GHUM 1153
Researching Historic Buildings in Toronto

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This presentation is available in alternative format upon request.
Getting started

299 Queen St. East
Photo courtesy of Andrew Hall
Local historic buildings – 299 Queen Street West
  - Names change over time
  - Address can even change

Good starting points for quick facts:
  - [Heritage Toronto - Inventory of Properties](#)
    - Search on Address, Type of Building, architect
  - [Archidont](#) – Architectural Index of Ontario (from Toronto Public Library)
  - [Canadian Register of Historic Places Database](#)
  - You are looking for:
    - The various names under which the building has been known
      - (Wesley Building, Methodist Book & Publishing House, Ryerson Press, CHUM building, Citytv Building, Much Music Building)
    - The year it was built (1913)
    - The architect or firm that built it (Burke, Horwood, White – Edmund Burke)
    - The style of architecture
    - The date it was designated an historic property
    - The designation by-law number
Heritage Property Detail

Note:
- Bylaw
  - Bylaw Status Register Site
- Designation Date

Note:
- Name(s) of building
- Architect/Firm
- Date Built
- Date of any major additions
- Date and number of any easement agreements
Books in the Library

- **Library Catalogue** – Keyword search
  - Toronto and (buildings or architecture)
  - Architect or Architecture Firm’s name (e.g. Edmund Burke)
  - Building’s Name (e.g. Union Station)

- Generally books are in sections:
  - NA (Toronto architecture)
  - FC (Toronto History)

- Books provide photographs, drawings, history
  - We will have some of the best on temporary reserve
Databases in the Library

• **Online Databases** – subscription databases from the library
  – **Canadian Newsstand** – Newspaper Articles
    • The Toronto Star and Globe and Mail both have architecture columns and frequently report on heritage buildings, designations, awards etc.)
  – **CBCA Complete** – Canadian Focus (Ebsco, Gale & Proquest)
    • Magazines & Architecture Journals
      – Architecture (e.g. Canadian Architect)
      – Local magazines (Toronto Life)
      – Construction Trade Journals (Daily Commercial News)
  – **Art & Architecture Complete** (uncheck the Full Text search box)

• **Search on:**
  • Building’s name and all its variations over the years
    – Wesley Building (Methodist Publishing House or Chum building or City TV building or MuchMusic building)
  • Street Address (299 Queen Street West) – shorten to just number and street name
  • Architect’s Name or Firm (“Edmund Burke”, Burke, Horwood and White)
  • Architecture Firm that did restoration (E.R.A.)
  • Too many results - You can combine the above with (historic or history or designated or designation or award or restored or restoration or heritage) and building and Toronto
  • Use quotes for phrases (e.g.“Wesley Building”)
  • ("wesley building" or "299 queen") AND Toronto and (history OR historic OR heritage or renovat* OR restor* OR designat*)
Architectural Plans, Blueprints, Drawings/Photographs

• City of Toronto Archives – searchable database - START IN SERIES “410”
  **Search on both the building (name and address) and the Architect/Firm
  Visit the archives – right down the street

• Archives of Ontario – Archives Descriptive Database and in person (York University Campus)

• Baldwin Room (4th Floor of Toronto Reference Library (Yonge and Bloor) – photos and architectural drawings
Local Resources

• **Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada**
  • Biographies of Canadian architects from 1800-1950
  • Includes a comprehensive list of the architect’s projects and references to articles written about the project (Toronto Reference Library has journals on microfilm – some are available online at Internet Archives or Canadiana at TPL)

• Heritage Toronto - Inventory of Properties
  – **Inventory of Plaques**
  – **Toronto Preservation Board – designation reports** (e.g. Report on designation for 57 Bond)
    • Choose **Search Items** tab
    • Choose Toronto Preservation Board in the Committee Drop-Down Box
    • Search on address of property
    • Goes back to 2006
  – **Heritage Toronto Awards** – press releases for recipients

• **Ontario Heritage Trust** – Resources and Learning Page
  – **Places of Worship Database** (e.g. St. Paul’s Anglican)
  – **Canadian Register of Historic Places Database**

• **Archidont** – Architectural Index of Ontario
  – Bibliography of articles/books on building
Local Resources

• The building itself:
  – Does the building have a website (e.g. Distillery District)
  – Is it associated with a local archive? (e.g. all the local cathedrals will have archival records through the church archives, the Distillery District has its own archive, corporate archives (e.g. bank buildings, department stores))

• Local Residents’/Preservation association websites – heritage sections, newsletters, photographs (e.g. The Annex Residents Association, The Cabbagetown Preservation Association)

• Architectural Firms’ websites – has there been a restoration on the building (e.g. E.R.A. Portfolio)
Visit the Toronto Archives

City of Toronto Archives – **searchable database** - START IN SERIES “410”

**Address:** 255 Spadina Rd,
**Phone:** (416) 397-0778

Visit the Toronto Archives

Welcome to the City of Toronto Archives database!

You can now search the database, save items to a list, and create a PDF file that you can print or save for future reference when making your request at the Archives Research Hall.

TO BEGIN SEARCHING

Enter a keyword in the field indicated above
Click on the Search button
Click on Search help for more information

ADVANCED SEARCH

To access additional search options click on the link to the Advanced Search above

SAVED LIST AND PRINT A RECORDS REQUEST

Once you've completed a search you can:

View the results
Create a saved list by clicking on the check beside the record on the left side of the window.
View and modify the saved list and generate a PDF report that can be used to request a box(es) of records.
Building for the Methodist Book & Publishing House

Title: Building for the Methodist Book & Publishing House

Author or Creator: Burke, Horwood & White; Harkness & Oxley

Scale: Scales differ

Date(s) of creation of record(s): 1913

Physical description of record(s): 39 plans; photocopies; 83.5 x 93.0 cm or smaller
34 p of textual records

Forms part of: Fonds 200; Former City of Toronto fonds
Series 410; Buildings Dept., building permit application plans

Scope and content: File contains plans and specifications for the factory and office building, located at 299 Queen Street West, for the Methodist Book & Publishing House. Elevation views, architectural details, floor plans, sections and structural framing plans are included.

Access conditions: OPEN - No restrictions on these government records.

General note(s): This building is a gothic-inspired fantasy covered with windows and terra-cotta facing. There is a great deal of exterior decoration, and the many architectural detail plans give a good idea of the interior decoration as well. This building was renovated in 1987 and is now occupied by CHUM and CITY TV.

ADDED ENTRIES: Burke Horwood & White; Harkness & Oxley
SUBJECT ACCESS POINTS: Queen Street West (299); Office buildings; Factories; Wesley Buildings; Elevations; Architectural details; Floor plans; Roof plans; Structural framing; Cross-sections; Specifications; Methodist Book & Publishing House; City and Libraries

Save to List
Create a Records Request Form
City of Toronto Archives - Records Request Form

Researcher Name:
Researcher Registration Number:
Date:

Information about box requests: All requests must be made in person at the Archives’ Research Hall. A limit of five boxes may be ordered at one time. If a box has a restricted access condition the researcher will be required to apply for access and will not be able to view the requested records right away. For more information about access restrictions, see our web site: toronto.ca/archives/reference.htm#request.

Archival Citation: Fonds 200, Series 410, File 1642
Title: Building for the Methodist Book & Publishing House
Dates of Creation: 1913
Access Conditions: OPEN - No restrictions on these government records.
Location: Spadina Records Centre
Box: 140936
Barcode: FO200SE410F1642B140936
Toronto Archives
What you need to bring

City of Toronto Archives - Records Request Form
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Barcode: [Barcode Image]

Picture ID
Archive Card
Blueprints

Images courtesy of Andrea Hall
CONCRETE WORK

The general conditions are to be as set forth on pages 1 to 3 inclusive, and are to form part of this specification.

The Contractor must furnish all material and labor of every kind required for the work and pay for the same. He must also furnish all transportation, wood frames, ladders, scaffolding, etc., and machinery needed in the execution of the same. All shall be subject to the approval and acceptance of the Architect. The Contractor must also provide any laboring required for his part of the work. The Contractor must comply with all local building laws and regulations governing the erection of buildings in Toronto, and will furnish and pay for all labor, inspection fees, permits, etc. (other than the general building permit), which may be required for the proper authorities for his part of the work.

Concrete Work Not Included in This Contract.—The concrete wall at east side of Boiler Room and north side of Oil Storage Rooms, all concrete foundations of piers, columns and walls and all columns are included in the Mason's contract. The porous tile flooring on the grade in the Richmond St. section will be provided by others. Porcelain tile floor arches, where shown, will be provided by others.

Extent of Work.—This contract is to cover all concrete work throughout (except as before mentioned) and will include all reinforced concrete floor and roof slabs as follows and elsewhere as shown.

Basement.—Reinforced concrete slabs over wire and pipe ducts, and floor over Pipe space under Engine Room.

First Floor.—The entire Press Room, with Office, Toilets, Halls, etc. The Shipping Room, Entry Room and Stock Room.

Second Floor.—The entire Bindery, with Office, Toilets, Halls, etc. The south part of wholesale department to a line between columns 24 and 269.

Third Floor.—The entire Richmond St. section of building, including Job Room, Stereotype Department, Office, Toilets, and roof over Bindery.

Fourth Floor.—Linotype Department to line of columns 41 and 46, and Freight Room.

Fifth Floor.—Same area as on fourth floor.

Sidewalk over areas in Richmond St.

Top forming driveway over area at north side of Richmond St. section, including Oil Storage, and Coal Rooms.

Roof of Boiler Room and floor over Ash Pit and Sewer Room.

Floor of Driveway to Queen Street.

Platform at level No. 2 and roof over Boiler Room hoist enclosure.

All concrete casings for steel columns, except those encased in brick walls.

All concrete floors in Basement, including coal space, ash pit, Boiler Room, Elevator pits, etc., and concrete steps where shown or marked.

All filling under wood, tile, terrazzo or asphalt floors and on roofs at rear of stores 4 and 5, and roof over portion of Linotype Department. All concrete floors throughout where marked or specified and all sidewalks.

The slab over the cellar half of the Bindery will be the floor slab for future third floor addition, and the roof over the N. Extension of Engineer's Department will be the floor slab for
Social Networks

- Online communities
  - Facebook – Heritage Toronto
- Linked in
  - contacts and experts
- Expert Blogs
- Flickr

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/torontohistory/]
E-mail me at andrea.hall@georgebrown.ca to set up an appointment for your group.