

The former Diamond Glass Company (built 1899-1900 with later additions)

Description

The property at 55 Sudbury Street is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural heritage value. Located on the south side of 55 Sudbury Street at the junction with Dovercourt Road, the former Diamond Glass Company office building, (1899-1900) is a two-and-a-half storey brick and stone clad structure designed on a rectangular plan with two chamfered corners. This building is the office-building portion of the original Diamond Glass Company complex located on the south side of Sudbury Street which also included factories and storage sheds.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The former Diamond Glass Company office building at 55 Sudbury Street is valued as a fine representative and well-crafted example of a late nineteenth century factory complex office building designed in the late Victorian style in Toronto. The elements of the style are evident in the use of reddish-orange brick cladding, the combination of rough hewn stone elements and classical details rendered in brick and ashlar, the symmetrical composition of the main façade with chamfered corners, the principal entrance with its bevelled arches with alternating brick and stone voussoirs, the pairs of curved headed windows, and details including stone impostes, stone lintels and sills, brick keystones and dentil courses.

The former Diamond Glass Company office building at 55 Sudbury Street has historic value as it is associated with the history of the Toronto manufacturing businesses that sprang up adjacent to the railways following their arrival in Toronto from 1850 onwards and then generated economic wealth and employment opportunity for the City, spurring the development of neighbourhoods adjacent to the factories where workers lived. Glass manufacturing existed on the site as early as 1894 and continued until 1970. In 1913 the company was incorporated into the Dominion Glass Company Ltd., which was to become Canada's biggest producer of glass, and subsequently as DomGlas in 1971 a part of Consolidated Bathurst which is now a subsidiary of the Power Corporation. The company is credited with contributing to Canadian decorative arts and its products are featured in such public collections as the Royal Ontario Museum. The building at 55 Sudbury Street is one of the few remaining late nineteenth century office buildings in the neighbourhood which provides a physical link to this important social, cultural and economic aspect of Toronto's and Canada's history.

Contextually, the property at 55 Sudbury Street maintains and supports the historical character of this portion of Queen Street West. The site has evolved from being identified as part of the Garrison Reserve in 1793 through to a remnant of land between the railway and the asylum to a glass works factory site providing employment adjacent to a late 19th century residential neighbourhood. It's prominent corner location as well its

two-and-a-half storey scale and fine Victorian brick and stone detailing visually link it to the neighbourhood's earlier history which stands in telling contrast to the surrounding modern townhouses and condominium towers making it an important local landmark.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the property at 55 Sudbury Street are:

- The building in its current location on the south side of Sudbury Street as it terminates the junction with Dovercourt Road
- The scale, form and massing on a two-and-a-half-storey, rectangular plan with a raised basement, chamfered corners at the north-east and north-west corners and flat roof
- The materials, including brick and stone
- The arrangement of the north façade with the central door, flanked by paired windows and chamfered corners
- The arrangement of the window openings on the east and west facades with their single rows of windows aligned from basement to the upper storey
- The details including the brick and stone arches surrounding the main door, the stone sills and lintels of the window, the window openings with their original brick voussoirs, the projecting brick voussoirs, the brick dentil courses
- The window openings with their curved headed windows and brick voussoirs (projecting and not projecting) stone lintels and sills