

## **DRAFT**

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value for 178 Cambridge Street North**

#### **Description of Property**

178 Cambridge Street North, known as The Sycamore, is a detached two-and-a-half storey brick-veneered Queen Anne Revival building in the Dalhousie neighbourhood in Somerset Ward. The property is located on the west side of Cambridge Street North, between Somerset Street West and Christie Street. The existing house is estimated to have been constructed between 1899 and 1901, when it replaced an earlier wood house from the 1870s.

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

178 Cambridge Street North has design and physical value as a representative example of the Queen Anne Revival architectural style. Queen Anne Revival was a prominent residential architectural style during the Victorian period from the 1870s to the 1910s which was rooted in a rekindled interest in the vernacular architecture of the medieval and Elizabethan periods. Queen Anne Revival homes are "busy" and ornate, with lots of complexity in detail. They typically feature asymmetrical facades, multiple construction materials, decorative ornamentation, and turrets. The Queen Anne Revival style is exemplified in the house at 178 Cambridge Street North by its multiple construction materials, irregular massing, turret, and decorative ornamentation.

178 Cambridge Street North has design and physical value as it displays a high degree of craftsmanship. This is demonstrated in the detailed architectural ornamentation including a turret, carved wood front door, and carved wood crest on the facade.

178 Cambridge Street North has contextual value as it supports the mixed architectural character of the area west of Bronson Avenue, which is defined by buildings constructed before and after the Great Fire of 1900. While the house was not damaged by the fire as the fire did not reach Cambridge Street North, the replacement of the original modest wood house with a more substantial and contemporary Queen Anne Revival house during this time coincided with the reconstruction of several lost buildings in the area, situating the property in the context of a neighbourhood in transition. There is a prevalence of Victorian and Edwardian era houses in this area from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries built in vernacular or revival styles with varying degrees of decorative detail, including front-gable houses, flat roofed houses, worker's cottages, and row housing, which together create a mixed residential streetscape.

178 Cambridge Street North has contextual value because it is physically and historically linked to its location in the Dalhousie neighbourhood. The property shares a history with the surrounding properties on Cambridge Street North, which together formed the old Sherwood Estate until the lands were divided into smaller lots and sold for development by Hon. George Sherwood. Sherwood's land

auctions in the 1860s and 1870s sparked a wave of development, with most lots sold to players in the local lumber industry. Lumberyards and railyards first defined the area, which grew in the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with an influx of labourers and tradespeople working in industrial areas around LeBreton Flats. The property's proximity to Somerset Street and its walkable distance to the industrial activity at LeBreton Flats would have made its location attractive to workers seeking local employment opportunities. Like many properties in the Dalhousie neighbourhood, the early history of 178 Cambridge Street North is associated with builders and contractors. The original wood house was home to several labourers and tradespeople, including Herman Hayner, who built the existing Queen Anne Revival house on the property. Hayner was a contractor who built houses locally and was a founding member of the Carpenters' Union, which met one block west from the property on the corner of Somerset and Arthur Streets.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the heritage value of 178 Cambridge Street North as a representative example of a Queen Anne Revival building include:

- Two-and-a-half storey rectangular massing with red brick cladding on the first storey and stucco on the second storey.
- A front gable with two side gables on north façade.
- Octagonal turret on the south façade.
- Front porch with pediment, double classical-styled columns, and cedar shingle skirting.
- Front gable end with scalloped shingles and a fan-shaped motif.
- Dentilled wood cornice above the second storey.
- Cedar shingle skirting between first and second storey.
- Crest on the front-façade on the second storey with an oak leaf spray and acorn design inscribed with "The Sycamore".
- Wood front door with a circular window insert carved with a wreath, torches, and a flower motif.
- Undulating brick stringcourse above the first storey windows.
- Window openings, mostly rectangular, with flat brick voussoirs and stone sills on first storey.
- Leaded and coloured glass windows on first and third storey.
- Circular windows in gable ends on north façade.
- Stone foundation.

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