



## ***HERITAGE PRESERVATION SERVICES***

### **heritage property nomination form**

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RE: 180 Laird Drive

Return to: Heritage Preservation Services  
Policy and Research Section  
City Planning Division  
Toronto City Hall, 17<sup>th</sup> floor, East  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2  
(416) 338-1077, fax (416) 392-1973

1. Nominator:

Name of Nominator:

Geoff Kettel (for North York Community Preservation Panel)

Address of Nominator:

Phone: 416 425-8954

2. Reason for Nomination:

I am nominating this property/group of properties/area because:

1. Associative value: as the Town of Leaside's Bank; its association with the historical development of the municipality<sup>1</sup>
2. Contextual value: the development of Laird Drive as an industrial area (east side) and offices/residential (west side)
3. Design value: as a representative example of mid-20th

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpt from Town of Leaside Council minutes Nov. 4, 1963: "The CIBC opened its first bank (on Laird) in 1918 and its second (on Bayview) in 1937. They have been the Town's Bank for over 35 years (i.e. since 1928). They gave direct assistance to the Town in the 1930s. Of the Bank's 5,600 employees, 500 live in Leaside."

century Bank architecture (built 1940-41)

In addition, the future of the property is unclear as the Bank will be vacating the property and moving to 85 Laird Drive.

3. Location:

Address (street and number):

180 Laird Drive (Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC))

Area (boundaries): Corner of Laird Drive and McRae Drive

Ward: 26

Map: *Please attach an extract from a street map, marking the individual property, properties, street or area being nominated (attached)*

4. Classification (for each property):

Building Type: (i.e., house, church, store, warehouse, etc.)

Commercial/office (Bank)

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Other:

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Current Use: Bank

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5. Description (for each property):

Photograph: *Please attach 4x6" colour photographs showing (1) the street elevation and other applicable views for each property and (2) a group shot if the property is part of a group.*

Historical Name: Imperial Bank of Canada. The IBC branch at 180 Laird Drive absorbed the Canadian Bank of Commerce branch in 1962 to form the CIBC Branch from 1962

Date of Construction: 1940-41 (according to directories)

Architect/Builder/Contractor: Not known

Significant Persons/Events: Official Bank to the former Town of Leaside. Also the scene of a Boyd Gang bank holdup.

Original Use: Bank

Alterations:

6. Sources:

Please indicate whether you have consulted the following sources; please attach research information and full references (*list of archives/libraries attached*):

Land Records (Land Registry Office)  Assessment Rolls  
 City Directories  Goad's Fire Insurance Maps  
 Building Permits  historical photographs  
 secondary sources (*book list attached*)  
*Jane Pitfield "Leaside", Dundurn Press, 1999*  
 other:

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7. Comments:

I am not the owner of the property or properties, but I have contacted the owner(s) and the response was as follows:

The Bank Manager was under the impression that the Bank is already designated heritage!

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I have contacted the ward councillor about this nomination, and his/her response was as follows:

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I have contacted my local historical society and its response was as following:

The East York Historical Society is in support

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The Leaside Property Owners' Association passed a resolution in

support of listing and/or designation at its meeting on March 7 2012

date: March 18 2012 signature: Geoff Kettel

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## Attachment

### History of the CIBC on Laird (Leaside)

"Oct 1918 the **Imperial Bank of Canada** opened its first branch -- which was on McRae Drive west of Laird Drive

Dec 1918 The Imperial Bank of Canada reopened a branch at Laird and McRae in the former Town of Leaside Bank. This opening in March 1928 is recognized as the initiation date of the branch

Aug. 31 1962 The **Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce** (CIBC) absorbed the business of 188 Laird Drive (**Canadian Bank of Commerce**) and in 1965 was redesignated at Laird and McRae."

Source: Jane Pitfield, Leaside, page\_97

### **Two versions of the origin of Laird Drive**

1. Per Jane Pitfield, *Leaside*, pages 148-149

Laird Drive

Named after Robert Laird Border, Prime Minister of Canada and friend of Sir William Mackenzie

Airdrie Road:

Named after John Aird, President of the Bank of Commerce, the Canadian Northern banker and supporter of the "model town" of Leaside

2. Per Mike Filey, *Eglinton's Medieval Roots*, Toronto Sun, March 17 2012

"When the Town of Leaside was incorporated in 1913, it quickly became necessary to provide housing for workers and their families that were employed by the numerous new industries that had selected factory sites in Leaside primarily because of the proximity to the tracks of the Canadian Northern (later Canadian National) and Canadian Pacific Railways. The York

Land Company began the search for building funds and approached the Canadian Bank of Commerce. When the bank's general manager gave his approval the town honoured Alexander Laird by attaching his surname to one of the new community's main streets."

Staff Use Only:

Type of Nomination:

individual inclusion on *City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties*

group inclusion on *Inventory*

designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

recognition as part of area

plaque

date received:

action: