



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act – 150 Symes Road

<b>Date:</b>	May 10, 2013
<b>To:</b>	Toronto Preservation Board Etobicoke York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Director, Urban Design, City Planning Division
<b>Wards:</b>	York South-Weston – Ward 11
<b>Reference Number:</b>	P:\2013\Cluster B\PLN\HPS\EYCC\June 18 2013\eyHPS02

#### SUMMARY

---

This report recommends that City Council state its intention to designate the property at 150 Symes Road under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. At its meeting of January 18, 2011, the Etobicoke York Community Council (EY3.37) directed Heritage Preservation Services to report on the heritage potential of the site, which contains the former Symes Road Incinerator (1933). In 2009, the property was transferred to Build Toronto, which has sold the site.

Following research and evaluation, staff have determined that the property at 150 Symes Road meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. The designation of the property would enable City Council to manage alterations to the site, enforce heritage property standards and maintenance, and refuse demolition.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

---

**The City Planning Division recommends that:**

1. City Council include the property at 150 Symes Road (Symes Road Incinerator) on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.
2. City Council state its intention to designate the property at 150 Symes Road (Symes Road Incinerator) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

3. If there are no objections to the designation in accordance with Section 29(6) of the Ontario Heritage Act, City Council authorize the City Solicitor to introduce the bill in Council designating the property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.
4. If there are objections in accordance with Section 29(7) of the Ontario Heritage Act, City Council direct the City Clerk to refer the designation to the Conservation Review Board.
5. If the designation is referred to the Conservation Review Board, City Council authorize the City Solicitor and appropriate staff to attend any hearing held by the Conservation Review Board in support of Council's decision on the designation of the property.

### **Financial Impact**

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

### **DECISION HISTORY**

At its meeting of January 18, 2011, Etobicoke York Community Council adopted EY3.37 and "directed the Manager of Heritage Preservation Services to investigate and report back to the Community Council on whether the Symes Incinerator should be included in the City's inventory of heritage properties and/or be given heritage designation, and that this investigation be made a priority."

### **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

The property at 150 Symes Road has recently been sold by Build Toronto. The inclusion of the site on the City's heritage inventory and its designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act would enable staff to work with the new owner to preserve the former incinerator's heritage values and attributes.

### **COMMENTS**

A location map (Attachment No. 1) and Photograph (Attachment No. 2) are attached.

Staff have completed the attached Heritage Property Research and Evaluation Report (Attachment No. 4), which indicates that the property at 150 Symes Road meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation. Staff have determined that the building comprising the Symes Road Incinerator communicates the site's core heritage values and attributes, and the remainder of the property with the 1934 garage is not identified as a heritage feature.

The property at 150 Symes Road is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual values. Located on the southwest corner of Symes Road and Glen Scarlett Road, the Symes Road Incinerator (1933) is a well-crafted excellent representative example of a public works building with Art Deco styling that

forms part of an important collection of civic architecture designed by the Office of the City Architect in the early 1930s. Contextually, the property at 150 Symes Road is historically linked to its surroundings as a notable survivor from the industrial enclave anchored by the former Ontario Stockyards that developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century along St. Clair Avenue West, west of Weston Road in West Toronto.

## **CONTACT**

Mary L. MacDonald, Acting Manager  
Heritage Preservation Services  
Tel: 416-338-1079; Fax: 416-392-1973  
E-mail: [mmacdon7@toronto.ca](mailto:mmacdon7@toronto.ca)

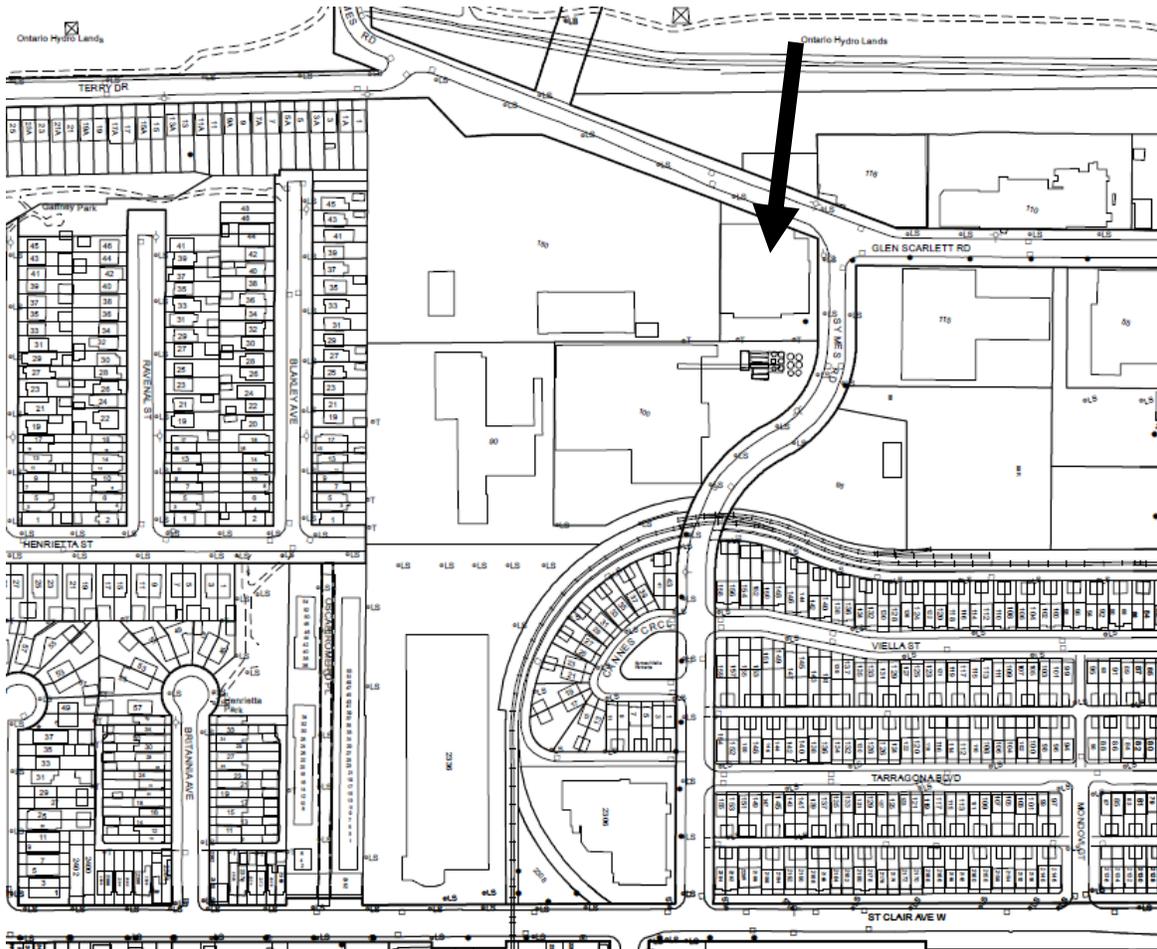
## **SIGNATURE**

---

Robert Freedman  
Director, Urban Design  
City Planning Division

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment No. 1 – Location Map  
Attachment No. 2 – Photographs  
Attachment No. 3 – Reasons for Designation (Statement of Significance)  
Attachment No. 4 – Heritage Property Research and Evaluation Report



This location map is for information purposes only; the exact boundaries of the property are not shown.

The **arrow** marks the location of the site.



View of the principal (east) façade of the Symes Road Incinerator  
(Heritage Preservation Services, April 2013)



Archival photograph dated August 1934 and showing the same view (as well as the brick chimney stacks to the south, which have been removed) (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Item 446)

## Symes Road Incinerator

### Description

The property at 150 Symes Road is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual values. Located on the southwest corner of Symes Road and Glen Scarlett Road, the Symes Road Incinerator (1933) is a three-storey public works building.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

The Symes Road Incinerator is a well-crafted excellent representative example of a public works building designed with Art Deco features, which is particularly distinguished by its pyramidal massing, banding and linear decoration that are hallmarks of the style. It is part of a collection of civic architecture in the former City of Toronto with Art Deco styling that dates to the early 1930s and includes the landmark Horse Palace at Exhibition Place.

The Office of the City Architect designed the Symes Road Incinerator in a collaboration between Chief Architect J. J. Woolnough, his assistant and successor K. S. Gillies, and their chief designer, architect Stanley J. T. Fryer. During the early 1930s, this team produced an impressive series of civic buildings that were characterized and distinguished by Art Deco styling and included the Symes Road Incinerator.

Contextually, the property at 150 Symes Road is historically associated with its surroundings as a notable survivor from the industrial enclave anchored by the former Ontario Stockyards that developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century along St. Clair Avenue West, west of Weston Road in West Toronto.

### Heritage Attributes

The heritage attributes of the property at 150 Symes Road are:

- The Symes Road incinerator
- The materials, with brick cladding and brick, stone, metal and glass detailing
- The scale, form and massing of the near-square three-storey plan, with the two-storey section set back from and rising above the single-storey podium that is angled at the northeast corner
- The base with window openings, which is raised on the rear (west) elevation with ramps and openings for cargo doors

- The cornices along the rooflines of the first and third stories and, at the east end, the chimney
- On the principal (east) façade, the entrance block where the main entry is asymmetrically placed
- The main (east) entry, which is set in a stone frontispiece where paired doors and a transom are flanked by narrow sidelights and surmounted by a metal canopy, the datestone incised "1933", and linear stone detailing
- The secondary opening at the north end of the east façade
- The fenestration on all elevations, with flat-headed openings and, in the third storey, distinctive round windows
- The Art Deco detailing that includes the distinctive horizontal banding
- The original placement and setback of the Symes Incinerator near the southwest corner of Symes Road and Glen Scarlett Road where it is viewed from both streets

**HERITAGE PROPERTY RESEARCH AND EVALUATION REPORT**



**SYMES ROAD INCINERATOR  
150 SYMES ROAD, TORONTO**

Prepared by:

Heritage Preservation Services  
City Planning Division  
City of Toronto

April 2013

## 1. DESCRIPTION



Above: main (east) entrance; cover: principal (east) façade (left) and north elevation (right)  
(Heritage Preservation Services, April 2013)

<b>150 Symes Road: Symes Road Incinerator</b>	
ADDRESS	150 Symes Road (southwest corner of Glen Scarlett Road)
WARD	11 (York South-Weston)
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Plan 2707, Block A; Plan 1908, Block C
NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY	West Toronto
HISTORICAL NAME	Symes Road Incinerator
CONSTRUCTION DATE	1933
ORIGINAL OWNER	City of Toronto
ORIGINAL USE	Public (municipal garbage incinerator)
CURRENT USE*	Vacant * This does not refer to permitted use(s) as defined by the Zoning By-law
ARCHITECT/BUILDER/DESIGNER	City Architects (see Section 2)
DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION	Brick cladding with brick, stone, metal & glass trim
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE	Art Deco
ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	See Section 2.ii
CRITERIA	Design/Physical, Historical/Associative & Contextual
HERITAGE STATUS	Cultural Heritage Evaluation
RECORDER	Heritage Preservation Services: Kathryn Anderson
REPORT DATE	April 2013

## 2. BACKGROUND

This research and evaluation report describes the history, architecture and context of the property at 150 Symes Road, and applies evaluation criteria to determine whether it merits inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties and designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The conclusions of the research and evaluation are found in Section 4 (Summary).

### i. HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Key Date	Historical Event
1890	Plan 1067 is registered on part of Lot 36, subdividing the property northwest of St. Clair Avenue West and Symes Road
1931 May	The Canada Sand-Lime Pressed Brick Company registers Plan 2707, amending part of Plan 1067 to reconfigure the building lots
1931 Aug	The City of Toronto acquires the land on the southwest corner of Symes Road and Glen Scarlett Road
1932 Dec	Permit #49773 is issued for the "destructor" on Symes Road and construction of the brick chimney stacks begins (Image 16) <sup>1</sup>
1933 Apr	"City of Toronto incinerator" on Symes Road is first recorded in the tax assessment rolls
1933 Apr-Nov	Archival photographs show the ongoing construction of the incinerator (Images 17-22)
1934	The garage, paving, fencing and gates are completed
1953	The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto is created, assuming responsibility for garbage disposal in the six former municipalities including the City of Toronto
1977	The property becomes the Symes Transfer Station
1988	An application is made to repair fire damage to the incinerator
2009	The site is transferred to Build Toronto, which sells it in 2013

### ii. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### West Toronto

When Toronto was founded as the Town of York in 1793, the lands to the west, east and north, respectively, were reserved for military, government and residential uses. Further north between present-day Bloor Street and Steeles Avenue, York Township was organized into 200-acre farm lots along side roads and concession lines. Settlements emerged at major cross-roads and, following the introduction of the first steam railways in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, rail crossings. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Third Concession road was named St. Clair Avenue on maps and atlases where the western section near present-day Weston Road was developed as the setting of market gardens and as a source of materials for the construction business (Images 2 and 3).

---

<sup>1</sup> In December 1934, permit #54153 was issued for the adjoining garage. The Symes Road Incinerator had an assessed value of \$1000 in 1932, but one year later the values rose to nearly \$25,000

The property now known as 150 Symes Road originated as part of farm lot 36 in York Township, acreage that was acquired by John Scarlett, a prominent land owner and entrepreneur in West Toronto and Runnymede, as well as "one of the earliest local brick makers" in this district.<sup>2</sup> Isabella Mary Scarlett was the registered owner of part of the site in 1890 when her legal representatives authorized its division under Plan 1067 (Image 4). Subsequent plans of subdivision were identified on Goad's Atlases (Images 5 and 7), showing the layout of building lots and the original road network.<sup>3</sup> Symes Road, which wound north of St. Clair, was named for George Syme (sic), a prominent market gardener who served as the Reeve of York Township.<sup>4</sup>

By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the area adjoining St. Clair Avenue, west of present-day Weston Road and Keele Street was part of West Toronto, which had originated as a railway junction and was incorporated as a village (1884), town (1889) and city (1908) through its rapid expansion and mergers with adjoining communities. The relocation of the Union Stockyards (later Ontario Stockyards) to an expansive complex on St. Clair attracted other industrial and commercial uses, including the large-scale meat packers Gunn's Limited and the Harris Abattoir (both companies were subsequently absorbed by Canada Packers). When the neighbouring City of Toronto annexed West Toronto in 1909, its boundaries encompassed part of the subject property at 150 Symes Road (as illustrated in Image 6).

### Symes Road Incinerator

As the City of Toronto grew geographically through annexations that included West Toronto and its population increased with the immigration boom after 1900, the need for municipal services intensified. This "rapid growth generated more garbage while reducing the areas available for dumping," the strategy the municipality had used since its incorporation.<sup>5</sup> However, the City's first incinerator for burning garbage was in place in 1890 and, after Toronto's Street Cleaning Department was created in 1910, it commissioned three garbage "destructors" (Image 9). Following the construction of the Island Incinerator on Toronto Island (1916), the Don Incinerator (1917) opened on Dundas Street East overlooking the Don Valley to serve the east part of the municipality, and the Wellington Incinerator (1925) was located on Wellington Street West near Bathurst Street to handle refuse in the west area of Toronto (Images 10 and 11).<sup>6</sup> While planning a new facility for the growing northwest sector, in 1931 the City purchased a

---

<sup>2</sup> Byers, 21. Scarlett's family developed the Simcoe Chase (Race) Course in Lambton Mills and, through the Humber Harbour and Road Company, secured the rights to construct roads and railways in an extensive area in Etobicoke and York Townships

<sup>3</sup> The Symes Road Incinerator is illustrated on the Underwriters' Insurance Bureau Atlas revised to 1969 (Image 8)

<sup>4</sup> George Syme Community School on Prichard Avenue in the St. Clair Avenue West and Jane Street area commemorates Syme

<sup>5</sup> Toronto Above and Below, unpagged

<sup>6</sup> The Wellington Incinerator (1925) and Commissioners Street Incinerator (1953) remain extant and are listed on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties

six-acre parcel of land on Symes Road. The property extended across the border between Toronto and York Township, with the majority of the site in the latter community. Negotiations between the two municipalities resulted in approval of the plant, with the agreement that Toronto would incinerate garbage from the township.<sup>7</sup>

Before preparing the plans for the Symes Road Incinerator, City staff visited recently constructed garbage facilities in Buffalo and the New York City area and decided to utilize the latest crane-operating technology at the new complex. In June 1932, City Council authorized funding for the construction and maintenance of the "buildings, machinery and plant necessary for a new refuse disposal plant on the west side of Symes Road" (Images 14 and 15)<sup>8</sup> Archival records and photographs trace the construction of the Symes Road Incinerator and the adjoining pair of massive brick stacks or chimneys in 1933, with the neighbouring garage completed the next year along with the paving, fences and gates (Images 16-22 and 25).<sup>9</sup> Officially opened in 1934, the facility followed the protocol for other incinerators that "were designated by number or location" rather than being named for an individual.<sup>10</sup>

The City of Toronto completed the Commissioners Street Incinerator in the Portlands as the last of its type in 1953, coinciding with the creation of Metropolitan Toronto as an upper-tier municipality with responsibilities that included garbage disposal (Image 11).<sup>11</sup> Five years later, the separate departments for Works and Street Cleaning were merged as the Department of Public Works. With garbage incineration cited as a contributor to urban pollution and a health risk, most incinerators were closed by 1967 with garbage transported to landfills outside the city. The Symes Road Incinerator was converted into a waste transfer facility in the 1970s (when the chimney stacks were removed) and shuttered in 1996. More recently used as a storage facility and as a location for television and film productions, the site was transferred to Build Toronto (the amalgamated City of Toronto's real estate and development corporation) in 2009. The property at 150 Symes Road stands vacant at the time of the writing of this report in 2013.

### City Architects

The Symes Road Incinerator was designed by the City Architect's office, with the original plans prepared under the direction of J. J. Woolnough and the project completed by his successor, K. S. Gillies. Stanley T. J. Fryer, "a brilliant young staff architect," is credited with the appearance of the Symes Road Incinerator as part of a group of public buildings with Art Deco features constructed by the City in the early 1930s.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> Archival records at the City of Toronto Archives trace the uses of the site during the 20th century when the Symes Road Incinerator accepted garbage from other neighbouring communities

<sup>8</sup> Council Minutes, June 27, 1932, item 646

<sup>9</sup> The garage was built under the Unemployment Relief Programme during the Great Depression

<sup>10</sup> Board of Control Minutes, March 6, 1933, 298

<sup>11</sup> In 1953, the Townships (later Cities) of Etobicoke, North York, York and Scarborough, the Borough of East York and the as yet unannexed municipalities of Swansea and Forest Hill either had their own facilities or collaborated with others to dispose of garbage

<sup>12</sup> Gillies entry in The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950, unpagged

Chief Architect from 1925 until 1932, James John Woolnough (1866-1965) trained in England before relocating to Toronto in 1889 where he became David B. Dick's chief assistant and was associated with the prominent firms of Gibson and Simpson (as well as C. J. Gibson in solo practice) and Darling and Pearson. Woolnough worked with F. R. Heakes at the Department of Public Works for Ontario prior to joining the City Architect's office in 1904. He rose through the ranks during the World War I era when the Island and Don Incinerators were built, and his appointment as Chief Architect coincided with the construction of the Wellington Incinerator. Woolnough "was responsible for the design of all city-owned municipal buildings during this period" at the start of the Great Depression, including the City Waterworks Building on Richmond Street West and police stations in Parkdale and North Toronto that are recognized on the City's heritage inventory (Image 13).<sup>13</sup> When the Symes Road Incinerator was in the design phase in 1932, Woolnough resigned as City Architect.

The Symes Road Incinerator and Woolnough's other outstanding projects were completed by his successor, Kenneth Stevenson Gillies (1884-1955). After joining Toronto's Buildings Department as a draftsman in 1906, Gillies' career path at the City followed Woolnough's as he became the latter's assistant, then deputy. "In this role, he played an important part in assisting with the design and drawings of the Horse Palace at the Canadian National Exhibition, an Art Deco landmark which was normally credited only to Woolnough" (Image 12).<sup>14</sup> In 1935, when the City Architect position was replaced by Commissioner of Buildings, Gillies assumed the new role and remained with the municipality for over two decades.

The Symes Road Incinerator bears the stylistic influence of architect Stanley T. J. Fryer (1885-1956), who was employed as a designer in the City Architect's office from 1931 to 1936. Fryer received his training in England before gaining experience with leading architectural firms in Boston and New York City. He practiced with partners in Hamilton, Ontario prior to and following World War I, and in the 1920s assisted the internationally recognized architects C. Howard Crane and Albert Kahn with industrial complexes in Detroit and Windsor, Ontario.<sup>15</sup> This was the period when Kahn was designing in the popular Art Deco style, including Detroit's landmark Fisher Building (1928) as the headquarters of an auto supplies conglomerate. A past president of the Ontario Association of Architects (1923-24), Fryer relocated to Toronto at the outset of the Great Depression to serve as a draftsman at the esteemed architectural firm of Darling and Pearson.<sup>16</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> Woolnough entry in The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950, unpagged. The Toronto firm of Sullivan and Fried, identified as the contractors for the Symes Road Incinerator, had previously built the Ontario Government Building (1926) at Exhibition Place

<sup>14</sup> Gillies entry in The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950, unpagged

<sup>15</sup> While Detroit-based architect Crane designed industrial buildings, he is perhaps best known for his association with movie theatres, a type that was specifically linked to the Art Deco style

<sup>16</sup> At this time, John Pearson (who continued to head the firm after Frank Darling's death) was supervising the construction of the Canadian Bank of Commerce Building near King and Bay Streets, with exterior and interior elements linked to Art Deco styling (Morawetz, 18)

After joining the City Architect's office, Fryer was "credited with the moderne design of the Horse Palace...and for the progressive designs of several Art Deco style fire halls..." that included Fire Hall No. 12 on Gerrard Street East (Image 13).<sup>17</sup> During the period when Woolnough, Gillies and Fryer worked as a team, they produced an impressive collection of public works for the municipality that was characterized and distinguished by the Art Deco stylistic features.

### iii. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Current photographs of the property at 150 Symes Road are found on the cover page and in Sections 2 and 6 of this report. The Symes Road Incinerator is designed in the Art Deco style, popularized in the interwar period and employed in civic projects by the City Architect's office in the early 1930s. Named for the influential "Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes" held in Paris in 1925, the Art Deco style drew inspiration from a range of contemporary sources: "the discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb and all things Egyptian; the worlds of ancient Greece and Rome, especially sculptures of the Classical nude; traditional materials, motifs and techniques from China and Japan; indigenous forms - especially the ziggurat - from Aztec and Mayan civilizations; abstract and geometric decorative motifs from Africa; and finally the new colours, forms and motifs from such avant-garde European art movements as Fauvism, Cubism, De Stijl, Suprematism and Constructionism."<sup>18</sup> While Art Deco architecture in North America was first expressed in the late 1920s in skyscrapers such as the Empire State Building in New York City, it became primarily associated with movie theatres during the Great Depression. In Toronto, the Art Deco was epitomized by Eaton's College Street Store, with the interior designs of French architect Jacques Carlu illustrating the evolution of the style as it incorporated elements of the art moderne.<sup>19</sup>

Working in the Art Deco style, the designers in the City Architect's Office produced a significant group of public buildings that included the Symes Road Incinerator, all of which shared specific characteristics in the massing, balance of horizontal and vertical plans, and geometrical detailing. The Symes Road Incinerator features a near-square three-storey plan that is angled near the northeast corner in relation to the change in direction on Symes Road northwest of Glen Scarlett Road. Above a raised base with window openings, the steel-framed structure is clad with brick and trimmed with brick, stone, metal and glass, including the horizontal banding (much of which was concealed on Symes by the effects of pollution when the area was heavily industrialized). The distinctive pyramidal form is arranged with a single storey podium that forms a base for the upper two stories, which are setback from its edges. Cornices mark the rooflines on the first and third stories where a brick chimney remains at the east end. The horizontal emphasis is countered on the principal (east) façade by the main entry, which is

---

<sup>17</sup> Fryer entry in The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950, unpagged. Fryer returned to England in 1936 and, following World War II rejoined an architectural partnership in Hamilton

<sup>18</sup> Morawetz, 1

<sup>19</sup> The phases of the Art Deco style in Canada during the 1920s and 1930s are described in Maitland, with Toronto examples illustrated in Morawetz

asymmetrically placed in a single-storey entrance block that extends along most of the east elevation and, near the north end, has a large opening designed for cargo doors. Set in a stone frontispiece with linear decoration associated with Art Deco design, the main entrance contains paired doors and a transom that are flanked by narrow sidelights and surmounted by a canopy, a datestone inscribed "1933", and linear decoration. The fenestration on all the elevations consists of flat-headed openings, apart from the third storey with its distinctive round windows. The base is extended on the rear (west) wall where ramps lead to cargo entries in the upper and lower levels.

#### iv. CONTEXT

The location of the Symes Road Incinerator is shown on the attached map (Image 1). The property is found on the southwest corner of Symes Road and Glen Scarlett Road where it is viewed from both streets. Situated in the neighbourhood northwest of St. Clair Avenue West and Weston Road, for most of the 20th century this area was dominated by the Union Stockyards (later the Ontario Stockyards) that attracted industrial uses (as illustrated in Images 23 and 24). Today, the Symes Road Incinerator is adjoined to the south, east and north by surviving industrial and commercial properties, with a more recent residential subdivision to the south and ravine lands further to the west.

### 3. EVALUATION CHECKLIST

The following evaluation applies Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the Ontario Heritage Act: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. While the criteria are prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, the City of Toronto uses it when assessing properties for inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties. The evaluation table is marked "N/A" if the criterion is "not applicable" to the property or X if it is applicable, with explanatory text below.

<b>Design or Physical Value</b>	
i. rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method	<b>X</b>
ii. displays high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	<b>X</b>
iii. demonstrates high degree of scientific or technical achievement	<b>N/A</b>

**Highly Crafted Representative Example of a Type and Style** – The Symes Road Incinerator is a well-crafted excellent representative example of a public works building designed with Art Deco features, which is particularly distinguished by its pyramidal massing, banding and linear decoration that are hallmarks of the style. It is part of a collection of civic architecture in the former City of Toronto with Art Deco styling that dates to the early 1930s and includes the landmark Horse Palace at Exhibition Place.

<b>Historical or Associative Value</b>	
i. direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community	<b>N/A</b>
ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	<b>N/A</b>
iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community	<b>X</b>

**Architect** - The Office of the City Architect designed the Symes Road Incinerator in a collaboration between Chief Architect J. J. Woolnough, his assistant and successor K. S. Gillies, and their chief designer, architect Stanley J. T. Fryer. During the early 1930s, this *team produced an impressive series of civic buildings that were characterized and distinguished by Art Deco styling and included the Symes Road Incinerator.*

<b>Contextual Value</b>	
i. important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area	<b>N/A</b>
ii. physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings	<b>X</b>
iii. landmark	<b>N/A</b>

**Surroundings** – Contextually, the property at 150 Symes Road is historically associated with its surroundings as a notable survivor from the industrial enclave anchored by the Ontario Stockyards that developed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century along St. Clair Avenue West, west of Weston Road in West Toronto.

#### 4. SUMMARY

Following research and evaluation according to Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 150 Symes Road has design, associative and contextual values. The Symes Road Incinerator (1933) is a well-crafted excellent representative example of a public works building with Art Deco styling that forms part of an important collection of civic architecture designed by the Office of the City Architect in the early 1930s. Contextually with its location on the southwest corner of Symes Road and Glen Scarlett Road, the property at 150 Symes Road is an important survivor from the former early 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial enclave adjoining St. Clair Avenue West, west of Weston Road in West Toronto.

#### 5. SOURCES

##### Archival Sources

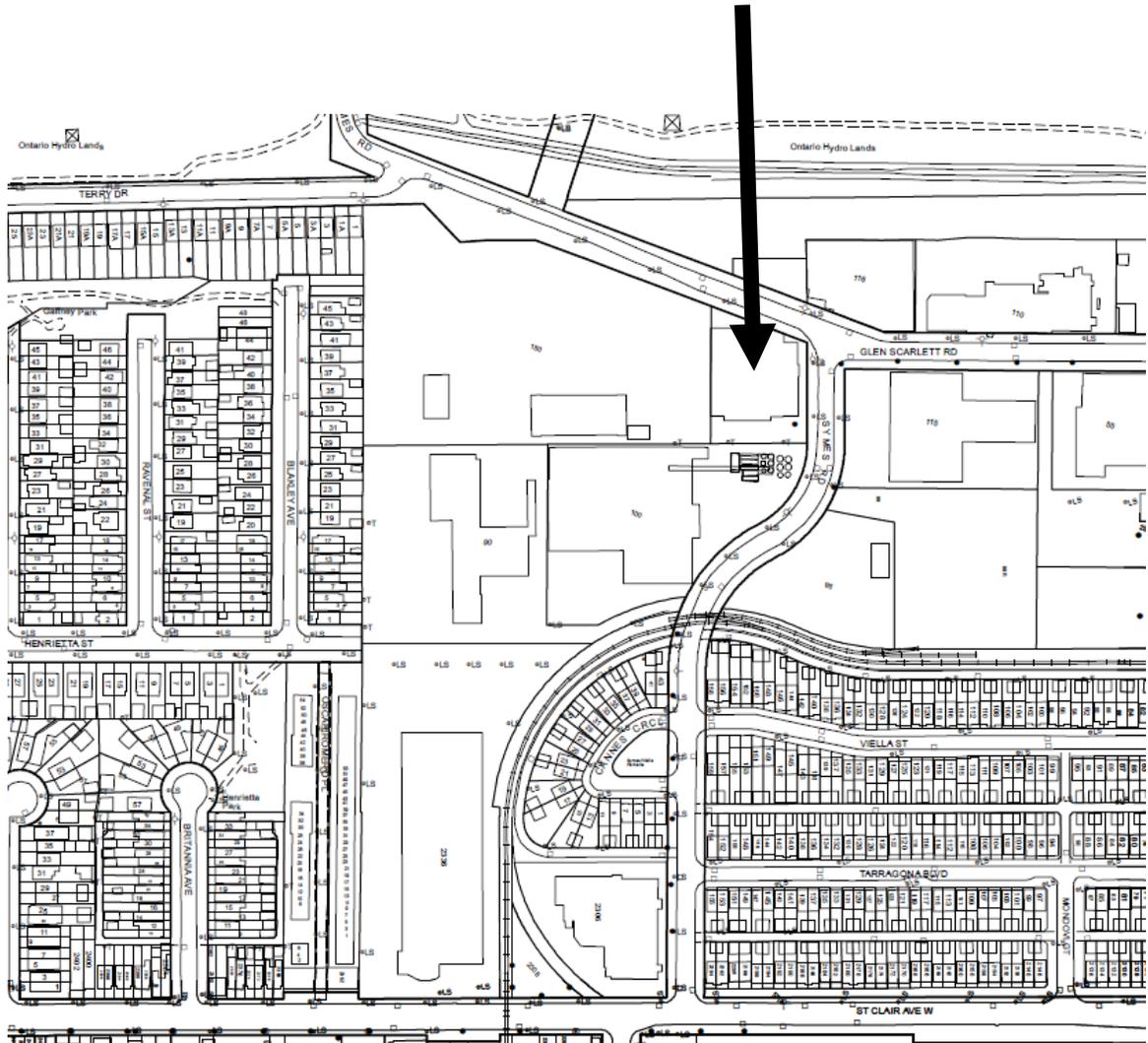
Abstract Indices of Deeds, Plans 1067, 1918, and 2707  
Aerial Map, City of Toronto, 1947  
Assessment Rolls, City of Toronto, Ward 7, Volume 1, 1932-34  
Building Permits #49773 (1932) and #54153 (1934), City of Toronto Archives  
Building Records, Toronto and East York, 1934-1988

City Council Minutes, 1931-34  
City of Toronto Directories, 1933 and 1934  
Goad's Atlases, 1880-1923  
Photographs, City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 200, Series 163 and 372 (see Section 6 for individual citations)  
Photograph, Horse Palace, CNE Archives, <http://www.cnearchives.com/v22.htm>  
Plans, Drawings and Files, Symes Road Incinerator, City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 200, Series 163, 372, 410, 544, 1188 and 1234  
Underwriters' Insurance Bureau Atlas, Volume 13, May 1962 revised to February 1963

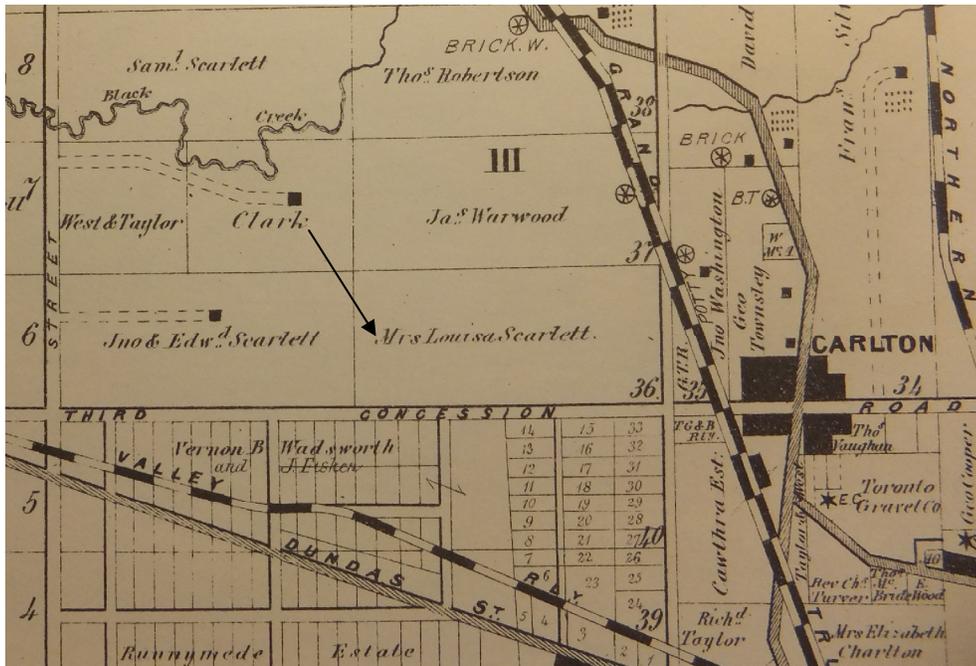
### Secondary Sources

Art in Architecture: Toronto Landmarks, 1920-1940, Department of the City Clerk, 1987  
Blumenson, John, Ontario Architecture, 1990  
Boylen, J. C., York Township, 1954  
Byers, Nancy, and Barbara Myrvold, St. Clair West in Pictures, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1999  
City of Toronto Architects, Vertical Files, City of Toronto Archives  
"An Infectious Idea: 125 years of public health in Toronto," City of Toronto Archives, <http://www.toronto.ca/archives/public-health/environmental.htm>  
"J. J. Woolnough," entry in The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950, <http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/architects/view/418>  
"Junction History," West Toronto Junction Historical Society, <http://wtjhs.ca/junction-history/>  
Kalman, Harold, A History of Canadian Architecture, Vol. 2, 1994  
"Kenneth Stevenson Gillies," entry in The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950, <http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/architects/view/1918>  
Maitland, Leslie, Jacqueline Hucker, and Shannon Ricketts, A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles, 1992  
McDonald, D. R., The Stockyard Story, 1985  
Miles, Joan, ed., West Toronto Junction Revisited, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 1992  
Morawetz, Tim, Art Deco Toronto, 2009  
"150 Symes Road," Build Toronto (February 2013), <http://www.buildtoronto.ca/sites/>  
"Operating and capacity tests of Toronto's new refuse destructor," Engineering and Contract Record (June 16, 1935), 537-8  
"Stanley Thomas John Fryer," entry in The Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada, 1800-1950, <http://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/architects/view/791>  
"Stock Yards and Packing Houses, in Toronto," <http://www.trainweb.org/oldtimetrains/stockyards/canadapackers2L.jpg>  
"Symes Road Municipal Incinerator," Contract Record (7 November 1934), 947-54, 956  
Toronto Above and Below: Public Works in Toronto 1910-1953, City of Toronto Archives, 1996

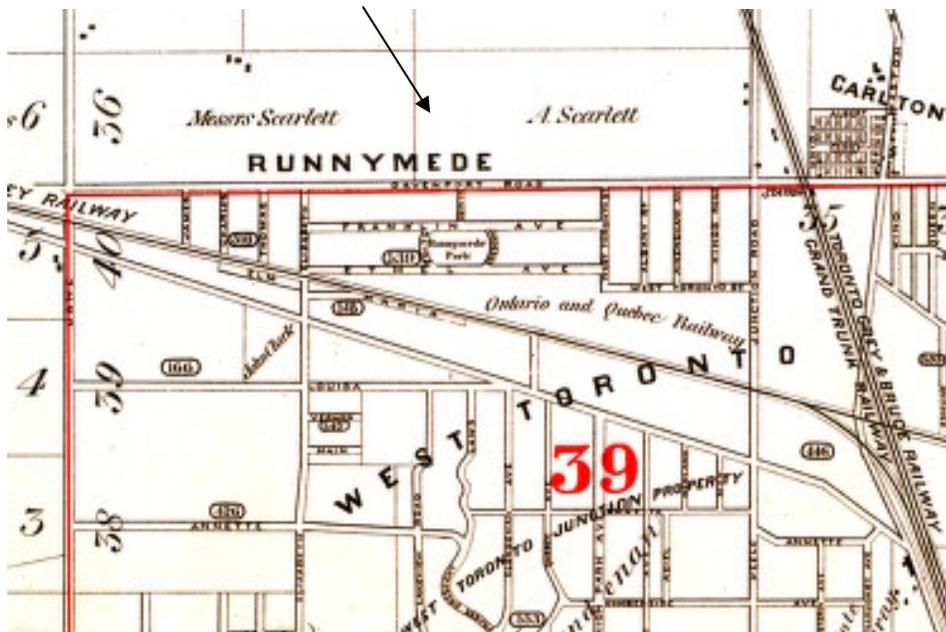
6. IMAGES – Maps and atlases are followed by archival images. **Arrows** mark the location of 150 Symes Road



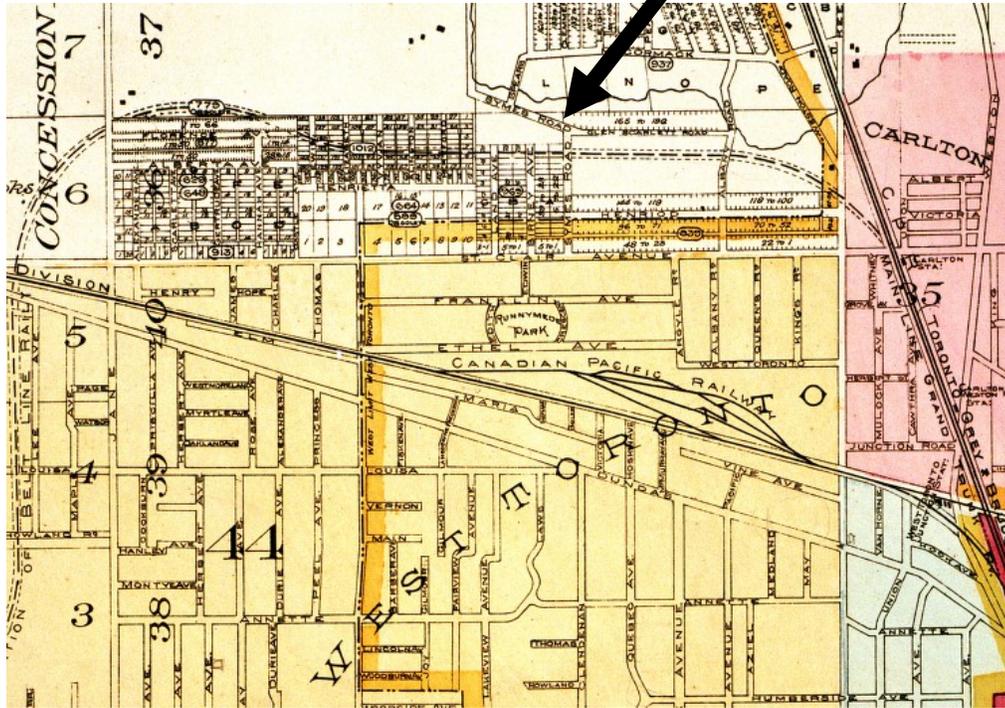
1. City of Toronto Property Data Map: showing the location of 150 Symes Road north of St. Clair Avenue West near the intersection of Symes Road with Glen Scarlett Road



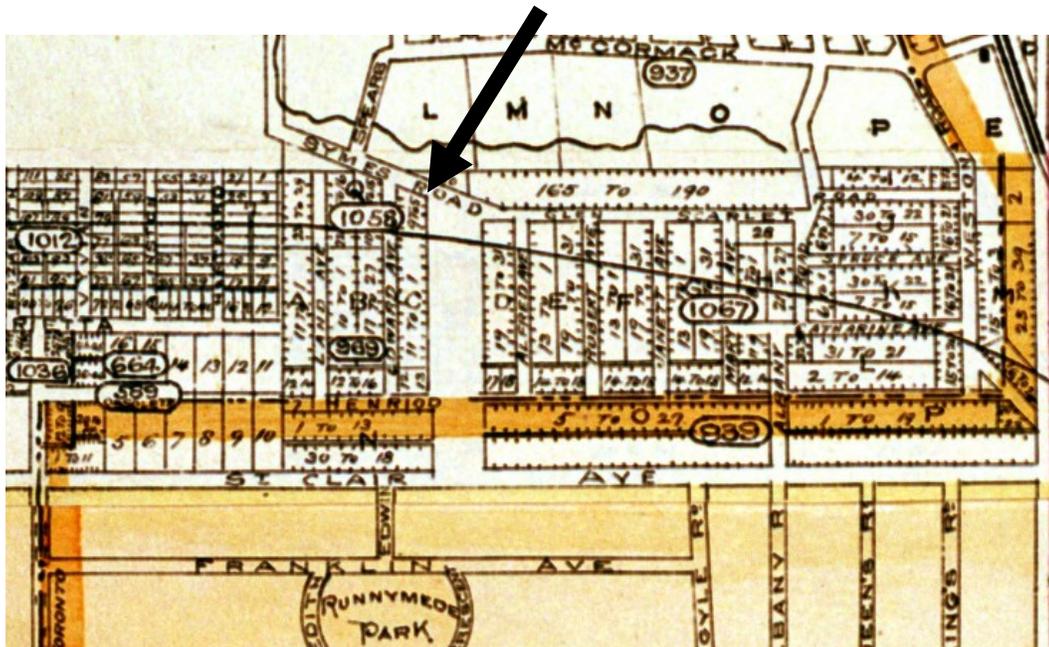
2. York County Atlas, 1878: showing the site when it was part of York Township (the north/south road on the left is Jane Street, with Keele Street to the right)



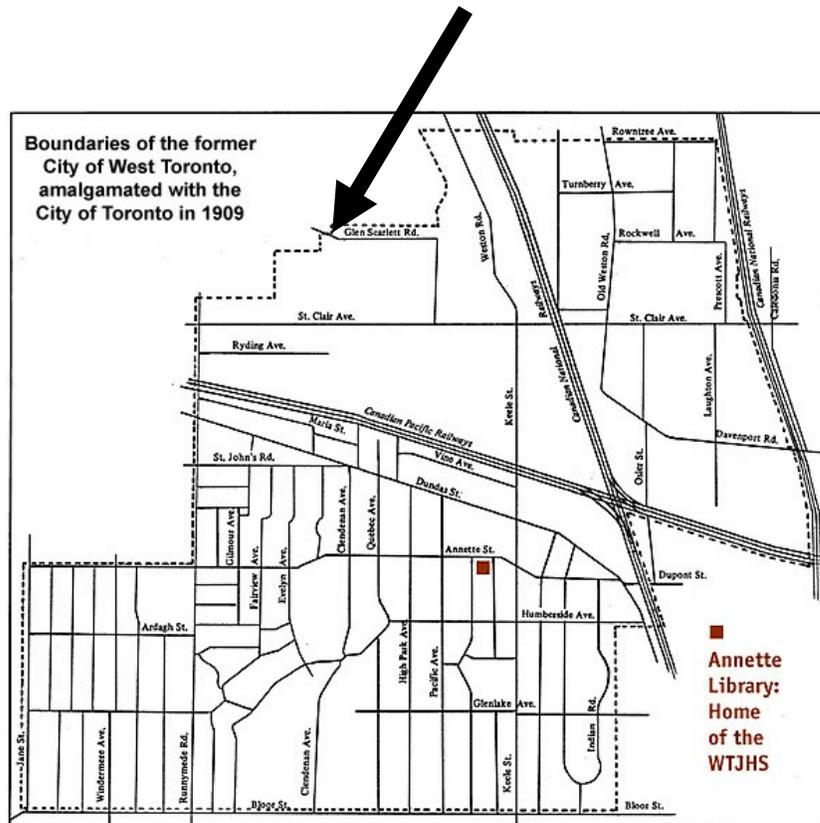
3. Goad's Atlas, 1884: showing the subject property in York Township and its context in relation to the neighbouring communities of West Toronto (south) and Carlton (east)



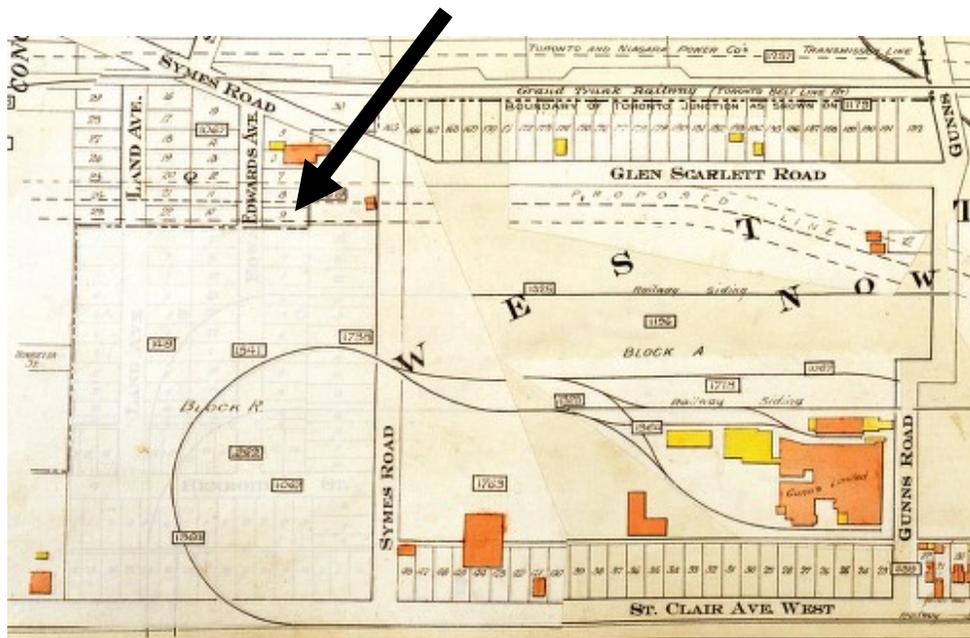
4. Goad's Atlas, 1890: showing the initial subdivision of the lands adjoining Symes Road and the inclusion of the north side of St. Clair Avenue West in West Toronto



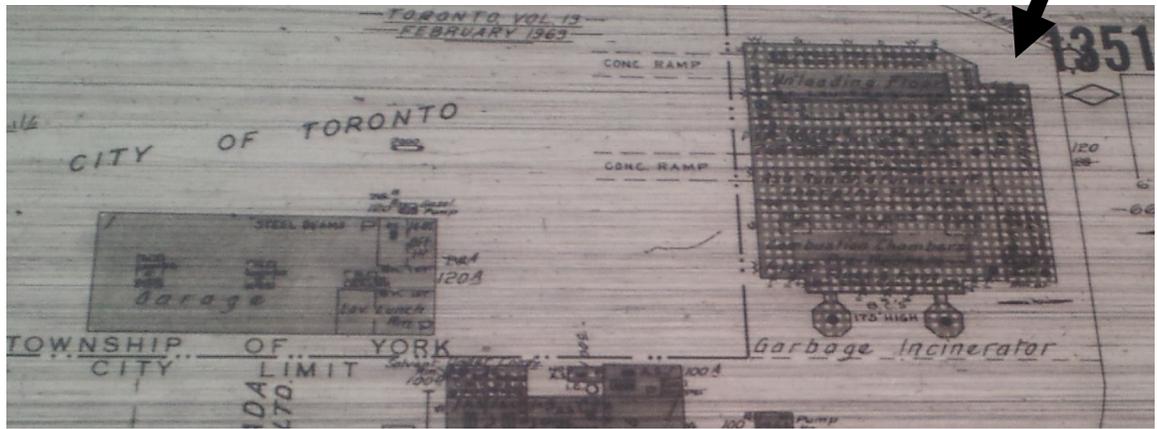
5. Goad's Atlas, 1894: showing the additional subdivision of the area, including the subject property at 150 Symes Road



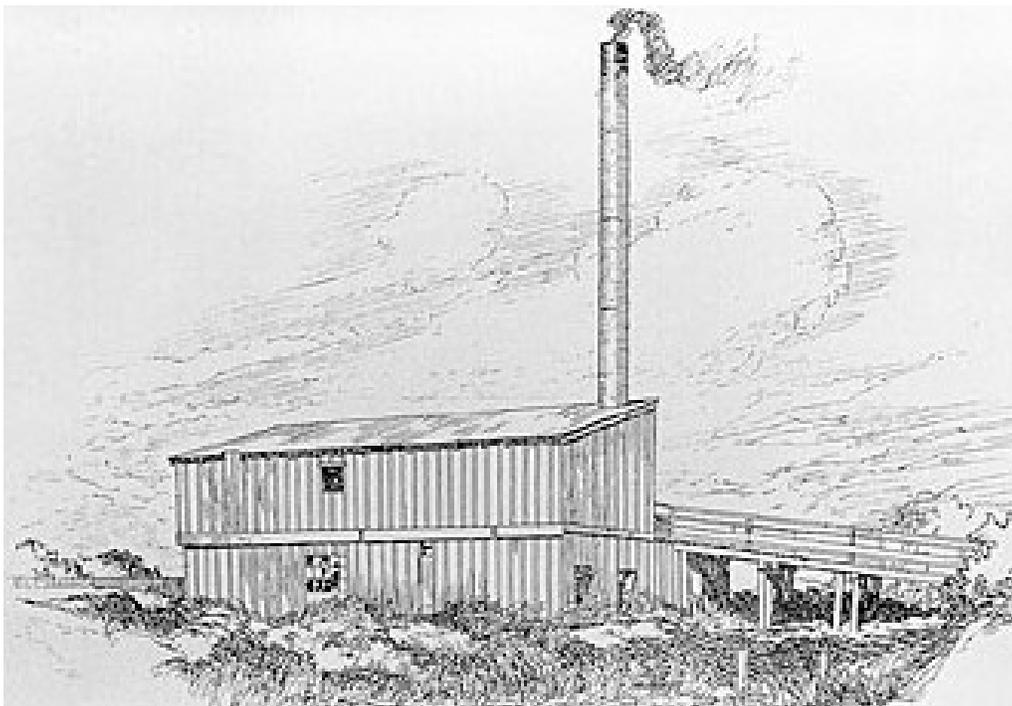
6. Map, West Toronto: showing the boundaries of the community in 1909 when it included part of the subject property (<http://wtjhs.ca/junction-history/>)



7. Goad's Atlas, 1910 revised to 1912: showing the development of part of the subject site when it was owned by a building materials supplier. Gunn's Limited, a meat packing firm, occupied a large tract to the southeast



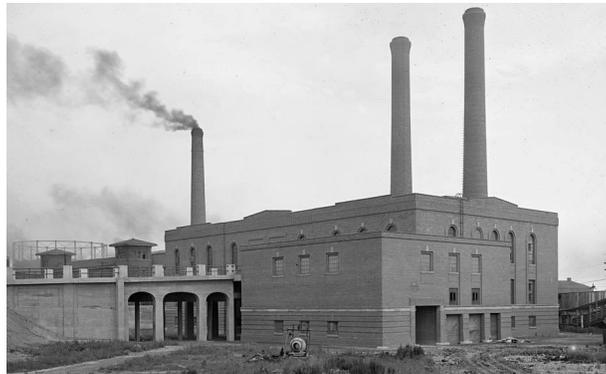
8. Underwriters' Insurance Bureau Atlas, Vol. 13, revised February 1969: showing the property with the incinerator and chimneys (right) and the garage to the west (left)



9. Archival Image, Refuse Crematory, c. 1890: the former City of Toronto's first garbage incinerator was located on Eastern Avenue near the Don River (City of Toronto Archives, Series 4, Item 2216)



10. Archival Photographs, Island Incinerator, 1916 (left) and Don Incinerator, 1917 (right): which were part of the group of early 20<sup>th</sup> century incinerators commissioned by the former City of Toronto and later demolished (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Items 96 and 129)



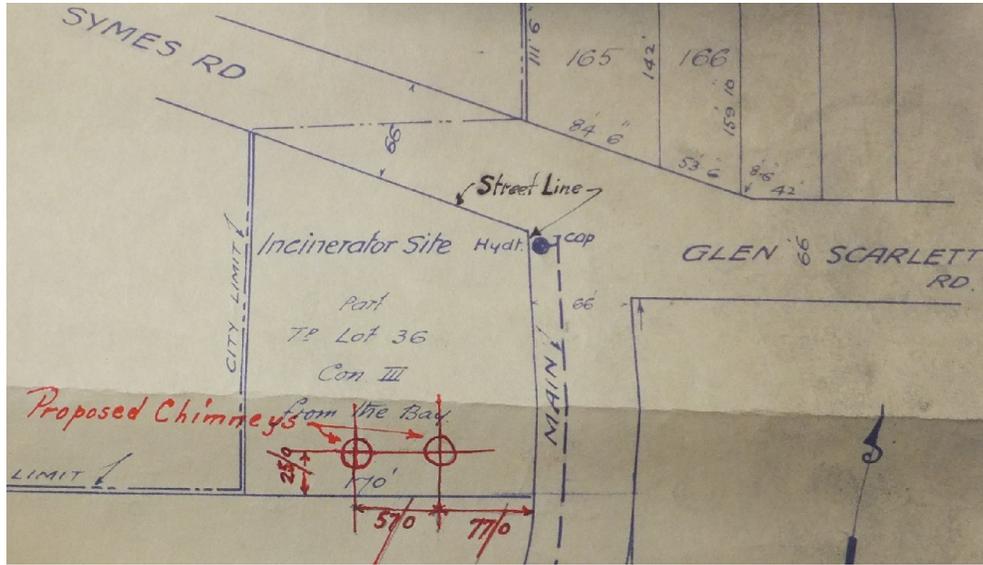
11. Archival Photographs, Wellington Incinerator, 1925 (above) and Commissioners Street Incinerator, 1953 (below): commissioned by the former City of Toronto in the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, the properties are recognized on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Items 184 and 728)



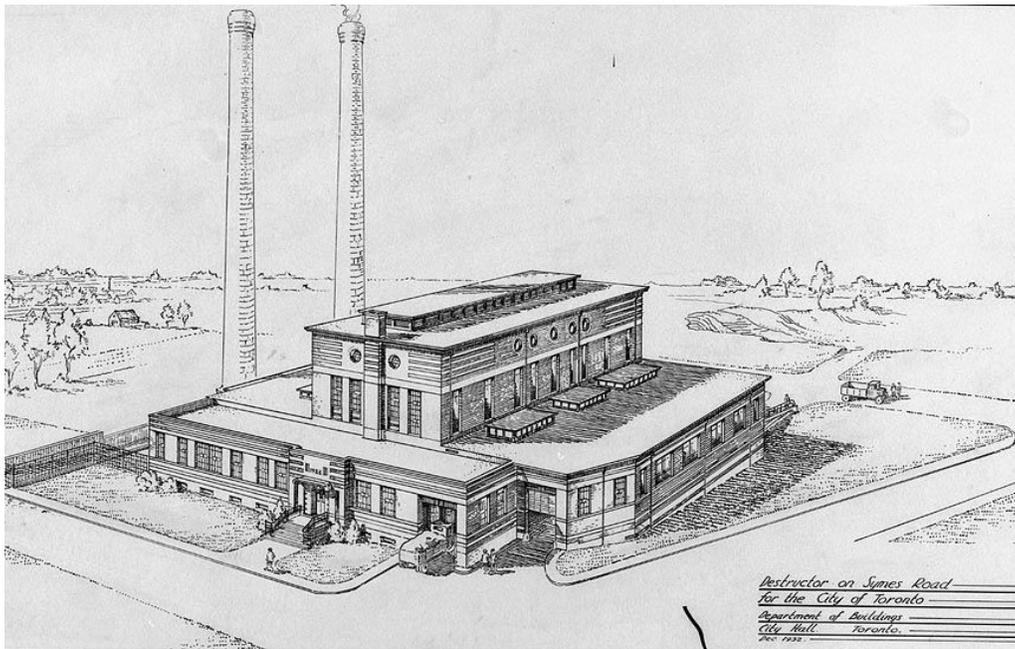
12. Archival Photograph, Horse Palace, Canadian National Exhibition, 1950s: an Art Deco landmark designed by the City Architect's office, the property is designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act (CNE archives, [http://www.cnearchives.com/images/v22\\_01](http://www.cnearchives.com/images/v22_01)



13. Archival Photographs, Fire Hall No. 12, Gerrard Street East, 1933 (above) and Police Station No.12, Yonge Street, 1933 (below): examples of public buildings designed in the Art Deco style by the City Architect's office in the early 1930s that are recognized on the City's heritage inventory (City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1231, Items 360 and 817)



14. Site Plan, Symes Road Incinerator, 1932: showing the location of the chimney stacks labeled in red (City of Toronto Archives, Series 410, File 344)



15. Archival Drawing, Symes Incinerator, December 1932: showing the east (left) and north (right) elevations on Symes Road as it curves northwest of Glen Scarlett Road (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Item 1194)



16. Archival Photograph, Symes Incinerator, December 1932: showing the two chimney stacks under construction (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Item 360)



17. Archival Photograph, Symes Incinerator, April 1933: showing the construction of the foundations for the incinerator (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Item 374)



18. Archival Photograph, Symes Incinerator, October 1933: showing the steel structure of the upper part of the incinerator under construction (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Item 423)



19. Archival Photograph, Symes Road Incinerator, August 1934: this image with the east and north elevations was reproduced in the June 1935 issue of Engineering Review and Contract Record (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Item 446)



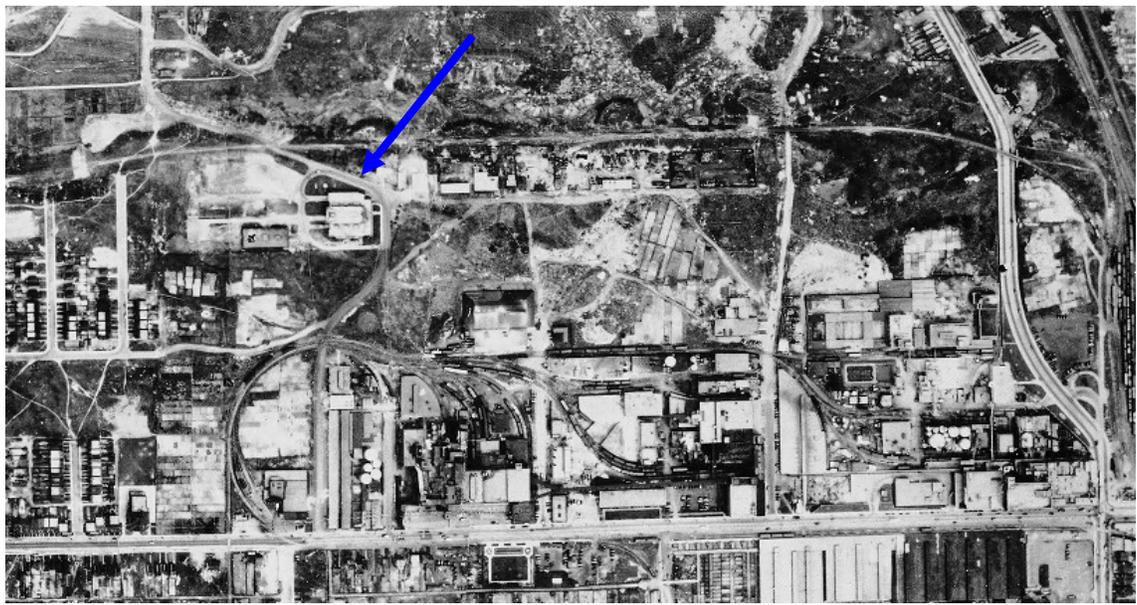
20. Archival Photographs, Symes Incinerator, August 1934: showing the principal (east) elevation and the adjoining chimney stacks (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Item 447)



21. Archival Photograph, Symes Incinerator, August 1934: showing the rear (west) elevation with the ramps to two levels (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Item 456)



22. Archival Photograph, Symes Incinerator, November 1934: showing the incinerator, chimneys and garage (right) in place (City of Toronto Archives, series 372, Item 464)



23. Aerial Photograph, 1947: showing the site with the adjoining industrial enclave (south and east) and residential housing to the west (City of Toronto Archives)



24. Archival Photograph, St. Clair Avenue West, c. 1960: showing the industrial area east of Symes Road (left) with part of the massive Ontario Stockyards in the lower right corner

<http://www.trainweb.org/oldtimetrains/stockyards/canadapackers2L.jpg>



25. Archival Photograph, Symes Incinerator, c. 1963: showing the south elevation and chimney stacks (later removed). By this time the effects of industrial pollution had concealed some of the distinctive banded detailing on the incinerator (City of Toronto Archives, Series 372, Item 742)



26. Current Photographs, Symes Incinerator, April 2013: showing the east, west, south and contextual views of the site (Heritage Preservation Services)