

651 Talbot St

Historical: The residence was built in 1905 and is referred to in the *London Register of Cultural Heritage Resources* as the Kotowicz Property. The current house replaced a 19th century laundry operated by George Vinall. Between 1909-1916, according to *City Directories*, the house was occupied by Thomas P. McCormick, who was the son of the founder of the McCormick Manufacturing Company, producer of cookies and candies. The younger McCormick, who became vice-president and manager of the company, expanded the cookie business and was the overseer of the new innovatively designed McCormick factory, built in 1914 on Dundas St E. Clad in white tile with large 'daylight' windows this was known as the 'White Palace'.

The house remained in the possession of Thomas' widow until 1970.

Architectural: This house is basically Queen Anne in concept but with some trending towards the incoming styles of Arts and Crafts or Craftsman style with a solid, broader aspect and robust design elements.

The hipped roof is complex with cross gables at differing heights and it is flanked by tall chimneys which are especially lofty on the north side.. The gable on the front façade is large and commanding with shingle imbrication bargeboard enclosing a Palladian window. This window is marked by substantial framing. There is a small roof-line dormer turret topped with a conical roof with a curved window set into it. The roof has a deep cornice with simple modillions and a fascia board.

The house is constructed of red brick with stone surrounds to the windows which are plain and rectangular, except for a linked trio of round-headed windows on the first storey which are outlined with ample white stone surrounds. It is possible that the bay window on the second floor is a later addition. The broad verandah is spacious, spanning two-thirds of the façade and has a second storey balcony above it. It is supported by Classical columns and features wood balustrading. The front entrance is accessed with a flight of stone steps.

Although the house is assymetrical in basic plan especially the roof and attic storeys, the broad 3-bay façade is ordered with the window bays and front entrance balanced and centred.

Heritage attributes:

Contextual: There are several grand houses in this vicinity that are of a similar size and date. This property is one of the remaining few 'riverside residences' of this western stretch of Talbot St which overlook the river. They are flanked by 'Raleigh House' to the south, and 'Locust Mount' (now demolished) to the north which are of an earlier date. 651 is prominent in a spacious landscaped lot and is typical of the larger houses of the successful businessmen and professionals who moved gradually north from the centre of the city.

*Note: This house is almost a mirror image of **530 Ridout St N.** (built in 1903)*

Yes to design/physical value, historical/associative value and contextural value