

Toronto Preservation Board
Committee Room 2
City Hall
Toronto, Ontario
Attention: Brad Bartlett

May 25, 2015

Subject: 33 Laird Drive

As the owners/occupiers of 33 Laird Drive for almost 50 years, we thank the city for providing the very interesting historical overview of our property. We offer the following as suggested corrections/additions for the report to provide a more complete historical record. The report we are referencing is this one:

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2015/pb/bgrd/backgroundfile-80201.pdf>

Page 2: Historical Chronology suggested additions

- 1967: Levitt United Limited, a real estate holding company acquires 33 Laird Drive from Sheridan Equipment. The building is used as the head office and distribution centre for Levitt-Safety Limited whose property at 747 Vaughan Road had been expropriated by the Toronto Catholic District School Board to provide additional land for St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. We believe that Sheridan Equipment moved to what is the current Strongco location at 1640 Enterprise Rd, Mississauga just west of the airport.
- 1970's: In order to accommodate the expanding needs of Levitt-Safety, steel clad additions are made to the property – initially the white high-cube warehouse addition at the back of the building and later the addition of a second floor of offices at the side.
- 1991: Levitt-Safety needs more space than is available at the Laird Drive premises and moves to a newly constructed head office and distribution centre in Oakville.
- 191-1995: Levitt United leases the premises to Darcy Sheady who establishes the Leaside Business Centre, which operates as a multi-tenant facility.
- 1995: Levitt-Safety moves its expanding Northern Light Technologies manufacturing operation from leased premises in North York back to 33 Laird Drive while continuing to lease out surplus space as the Leaside Business Centre

Page 2 and throughout: Canvarco Rd.

- Throughout the report, Canvarco Road has been misspelled as “Convarco” Road. Canvarco references the previous occupant of the property at 55 Laird on the north side of Canvarco – Canada Varnish Limited (C-V Paints).



Page 5: Strongco acquisition of Sheridan

- This acquisition was made almost 25 years after Sheridan Equipment had vacated the Laird property, so not sure the inclusion of this information is hugely relevant.
- If you would like a more detailed history of Levitt-Safety and Northern Lights Technologies, we would be happy to supply additional information.

Page 7: Second paragraph

- On the second line Laird Street should be Laird Drive
- The “smoother glazed brown tile” referenced mid-paragraph is not original. If I recall correctly the original tiles by the main entrance were green and they were replaced in the 1980’s or 1990’s due to damage and deterioration to the original tiles.

Page 8/9: Evaluation Checklist – Historical or Associative Value

- Inclusion in this section appears to be a bit of a stretch and if applicable to 33 Laird, presumably each and every industrial building in Leaside could be equally designated for many of the same reasons indicated. 33 Laird is one of many “industrial” buildings in Leaside. It’s certainly a stretch to link the building to the Iroquois or the early development of Leaside and it is far from being a pioneer industrial development – likely coming towards the tail end of the industrialisation of Leaside.
- Given the paucity of publicly available information about Margison and Babcock, it seems a stretch to think of them as being “significant to the community”, however assuming this is the case; then presumably the Heritage committee will also plan to designate the entire elevated section of the Gardiner Expressway, which surely is a more seminal work of theirs.

We look forward to learning of the results of your deliberations.

Best regards,

Bruce Levitt
President

