

Queen City Vinegar Company Factory

Description

The property at 19 River Street is worthy of inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties for its cultural heritage value or interest. Located on the east side of River Street in the first block north of Queen Street East, the three-storey factory was constructed following the issuance of a building permit in 1907 and first recorded in the tax assessment rolls in May 1908.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Queen City Vinegar Company Factory has physical or design value as a representative example of an industrial building highlighted with features of Edwardian Classicism, the style popularized in the early 20th century. The building stands out with the Classically inspired decorative treatment of the principal façade facing River Street.

The historical importance of the Queen City Vinegar Factory is drawn from its association with the practice of Toronto architect, J. Francis Brown. Following his success in 1899 as the designer of the prominent Board of Trade Building (in association with the New York City firm of James and James), Brown received numerous commissions for a range of residential, commercial and industrial projects throughout the city. In the King-Spadina neighbourhood, his designs established the architectural standard for the City's manufacturing district, where a number of Brown's Classically detailed warehouses are recognized on the City's heritage inventory.

Contextually, the Queen City Vinegar Company contributes to the character of this area along the west bank of the Don River where industrial uses were introduced in the 1840s with the development of the original Don Brewery, directly east of the subject property. The Lager Brewery Building (dating to 1876-1877 and the oldest surviving portion of the Don Brewery) at 19R River Street is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. To the west, the Dominion Brewery complex at 496 Queen Street East is another important former industrial site in the immediate vicinity that is included on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the Queen City Vinegar Company Factory related to its cultural heritage value as a representative example of an early 20th century industrial building with features of Edwardian Classicism are found on the principal (west) façade, the first (west) bay of the south elevation, and the roofline with decorative detailing above the latter two walls. Rising three stories above a stone base, the structure is clad with red

brick and trimmed with stone. A brick parapet and a cornice with modillion blocks extend along the west roofline and wrap around the first bay on the south wall.

The west façade is organized into seven bays by brick pilaster strips with stone blocks. Centered in the first storey, the main entrance is set in a stone surround where piers with incised panels incorporate Classically derived ornamentation. A nameplate reads “QUEEN CITY VINEGAR COMPANY LIMITED.” Over the entry, an entablature and a segmental-arched pediment with dentils and modillion blocks mimic the roof detailing. The flat-headed window openings on the west façade and in the first bay of the south elevation display quoins, corbelled sills and labels, apart from the third floor where a stone string course links the window heads.