Jo's (later The Barn), and Buddy's.[12] Of note in Bebout's recollection was Buddy's characterization as a place that "…cultivated the one thing backrooms meant for sex never did: talk."[13]

The bar encouraged conversation, and at the entrance had a community bulletin board, uncommon in gay spaces at the time. It "became an institution, practically a community centre,"14 attracting a mix of men and women, older and younger, social and political.

By 1987, Crispin's and Buddy's Backroom Bar had closed, and the space occupied by Buddy's was re-cast as the Lizard Lounge, which advertised itself as "the only alternative social club" (Figure 17). The Lizard Lounge catered to Toronto's progressive, alternative and fetish scene, hosting themed nights not exclusive or catering to the gay community (Figure 18). The Lizard Lounge was replaced by a venue called Dix by 1993.

The Bijou, a gay adult venue, opened in the same lower-level space that had housed Buddy's and the Lizard Lounge by 1996. In the summer of 1999, Toronto Police raided and arrested patrons of The Bijou: on June 13, two plainclothes officers charged 8 patrons with indecency; on June 17, they served the owner, Craig Anderson, for a liquor violation and charged 4 more patrons; and on July 1, they returned to charge 7 more patrons.[15] This pattern of intimidation echoed the Toronto Bathhouse Raids associated with Operation Soap in 1981, sparking editorializing in queer publications such as Xtra[16] decrying the raids, and in the conservative Toronto Sun. The events sparked the formation of the June 13 Committee, which sought to improve the relationship between police and the gay community, and led to the dropping of all charges.[17]

On New Year's Eve 1999, The Bijou re-opened having received a license as a bathhouse, and on January 11th was again subject to a police visit with charges laid for

11 Mary Walpole, "Dining Around the Town," The Globe and Mail, 22 February 1979, 19.
12 Rick Bebout, "1978," Promiscuous Affections: A Life in the Bar. Accessed August 2026. http://rbebout.com/bar/1978.htm.
13 Ibid.
14 Ibid.
15 Ibid.
16 "News Flash!" Xtra, 25 June 1999, 4.
17 "Famed Bijou Bathhouse Closing," Xtra, 2007. Accessed August 2026. https://xtramagazine.com/power/famed-bijou-bathhouse-closing-19269.

disorderly conduct. The Bijou closed in 2007, citing declining attendance after the closure of the longstanding The Barn at Church and Granby Street.[18]

Since 2004/2005, a range of businesses have occupied the subject property, including the Hassle Free Clinic at 66 Gerrard Street East. The clinic was founded in February 1973 on Yonge Street to serve the "drug-oriented street scene" and to provide STI and birth control services for both men and women. In 1980, the Hassle Free Clinic relocated to 556 Church Street with dedicated facilities for men and women; following the arrival of the AIDS crisis in 1983-84, the clinic provided essential services in anonymous testing, illegal in Ontario at the time, alongside promoting sexual health. The ribbon cutting marking the clinic's opening at 66 Gerrard Street East was done by George Hislop, one year before his passing away on October 8, 2005.[19]

ii. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The following section provides an architectural description and analysis related to the property which will establish the basis for determining design or physical value of Criteria 1, 2 or 3 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

The subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East, comprising the historic addresses of 62, 64, and 66 Gerrard Street East, is a row of three attached brick house-form buildings, originally constructed c. 1855 as three two-storey dwellings on the north side of Gerrard Street East, west of Church Street. The original two storey dwellings were altered c. 1875 with the addition of a half-storey mansard roof spanning the three rowhouses. A brick two-and-a-half-storey addition was constructed on the rear of 66 Gerrard Street East forming a streetwall on Church Street, north of Gerrard. The former residential entrances have been altered, with a single raised and recessed entrance in the centre unit providing access to the building. Three raised and recessed entrances on the Church Street addition provide additional access.

The structure is clad in buff (yellow) brick on the first and second floors; the mansard roof on the Gerrard Street East primary façade is clad in slate shingles, while the mansard roof on the Church Street secondary façade is clad in asphalt shingles. The visible foundation on the primary façade is stone, except for the westernmost unit (#62) which is buff brick. Window openings on the first and second floors are rectangular with stone sills and lintels and are separated by a buff brick string course with cross detailing. Sawtooth and dentillated brick coursing defines the top of the second storey, with a metal cornice above.

The mansard roof on the primary façade features two gabled dormer windows within each bay; the dormers within the centre bay contain single rectangular four pane windows with sunburst panels in the gable ends, while the flanking bays each contain two double window dormers with pedimented gables.
The secondary façade on the original building is clad in buff brick on the first storey; the second and third storey facades have been parged and are punctuated by rectangular

18 "Famed Bijou Bathhouse Closing," Xtra.

19 "Remembering George Hislop," Hassle Free Clinic. Accessed August 2026. https://www.hasslefreeclinic.org/remembering-george-hislop.

window openings. On the third storey, step walls demarcate the mansard roofline. The rear addition is clad in buff brick with rectangular window openings on the second storey with splayed soldier brick lintels and stone sills. The mansard roof features flat roof dormers with rectangular window openings and simple dormer cornices. A metal cornice runs the length of the addition with a step gable end wall at the rear. The ground floor features three distinct raised and recessed entrances, with rectangular storefront windows of varying sizes. The visible foundation of stone recedes from Gerrard Street owing to the gradual change in elevation of the site.

iii. CONTEXT

The following section provides contextual information and analysis related to the property which is the basis for determining contextual value of Criteria 7, 8 or 9 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

The City of Toronto Property Data Map attached (Attachment 2) shows the site of the property at 66 Gerrard Street East

The subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East is located on the north side of Gerrard Street East at the northwest corner of Church Street, within the Downtown Yonge East neighbourhood. The land was subdivided from Park Lot 7 – the former estate of Captain John McGill – under the 1836 Plan of Subdivision and formed part of a residential district laid out in the mid-19th century and built up through the second half of the century with a mix of row, semi-detached, and detached houses, together with churches, schools and other institutions.

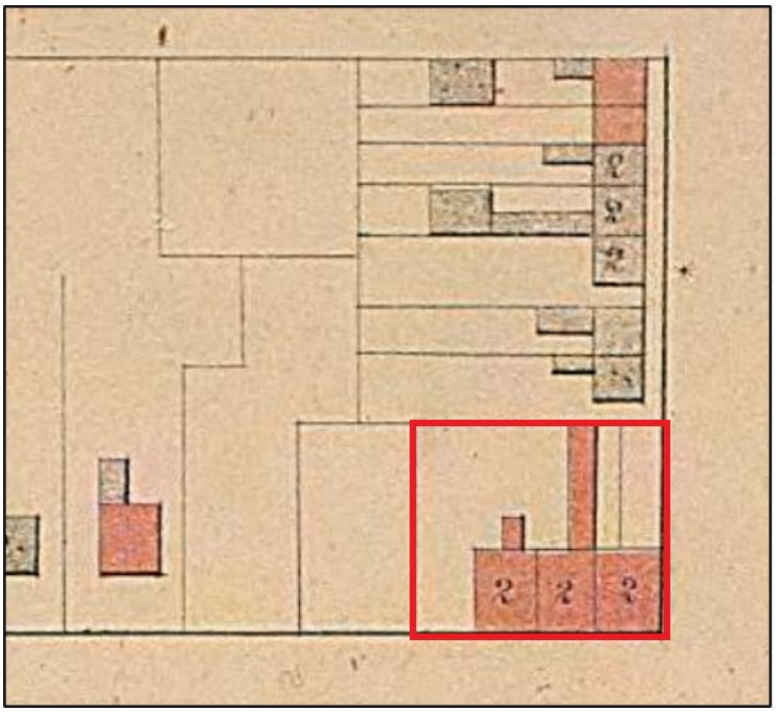
The three attached brick dwellings historically known as 62, 64, and 66 Gerrard Street East form part of a collection of mid- to late- 19th century house-form buildings around the intersection of Church and Gerrard, including 70 Gerrard Street East (circa 1845, listed); 74 Gerrard Street East (1885, Part IV designated); 76 & 78 Gerrard Street East (1858, Part IV designated); 322 Church Street (1847, Part IV designated); and 418 Church Street (1891, Part IV designated). Collectively, these properties maintain a fine-grained, pedestrian-scaled streetscape that characterized the 19th-century neighbourhood, with 66 Gerrard Street East anchoring the northwest corner of Church and Gerrard amid the taller, later development that has replaced much of the surrounding historic fabric.

The Church Street corridor became linked to the development of Toronto’s LGBTQ+ community in the later 20th century as it migrated from Yonge Street to Church and Wellesley. The subject property at 66 Gerrard Street East stands at the southern edge of the present-day Church and Wellesley community, historically hosting businesses associated with the gay community and continuing to do so to the present day. Today, the property reads as a physical record of the neighbourhood’s evolution from a mid-Victorian residential enclave to a medical and commercial street, and, later, part of the city’s LGBTQ+ cultural geography.

4. VISUAL RESOURCES



Figure 4. Park Lot 7 Plan of Subdivision, 1836.


Figure 5. Boulton Atlas of the City of Toronto and its Vicinity, 1858. 66 Gerrard Street East in red.

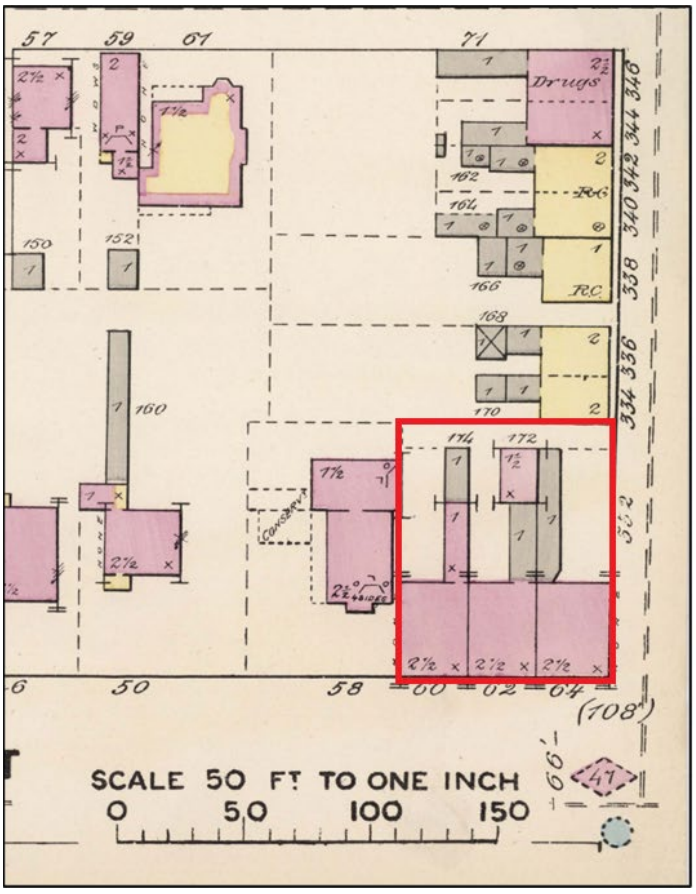


Figure 6. Goad's Atlas, 1880. 66 Gerrard Street East in red.

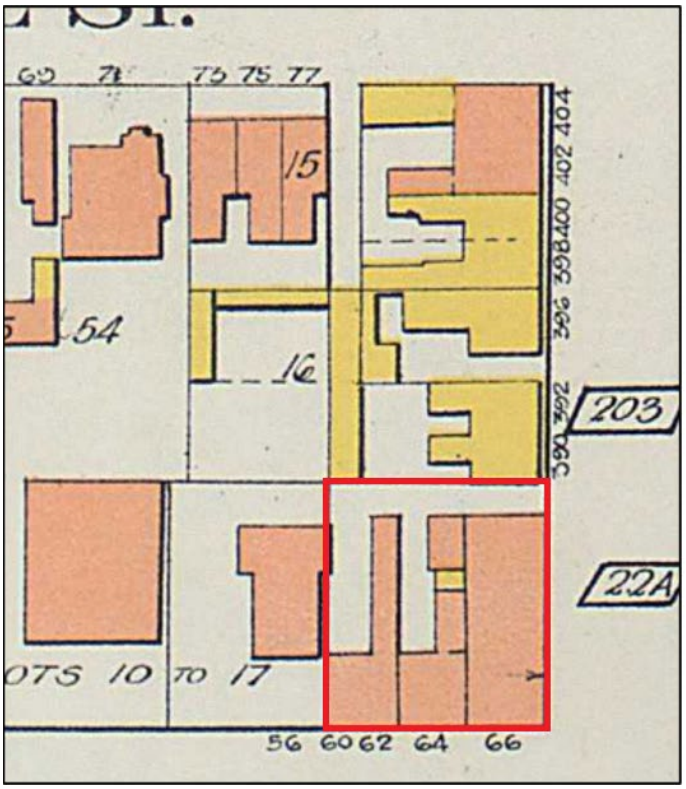


Figure 7. Goad's Atlas, 1910. Note the rear addition at 66 Gerrard Street East.



Figure 8. North side of Gerrard Street East, west of Church Street, 1911, illustrating the institutional and residential context. Toronto Public Library.



Figure 9. Gerrard Street East, looking west from east of Church, 1960s. The central entrance has not yet been altered, and the east façade does not yet have parging. City of Toronto Archives.



Figure 10. 66 Gerrard Street East, 1973. Toronto Historical Board.


Figure 11. 66 Gerrard Street East, 1975. Note the central bay entrance, and "W. Lloyd Wood" signage. Toronto Historical Board.

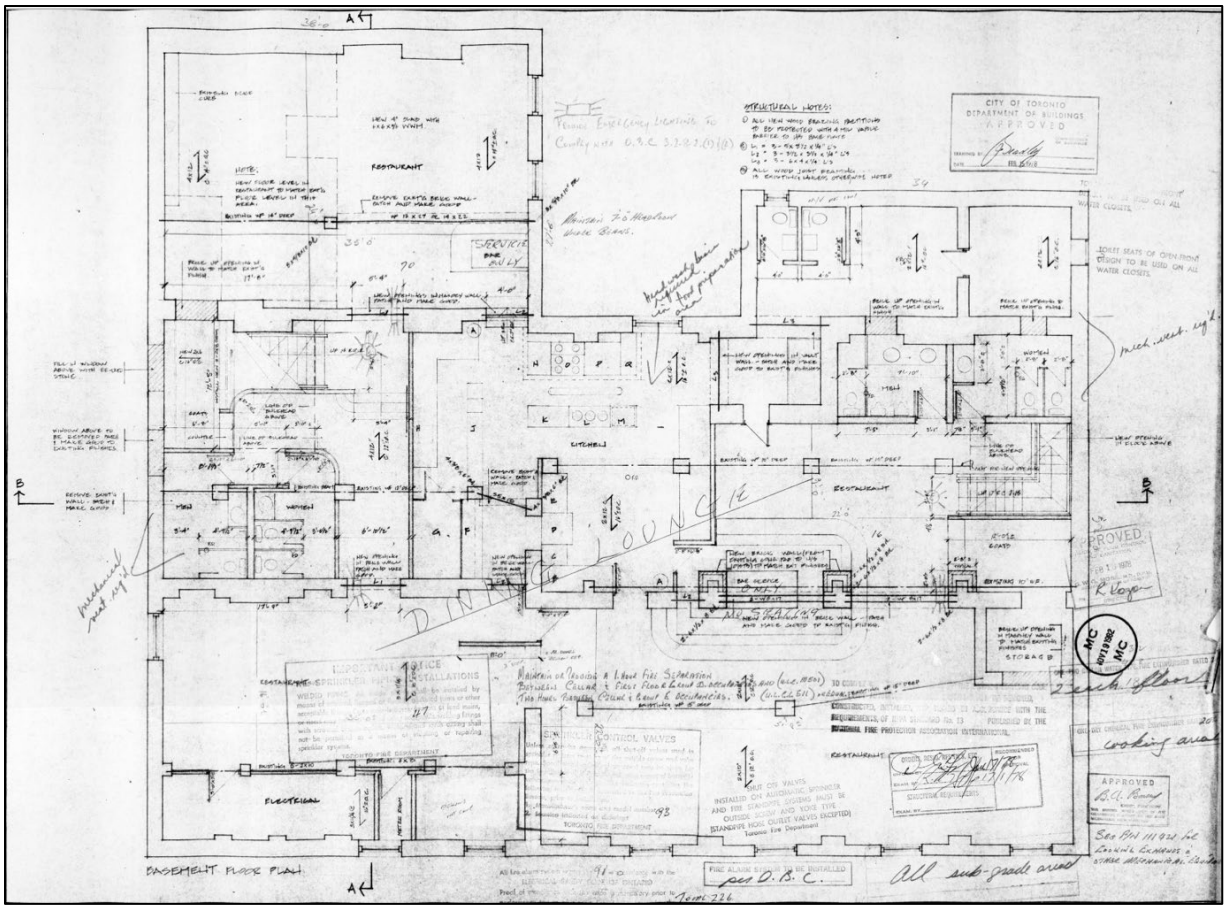


Figure 12. 66 Gerrard Street East, basement plan showing Crispin's (left) and Buddy's (right) with separate entrances. Hancock Simpson Architects, 1978. Toronto Building Records.

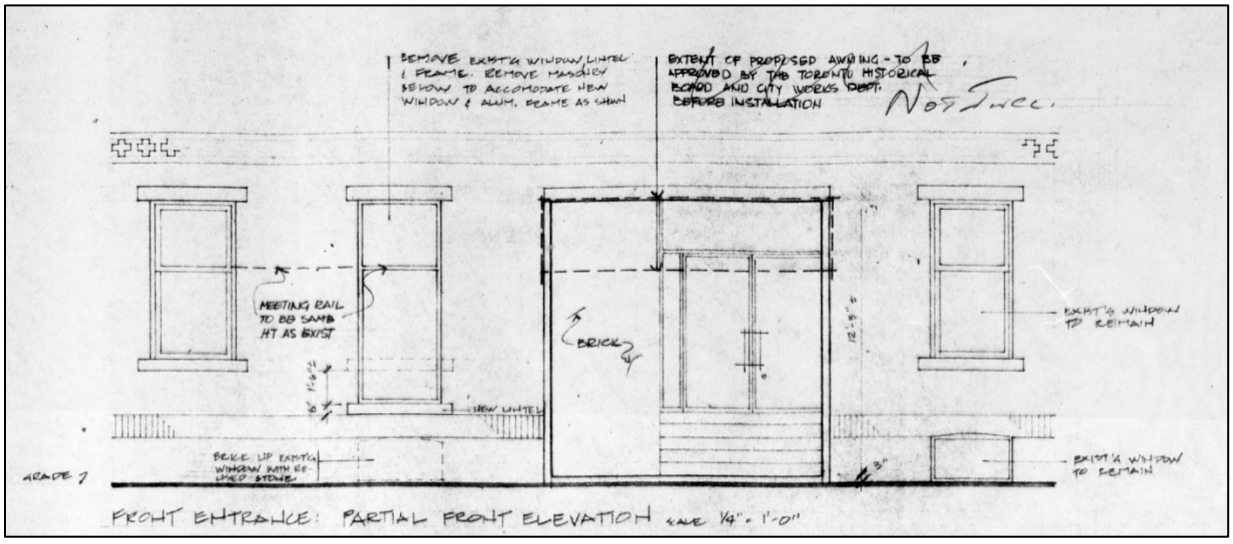


Figure 13. 66 Gerrard Street East, front entrance alterations. Hancock Simpson Architects, 1978. Toronto Building Records.



Figure 14. Crispin's Advertisement, The Body Politic, April 1983.



Buddy's Buddy: *More than 200 people helped make Steven Scheel the winner of the Buddy's Buddy contest held at the popular Gerrard Street bar last month. When asked for his reaction, Steven, a member of the York Rainbow Society of the Deaf, wrote: "I was surprised."*

Figure 15. Buddy's Buddy Contest, The Body Politic, July/August 1983.



Figure 16. 66 Gerrard Street East, 1986. The central recessed entrance has been altered and converted for use as a restaurant. Toronto Historical Board.



Figure 17. The Lizard Lounge, advertisement, 1991.



Figure 18. Lizard Lounge, advertisement, May 1990.


Figure 19. 66 Gerrard Street East, primary (south) façade (Alex Corey, August 2026).

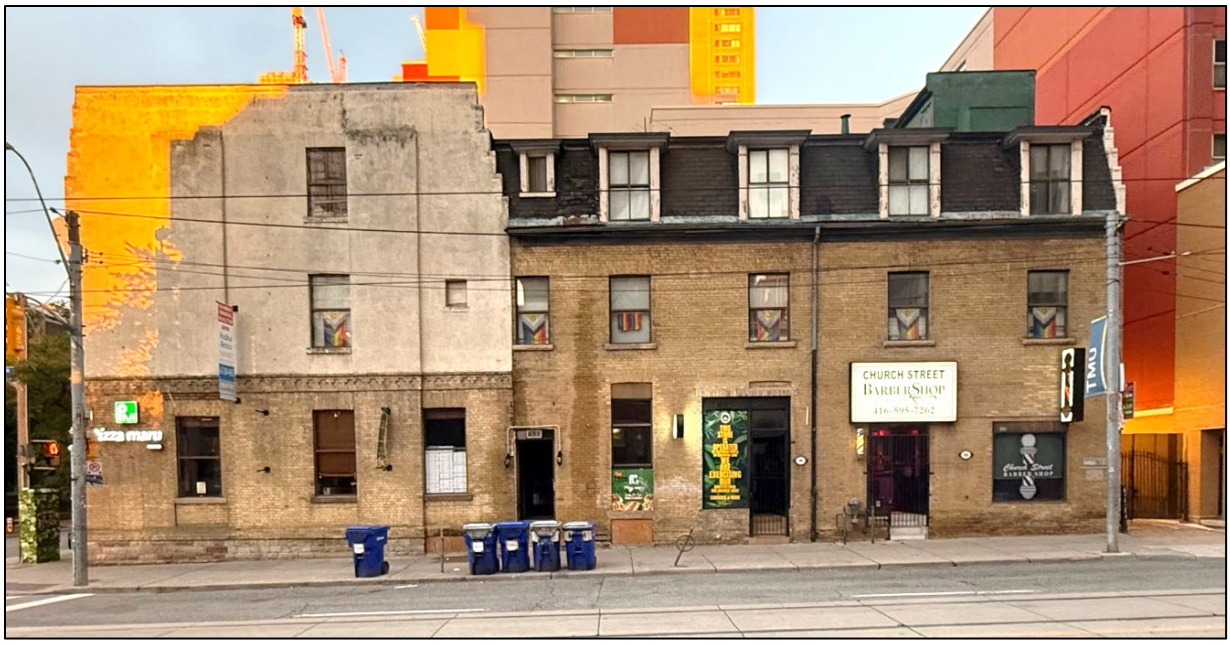


Figure 20. 66 Gerrard Street East, secondary (east) façade (Alex Corey, August 2026).

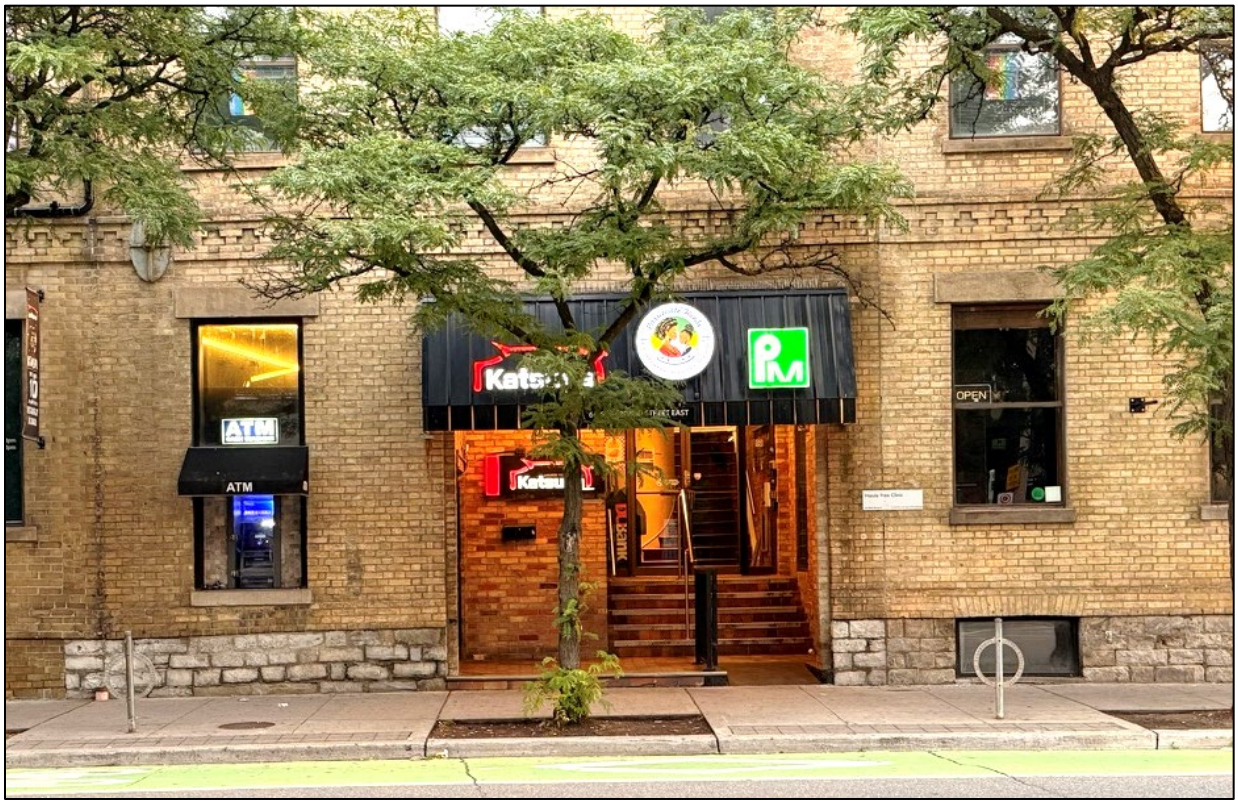


Figure 21. 66 Gerrard Street East, primary entrance detail (Alex Corey, August 2026).



Figure 22. 66 Gerrard Street East, roof detail (Alex Corey, August 2026).



Figure 23. 66 Gerrard Street East, secondary façade detail (Alex Corey, August 2026).

5. LIST OF SOURCES

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