



Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest for 89 Brockville Street

Description of Property

The property at 89 Chambers Street, also known as “Elmwood”, is located in the Town of Smiths Falls, on the southeast side of Chambers Street between McGill Street South and Elmsley Street South. The property contains a one- and one-half storey residential structure. The structure was constructed in 1895 for Senator Francis T Frost. The residence was substantially altered in the early 20th century, resulting in the removal of the second and third storeys.

Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

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 T. Frost was elected by acclamation as the first mayor of the town of Smiths Falls on Jan. 31, 1883, the day the village became a town. He later became the federal Member of Parliament for North Leeds and Grenville, and in 1903 he was appointed to the Senate. Elmcroft was built in the late 1895, originally a grand Queen Anne revival style three storey mansion.

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)
- 97 Chambers Street, built as an outbuilding to the “Elmcroft” estate at 89 Chambers Street

The property has further contextual value due to its functional connection to the property at 97 Chambers Street. The structure at 97 Chambers Street 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.

Heritage Attributes

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

- Remnant exterior components of the original 19th century residence, including:
 - Windows and door openings on the first storey
 - All stained and leaded glass windows on the first storey
 - Stone cladding on first storey façades
 - Rounded turret
 - Porte cochere on the northwest façade
 - Components of the original entrance, including
 - The stone wall of the original verandah on the southwest façade
 - Front entrance canopy and columns on the southwest façade
- Remnant interior components of the original 19th century residence, including:
 - Wood carving by W.N. McCormack on first floor round hallway,
 - Wood carving by W.N. McCormack in first floor bedroom above fireplace
 - Wooden shutters on first floor
 - All original interior doors with matching hardware (some brass, some silver)
 - All original stained glass throughout
 - Original radiators
 - All original built-in cabinets and sideboards
 - Kitchen fireplace area with terracotta trim at top between redbrick and glazed brick
 - Staircase leading to attic including balustrade and spindles
 - Bricked in kitchen area, excluding the arch on the right which is not original as it is where the dumbwaiter came up from the basement
 - Placement of the southwest facing attic balcony, the viewpoint towards the historic location of the Frost & Wood factory (note: this heritage attribute is not intended to protect the view from the balcony)
- Location on Chambers Street and relation to Mansion Row