



Statement of Cultural Heritage Value & Heritage Attributes – 275 8th St E

Description of Property - Oretsky Fur Store, 275 8th St E

Oretsky Fur Store is a two-storey commercial building located on the south side of 8th Street East, west of the intersection at 3rd Avenue East in the City of Owen Sound. The property is municipally known as 275 8th Street East.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Oretsky Fur Store's cultural heritage value lies in its representation of an early type of material and construction method in Owen Sound as evidenced by its design, composition, and materials.

The exterior of the building boasts an original brick finish that is well kept and has seen little to no modification over the years. The second storey of the north (front) façade includes two original window openings that support the repetitive, vertical window pattern along the south side of 8th Street East.

The first storey of the north (front) façade maintains the original design as when the building was constructed, it is capped with a simple but heavy wood cornice supported by brackets at either end and includes original door openings, display windows, and five-pane transom windows.

Oretsky Fur Store's cultural heritage value also lies in its associated with the Oretsky family. The Oretsky's were among the City's early group of Jewish families. They immigrated to Owen Sound in 1908, where they established a successful fur business at 275 8th Street East. The building includes an addition at the south (rear), that served as a cold storage vault for fur pelts by the Oretsky's. An original wood doorway between the storefront of 275 8th Street East and the vault remains intact.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that embody the heritage value of Kilbourn Block include its:

- Original exterior brick finish on all façades.
- Two (2) original window openings on the north (front) façade.

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- The original wood cornice and brackets on the north (front) ground floor façade.
- Five-pane transom windows on the north (front) ground floor façade.
- Display windows on the north (front) ground floor façade.

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