



Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest for 97 Chambers Street

Description of Property

The property at 97 Chambers Street, also known as the “Carriage House”, is located in the Town of Smiths Falls on the south side of Chambers Street between Gile Street and Bay Street South. The property contains a two-storey residential structure. The structure was constructed for Senator Francis T. Frost’s “Elmcroft” estate in 1895 as an outbuilding for carriage storage and as a groundskeeper’s residence.

Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has physical/design value as a representative example of a late 19th century residence with Queen Anne style influences. Common architectural components associated with the Queen Anne style present on the structure include its irregular massing, multi-sloped roofs, towers, randomly spaced and types of windows, and decorative wood detailing.

This property has historical/associative value due to its connection to Senator Francis T. Frost (1843-1916). Francis was a son of Ebenezer Frost, the founder of Frost and Wood, a farm equipment company that provided employment in Smiths Falls for 116 years. In 1863, Ebenezer died and the company was taken over by his sons Francis T. and Charles B. Frost. In partnership with Alexander Wood, they began modernizing and expanding the factory. Francis was elected by acclamation as the first mayor of the Town of Smiths Falls on January 31, 1883. He later became the federal Member of Parliament for North Leeds and Grenville, and in 1903, he was appointed to the Senate.

Francis T. Frost lived at the main residence of the “Elmcroft” estate, now located on an adjacent property at 89 Chambers Street. “Elmcroft” was a grand three storey residence was built in 1895 in the Queen Anne revival style. The structure at 97 Chambers Street is known through local folklore as “The Carriage House”. It was constructed to store horse drawn carriages on the first storey, while the second storey was the residence and workshop of Frost’s full-time grounds keeper for “Elmcroft”. Therefore, the property has contextual value due to its historical and functional connection to “Elmcroft” at 89 Chambers Street.

The property has contextual value due to its visual and historical link with the neighbouring properties that form “Mansion Row”. This row of houses were all originally built and owned by descendants of the Senator Francis T. Frost, the founders of Frost & Wood Company, including:

- 65 Chambers Street, built for Edwin J. Frost, a son of Senator Francis T. Frost

- 69 Chambers Street, built for George Frederick McKimm and Helen Elvira 'Nellie' Frost, the daughter of James Trussell Frost (a son of Senator Francis T. Frost)
- 89 Chambers Street, built for Senator Francis T. Frost

Heritage Attributes

The following heritage attributes reflect the cultural heritage value or interest of the property:

- Overall form and massing of the two-storey structure with a hip roof
- Brick cladding on first storey and wood shingle cladding on second storey
- Brick foundation
- All window and door openings, including the oriel windows
- Corner turret with domed roof, the decorative ornament on top, and three oval windows
- Red brick chimney, Decorative wood brackets under the east side second storey and below the projecting second storey window bay on the northeast side
- Wood window surrounds
- Location on Chambers Street as part of Mansion Row