

## **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

### **Description of Property – The Gables, 95 Kirby Road**

95 Kirby Road is a complex, multi gabled two storey vernacular style residence located on the northeast corner of Rowatt Street and Kirby Road in Britannia Village, Ottawa.

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The Gables has design value as a representative example of Britannia's vernacular style cottage built around Britannia's peak as a summer resort from 1900-1914. Constructed around 1895, the building exemplifies the fully developed vernacular style which fully integrates the verandah into the structure, features second storey porches, and a larger, more complex, and picturesque massing. 95 Kirby Road is also a representative example of Shingle Style which is rare in Ottawa and Ontario. Shingle Style features include the use of natural materials including the horizontal lap siding and wood shingles, with decorative foci in the irregular shingle patterns in the gables and the arch-shaped spandrels. The Shingle Style is also illustrated by the complex massing of the porch, articulated walls, multiple chimneys, and several dormers and gables—the origin of the house's name, The Gables.

95 Kirby Road reflects the work of locally known carpenter and builder, Charles Robinson who worked throughout Britannia and Ottawa. He is credited with constructing several cottages in Britannia including 154 Britannia Road and 2775 Rowatt Street, and his aesthetic and elaboration on the basic form, heavily contributed to Britannia's vernacular style cottages. Robinson's other local projects included St. Stephen's Anglican Church and renovating Jamieson's Old Mill, both important buildings to the early cottage community.

The Gables contributes to the early cottage character of Britannia as a late nineteenth and early twentieth century summer resort. Built circa 1895, the

architectural features of the house, high degree of retention of its original form and materials, use of natural materials, along with the lot's mature trees, casual landscaping, and setback, contribute to supporting Britannia's early cottage stock.

95 Kirby Road contributes to the early historical context of Britannia's cottage community preceding its golden period from 1900 to 1914. Before the extension of the streetcars to Britannia in 1900, the summer resort was frequented by Ottawa's well-to-do citizens who could afford to live in the city in addition to cottage at Britannia and could travel between the two. 95 Kirby Road demonstrates this group of early residents as The Gables was built for Mrs. Harriet Wainwright and her family around 1895, who wintered in Ottawa and spent their summers in Britannia until 1914.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the heritage value of 95 Kirby Road as a representative example of Britannia's vernacular cottage built prior its peak as a summer resort include:

- Complex massing with multiple gables, dormers, chimneys, and wall articulation
- Open wooden wraparound verandah on the west, south, and east façade with simple wood verandah ornamentation including arched spandrels
- Wood horizontal lap siding as primary cladding on first storey
- Decorative red brick chimneys
- Shingle Style influences including:
  - Cedar shingles used for cladding on the second storey
  - Second storey open porch with gable roof and clad in a decorative pattern, arched spandrels and simple railing clad in cedar shingles

Key attributes that demonstrate 95 Kirby Road contextual value are:

- Its location in proximity to 2775 Rowatt Street, another house built by local builder, Charles Robinson, who developed the elaboration of the Britannia vernacular style cottage

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