

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Description of Property – 195 Bradford Street

195 Bradford Street is a cross gabled one and a half storey vernacular style residence located on the west side of Bradford Street north of Salina Street in Britannia Village, Ottawa.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

195 Bradford Street has design value as a representative example of Britannia's vernacular style cottage built slightly prior to Britannia's peak as summer resort from 1900-1914. Constructed circa 1898, the cottage exemplifies the vernacular cottage with its simple L-shaped form, one and a half storey massing, horizontal lap siding, and a wraparound verandah. These physical characteristics demonstrate the Late Victorian desire for modest and functional seasonal cottages outside the city, that had a strong focus on transitional spaces from the exterior to the interior. The cross gable roof and simple second storey porch demonstrate an elaboration on the basic cottage form and demonstrate the transition between the first and second vernacular style cottage in Britannia.

195 Bradford Street has associative value due to its connection to the first landowner, Frederick William Harmer, and the first homeowners, his daughter, Bertha Harmer, and her husband, Dr. Mark G. McElhinney. F. W. Harmer had a career as the Nepean Township Clerk, and his family was one of the pioneer residents of Britannia Heights and Britannia since 1870. Bertha was one of the Harmer children who was born and raised in Nepean, and she, along with several siblings and her children, remained in Britannia. Bertha married Dr Mark Gamble McElhinney, who was a prominent member of the Britannia Yacht Club during its formative years and a lifetime member. Dr. McElhinney was one of the members who implemented more organization of water activities on Lac Deschênes, thereby facilitating the transition from the originally founded Britannia

Aquatic Club in 1887 into the Britannia Nautical Club in 1891. He contributed to the early boating community in Britannia and Ottawa.

The house contributes to the early cottage character of Britannia as a late nineteenth and early twentieth century summer resort. Built circa 1898, the architectural features of the house, retention of its original form and materials, along with the lot's mature trees, casual landscaping, and setback, contribute to supporting Britannia's early cottage stock.

The building contributes to the historical context of Britannia as one of Ottawa's most popular summer resorts. The period between the Ottawa Electric Company's streetcar extension to Britannia Bay in May 1900 and in turn the opening of Britannia Park, to the advent of the First World War, demarcate Britannia's golden period. 195 Bradford Street was built shortly before this period. It is likely the original resident Dr. Mark McElhinney rode the streetcars to attend his patients at his dentist practice in Ottawa. Therefore 195 Bradford Street exemplifies how the streetcars brought about the increased development of Britannia as a cottage community, and how seasonal cottages were converted into year-round residences.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the heritage value of 195 Bradford Street as a representative example of Britannia's vernacular cottage built during its peak as a summer resort include:

- Simple, L-shaped form
- Cross gable roof
- One and a half storeys
- Wood horizontal lap siding
- Open wooden wraparound verandah on the south, west, and north façades supported by simple columns, with a simple railing clad in horizontal lap siding

- Open second storey porch with cedar shingles on the gable end, simple columns, and railing clad in horizontal lap siding

Key attributes that demonstrate 195 Bradford Street's contextual value are:

- Large, old growth trees on the lot reminiscent of Britannia's original landscape prior to settlement as an ancient pine forest
- Large side yard with deep setback connected to 205 Bradford Street, both of which were developed by the Harmer family

The interior of the building and any additions or outbuildings are excluded in this designation.