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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1980, CHAPTER 337 AND  
899 QUEEN STREET WEST  
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

To: Polish National Social Club of Toronto  
899 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6J 1G5

✓ Ontario Heritage Foundation

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto, on the 10th, 12th and 14th days of December, 1990 decided to designate the lands and buildings known as 899 Queen Street West.

Short Statement of Reasons for the Proposed Designation

The property located at 899 Queen Street West is recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. The house was constructed for John Cornell, Jr. in 1872 when he became sole owner of the adjacent Queen Street Brewery. Cornell, a City Councillor and Justice of the Peace, had operated the business (opened as the Farr Brewery in 1819) with John Moss, a Member of Parliament for West Toronto, since 1867. The property was retained by the Cornell family until 1888. The buildings at 899 and 905 Queen Street West are operated as a community centre by the Polish National Union.

The John Cornell House is a two-storey ell-shaped dwelling of stucco-over-frame construction with features identified with the Gothic Revival style. The building is covered by a steeply-pitched gable roof with a single inset brick chimney. On the right end of the principal facade (north), a projecting ell wing adjoins the main body. The main entrance, characteristically located at the intersection of the parts, features a single-leaf door with a flat transom and three-quarter length sidelights. A French door is balanced in the wall to the left, while the upper floor contains two segmentally-headed double-hung windows. The lower storey is sheltered by an open verandah. On the ell wing, a bay window with round-arched sash and a conical roof fills the first storey, with a double-sash rectangular window in the second storey. The gable has carved bargeboard and a king post.


The east and west walls are blank. The rear (south) elevation is covered by a combination hip and shed roof and has segmentally-headed and round-headed windows. The building is extended by a one-storey stuccoed addition with a gable roof.

The John Cornell House shares its scale, setback, and landscaped grounds with the neighbouring building at 905 Queen Street West. The two residential structures are among the earliest surviving buildings on Queen Street West in West Toronto. The John Cornell House is a well-preserved example of a late 19th century domestic design and, with the adjacent John Farr House, represents an integrated pair of buildings.

The Toronto Historical Board's Heritage Property Report respecting the property is available for viewing at the City Clerk's Department at City Hall and the offices of the Toronto Historical Board.

Notice of the objection to the designation may be served on the Clerk within thirty days of the 15th day of January, 1991.

Dated at Toronto this 15th day of January, 1991.

  
Barbara G. Caplan  
City Clerk