

**RESEARCH AND EVALUATION SUMMARY: 55 SUDBURY STREET**

Principal (north) façade of the former Diamond Glass Company office building  
(*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)

**HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY**

<b>Key Date</b>	<b>Historical Event</b>
1793	The property is part of a vast area of land set aside as a protective boundary around Fort York referred to as the Military Reserve and also known as Garrison Common
1834	The Town of York is incorporated as the City of Toronto and its western boundary extended as far as Dufferin Street including the subject property
1850	The Provincial Lunatic Asylum designed by John Howard is opened to the north-east of the property
1850s	The Ontario Simcoe and Huron Railway line is constructed along the southern edge of the property (currently the Metrolinx rail corridor)
1884	Goad's Atlas indicates a brick building has been built on the site
1894	Goad's Atlas indicates the extension of Armour Street and the demolition of the above brick building
1894	The Toronto Glass Works is located on the property on the south side of Blair Street to the east of Abell Street
1899	The Toronto Glass Works is purchased by the Diamond Glass Company and three building permits including one for a one-story brick office building are issued
1902-3	The Diamond Glass Company changes its name to the Diamond Flint Glass Company
1913	The Dominion Glass Company is the new name for the Diamond Flint Glass Company following further company acquisitions
1971	The Dominion Glass Company is renamed DomGlas and becomes a subsidiary of Consolidated-Bathurst
2014	Consolidated-Bathurst is currently controlled by Power Corporation 55 Sudbury Street was sold to a new owner.

The location of the property at 55 Sudbury Street<sup>1</sup> is shown on the property data map below where it sits on the prominent south-west corner of the junction with Dovercourt Road. *(Image 1)* 55 Sudbury Street is located on property that was originally part of the military reserve, known as Garrison Common which surrounded Fort York and extended from the western boundary Side Line Road (Dufferin Street) to the eastern edge marked by George Street at the Town of York and from the lakeshore to Lot Street (Queen Street). *(Image 2)* By 1834 with the incorporation of the Town of York as the City of Toronto the city boundaries extended westward to Dufferin Street including the military reserve which was gradually being redeveloped. The introduction of railways in the 1850s resulted in numerous lines (originally the Ontario Simcoe and Huron Railway, then the Northern Railway, Grand Trunk and Credit Valley railways and now part of the Metrolinx rail corridor) cutting across the southern border of the property making it an ideal location for industrial development. While industries lined the edges of the tracks, the rest of what had been the western portion of the military reserve was largely occupied for institutional use and this included the Central Prison and Mercer Reformatory south of King Street and the Provincial Lunatic Asylum to the east on the south side of Queen Street and Trinity College on the north side of Queen. The south-west corner of the asylum was kitty-corner to the future location of 55 Sudbury Street. *(Image 3)*

The development of the property and its early history as the location of a glass works factory is tied in with the development of the streets in the neighbourhood. In 1884 Charles E. Goad's *Atlas of the City of Toronto and Suburbs* indicates a long brick building located on and to the west of the current property known as 55 Sudbury. *(Image 4)* Dovercourt Road has not yet been extended south of Queen Street and Sudbury Street exists only as a "proposed extension of King Street." By 1890 the east-west portion of Sudbury Street, then known as Blair Street, has been constructed. By 1894 Armour Street has been constructed extending from King Street on an angle parallel with the railway tracks. *(Image 5)* By 1899 Armour Street meets Blair which is renamed Armour and the brick building has been demolished. The site of the future 55 Sudbury Street projects as a prominent corner at the junction of Blair and Armour. *(Image 6)* The site is now identified as the Toronto Glass Works but no buildings are indicated on the property until Goad's 1913 edition when Armour Street has been re-named Sudbury. *(Images 7 and 8)* The 1913 edition indicates the building now known as 55 Sudbury Street has been constructed on the site. Numerous other buildings including a brick building to the west and several frame buildings (identified with yellow) are also indicated on the glass works site.

As early as 1894 the company known as the Toronto Glass Works was located on the south side of Blair Street at the corner with Abell Street.<sup>2</sup> In 1899 the Toronto Glass Works was purchased by a Montreal-based company known as the Diamond Glass Company. In that year the company applied for three consecutive building permits.<sup>3</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> Please Note: from 1965 to c 1990 the address for this property was 2 Dovercourt Road.

<sup>2</sup> City of Toronto Directory, 1895, p 1306

<sup>3</sup> City of Toronto Building Permits, 1899, no. 128, 129, 130.

first, No. 128, was to construct a "one-story brick office and basement" and this was likely 55 Sudbury Street in its first iteration. The other permits were to erect a one-story addition to the factory on the south side of Amour Street near Dovercourt (No. 129) and to erect a one-story storage shed (No.130). Although Goads indicates the site as vacant it is evident from building permits, city directories and assessment rolls that a factory was existing on the site and the new office building for the company was most likely constructed as early as 1899-1900.

Little is known of the Toronto Glass Works prior to its purchase and amalgamation in the Diamond Glass Company. The Diamond Glass Company was originally Foster Glass Works owned by the Foster brothers George, Henry and Charles who emigrated from the United States before 1857. In 1878 the company was purchased by the Yuile brothers, David and William, and operated under a series of names until 1891 when it became the Diamond Glass Company. Based in Montreal they purchased glass manufacturing companies from Nova Scotia to Manitoba including the Toronto Glass Works in 1899. The company was subsequently renamed in 1902-3 as Diamond Flint Glass Company and then in 1913, with further acquisitions including an Alberta company, the Dominion Glass Company. The company manufactured electrical insulators as well as various bottles, tumblers, lamp chimneys and containers and was located on the site at Sudbury Street until 1970. In 1965 Dominion Glass expanded its factories in Toronto by constructing a plastics factory in Etobicoke. During this decade it was reported to be the biggest glass manufacturing company in Canada.<sup>4</sup> It has also been credited with producing some of the finest glass especially before automation when glass products were still blown. In recognition of this achievement the company established the Dominion Glass Centennial Research Foundation. Products by the company have become collectors' items and are featured in the Royal Ontario Museum's collection. Since 1971 the company which was subsequently known as DomGlass has been a subsidiary of Consolidated-Bathurst, which was subsequently controlled by Power Corporation.

The building at 55 Sudbury Street originally served as the offices for the glass works which were separate from the factory, storage sheds and other structures on the property. Two of the factory structures are still located at 99 Sudbury Street. (Image 9) The office building has a simple rectangular form, with chamfered corners at the ends of the main façade on the south side of Sudbury Street, a raised stone-clad basement and the upper two stories clad in reddish-orange brick. (Image 10) The 1899 permit indicated the office building was to be one storey with a basement. It is evident from looking at the building that it was initially one storey with a raised stone basement and then later extended to the west and to the rear towards the south as well as acquiring the upper storey. The north elevation facing Sudbury Street has a vertical seam in the brick work immediately adjacent to the doorway with different coloured brick on the western half indicating it was built later. (Image 11)<sup>5</sup> On the eastern half of the north wall the brickwork approximately 7 courses above the dentil course between the first and second

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<sup>4</sup> Toronto Daily Star, 19 September 1964, p 38.

<sup>5</sup> To date no subsequent building permits for the extensions to this structure have been located.

floor is also a different colour and the details of the windows, especially the window headers are also different between the upper and lower floors indicating the upper storey was also likely constructed at a different time. (Image 12) On the east face of the building a similar seam exists between the first three bays to the north and that to the south suggesting again a later rear extension. The extension was indicated on the 1924 Goad's map confirming that it may have been completed between 1913 and 1924. (Image 13)

Although there were several additions over an extended time period the building is a remarkably unified whole in concept and detail. The main façade facing north on to Sudbury Street has a clear symmetrical composition with a central door and a single window above, flanked to either side by a pair of windows at the upper stories a single window centred below them in the raised basement. The chamfered corners complete the sense of unity. The east and west facades are similarly ordered with single windows aligned from basement to upper floor with this pattern being broken only at the rear addition. (Images 14 and 15) The rear south façade is more random and perhaps responsive to function in its disposition of windows and doors. (Image 16)

The details are typical of the end of the Victorian style as symmetry and more classical elements characteristic of Edward VII's reign are present. The doorway with its fanlight and bevelled brick and stone arch surround terminating in stone impost blocks with a Greek key motif is an example of the lingering Victorian tastes as they give way to Edwardian classicism of the new century. (Image 11 as above) The rusticated stone basement and windows with rusticated stone sills and unusual stone lintels spanning across the meeting sash with arched headed windows are a nod to the Victorian past while the projecting voussoirs in the lintels, the dainty brick dentil courses at both levels signal the classical aspirations. (Image 17) The colour of the brick, a reddish-orange tone rather than the darker red typical of Georgian architecture is characteristic of that favoured by influential Victorian architects such as Richard Norman Shaw. Beyond stylistic affiliations a high level of craftsmanship is evident in the various elements such as, for example, the refined elegance of the curved window heads with the precisely made and laid bricks in the curved lintels. (Image 18) From composition to detail the care with which the office portion of the factory complex may indicate some of the ambition with which the Diamond Glass Company embarked on their new business in Toronto in 1899.

The building is situated on the southern edge of the Queen Street West neighbourhood. The jog in Sudbury Street at the junction with Dovercourt has given the building greater prominence and heightened visibility making it an important landmark. It is surrounded by modern low-rise town houses to the east and mid and high-rise condominiums to the northwest along Sudbury and Lisgar Streets. (Image 19) To the west are the remaining glass factory buildings now at 99 Sudbury Street. Up Dovercourt Road are narrow row houses also dating from c1900 where glass workers lived. (Image 20) These row houses and the 55 Sudbury Street building provide a tangible connection for the neighbourhood to its origins of approximately 120 years ago where the proximity to the railway lines generated the creation of factories, bringing employment and spurring the development of adjacent housing contributing to the economic and social growth of the City. 55 Sudbury

Street remains an important witness to this chapter in Toronto's history. It is a finely crafted late Victorian building whose quality of form and detail contributes to the built form of the neighbourhood.

EVALUATION: Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed by the Province of Ontario for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

<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>

The former Diamond Glass Company office building at 55 Sudbury Street is valued as a fine representative and well-crafted example of a late nineteenth century factory complex office building designed in the late Victorian style in Toronto. The elements of the style are evident in the use of reddish-orange brick cladding, the combination of rough hewn stone elements and classical details rendered in brick and ashlar, the symmetrical composition of the main façade with chamfered corners, the principal entrance with its bevelled arches with alternating brick and stone voussoirs, the pairs of curved headed windows, and details including stone imposts, stone lintels and sills, projecting brick voussoirs and dentil courses.

<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>X</b>
ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	<b>X</b>
iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community	<b>N/A</b>

The former Diamond Glass Company office building at 55 Sudbury Street has historic value as it is associated with the history of the Toronto manufacturing businesses that sprang up adjacent to the railways following their arrival in Toronto from 1850 onwards and then generated economic wealth and employment opportunity for the City, spurring the development of neighbourhoods adjacent to the factories where workers lived. Glass manufacturing existed on the site as early as 1894 and continued until 1970. In 1913 the company was incorporated into the Dominion Glass Company Ltd., which was to become Canada's biggest producer of glass, and subsequently as DomGlas in 1971 a part of Consolidated Bathurst which is now a subsidiary of the Power Corporation. The company is credited with contributing to Canadian decorative arts and its products are featured in public collections such as the Royal Ontario Museum. The building at 55 Sudbury Street is one of the few remaining late nineteenth century office buildings in the neighbourhood which provides a physical link to this important social, cultural and economic aspect of Toronto's and Canada's history.

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

Contextually, the property at 55 Sudbury Street maintains and supports the historical character of this portion of Queen Street West. It has evolved from being identified as the Garrison Reserve in 1793 through to a remnant of land between the railway and the asylum to a glass works factory site providing employment adjacent to a late 19<sup>th</sup> century residential neighbourhood. It's prominent corner location as well its two-and-a-half storey scale and fine Victorian brick and stone detailing visually link it to the neighbourhood's earlier history which stands in telling contrast to the surrounding townhouses and mid to high-rise towers making it an important local landmark.

### SUMMARY

Following research and evaluation according to Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 55 Sudbury Street has design, associative and contextual values. The Diamond Glass Company office building is valued as an important representative and well-crafted example of a factory office building designed in the late Victorian style. It is valued for its historical association with the manufacturing sector which developed adjacent to the railway lines introduced to the City in the 1850's and which provided employment and spurred the economic and social development of this portion of the City. The building is important as one of the few remaining structures from the Diamond Glass Company manufacturing site. Contextually the office building maintains and supports the historic character of the area where it remains visually and historically linked to its surroundings. Surrounded by late 20th century townhouses and more recent high-rise towers the history as well as the quality of the design and detail of 55 Sudbury Street is valued for its contribution to the neighbourhood. Its prominent location at the junction of Dovercourt Road and Sudbury Street contributes to its quality as a unique local landmark.

### SOURCES

Assessment Rolls, Ward 6, Division 2. (City of Toronto Archives)  
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[http://www.archivescanada.ca/english/search/ItemDisplay.asp?sessionKey=999999999\\_142&l=0&lvl=1&v=0&coll=0&itm=260355&rt=1&bill=1](http://www.archivescanada.ca/english/search/ItemDisplay.asp?sessionKey=999999999_142&l=0&lvl=1&v=0&coll=0&itm=260355&rt=1&bill=1) accessed 10 July 2014.  
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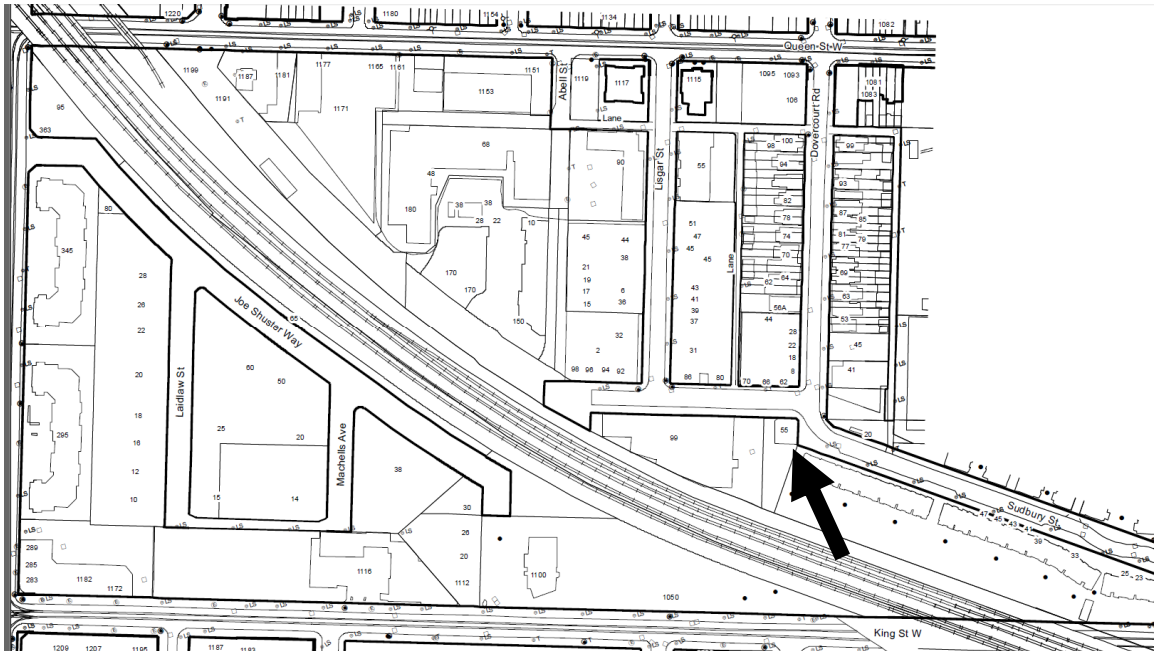
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The Toronto Daily Star, 19 September 1964, p 38, 4 February 1965, p 11.

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## IMAGES

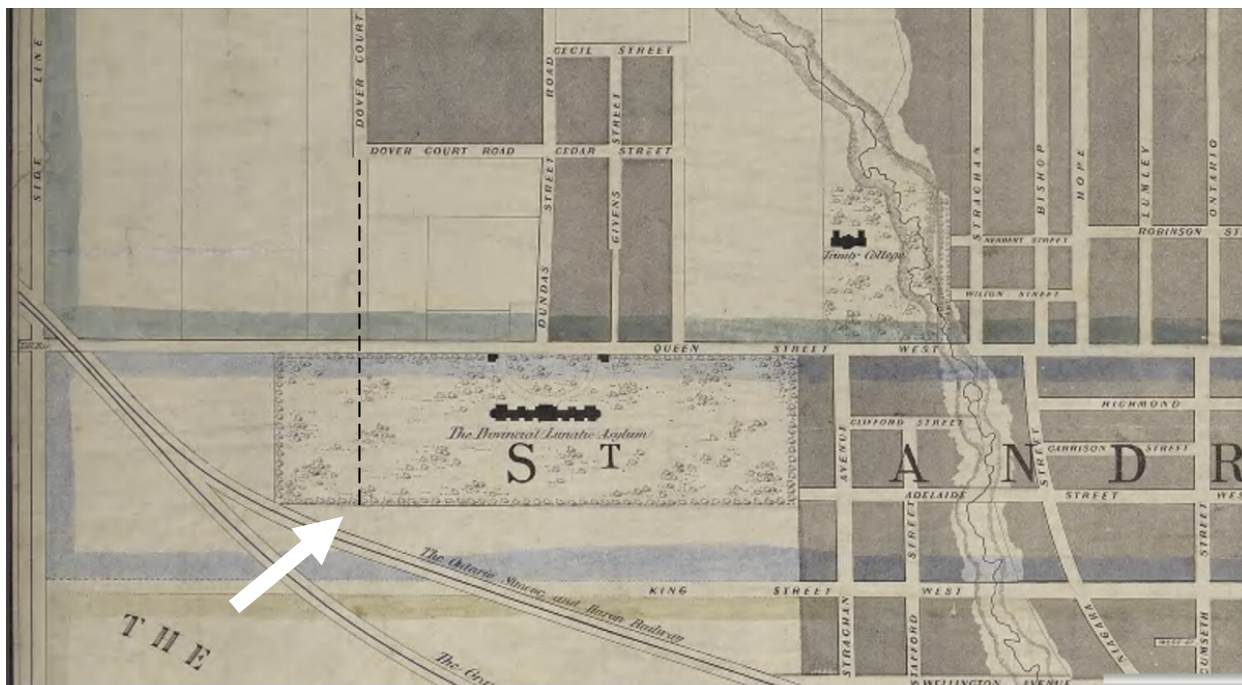


1. City of Toronto Property Data Map: showing the location of the property at 55 Sudbury Street.

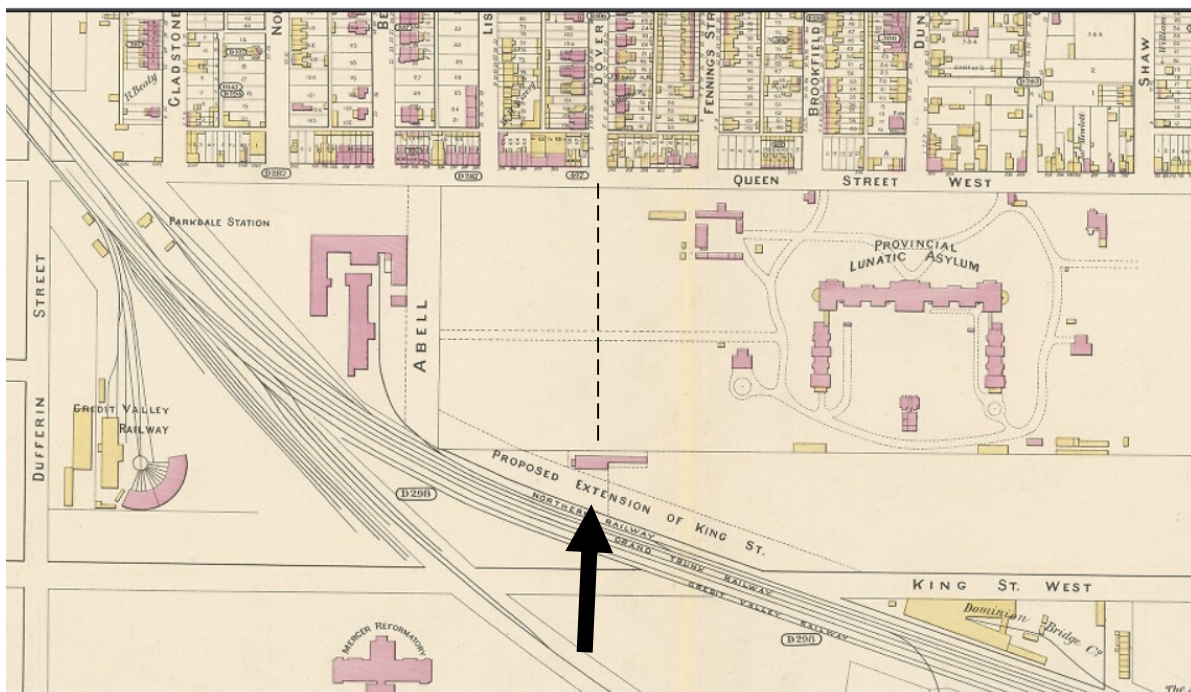


2. 1818 Plan of York, showing the approximate location of 55 Sudbury Street. The concession road running east west is Lot (Queen Street) and the border on the left marks "the boundary of the Military Reserve" which became Side Line Road (Dufferin Street). (*City of Toronto Archives*)



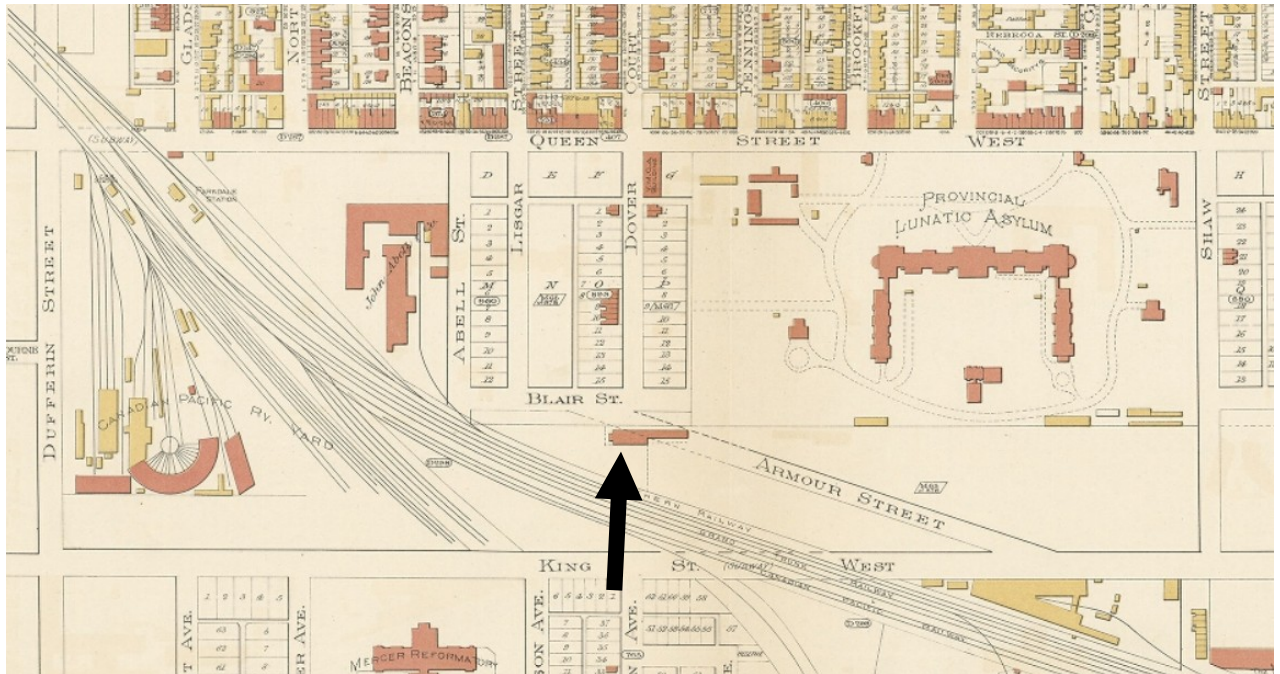


3. Fleming Ridout and Schreiber, *Plan of the City of Toronto* (detail), 1857: showing the location of the property with Dovercourt Road's future extension shown in the dotted line. (City of Toronto Archives)

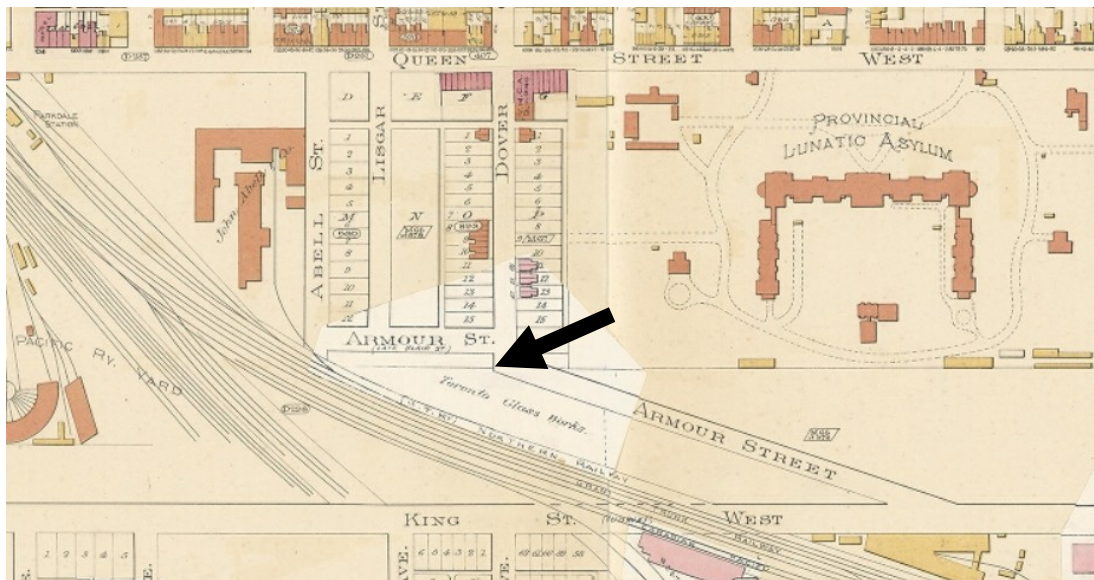


4. Goad, Charles E. *Atlas of the City of Toronto and Suburbs*, (detail) 1884: showing the property occupied by a brick building (red colour) with the future extension of Dovercourt Road shown in dotted line. (City of Toronto Archives)



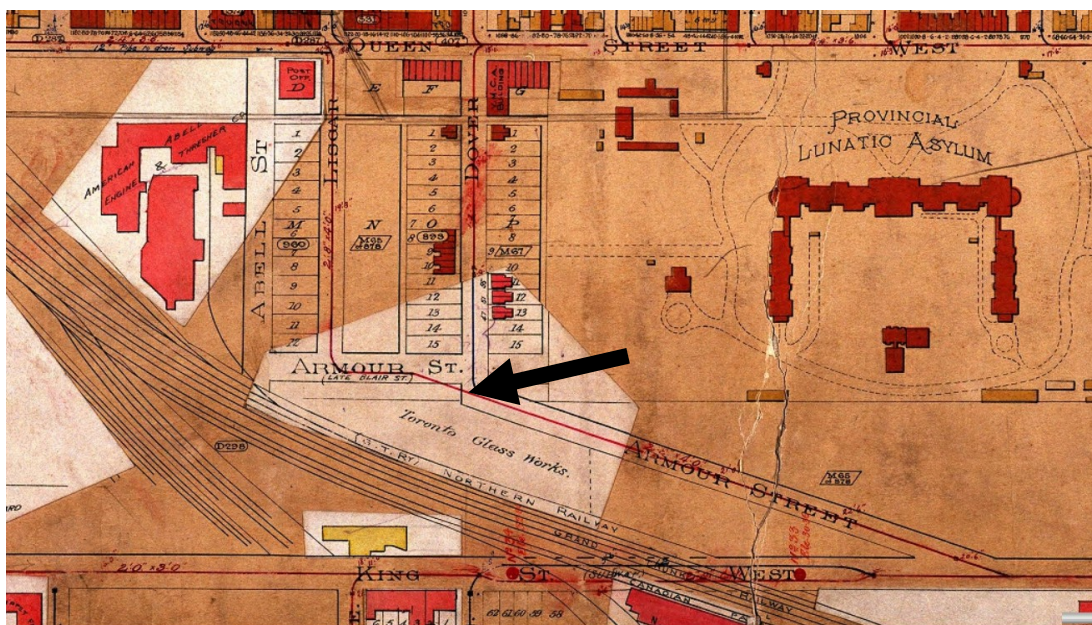


5. Goad, Charles E. *Atlas of the City of Toronto and Suburbs*, (detail) 1894,:  
 showing the property occupied by the brick building. Note the extension of  
 Dovercourt Road, the new Blair Street and Armour Street. (City of Toronto Archives)

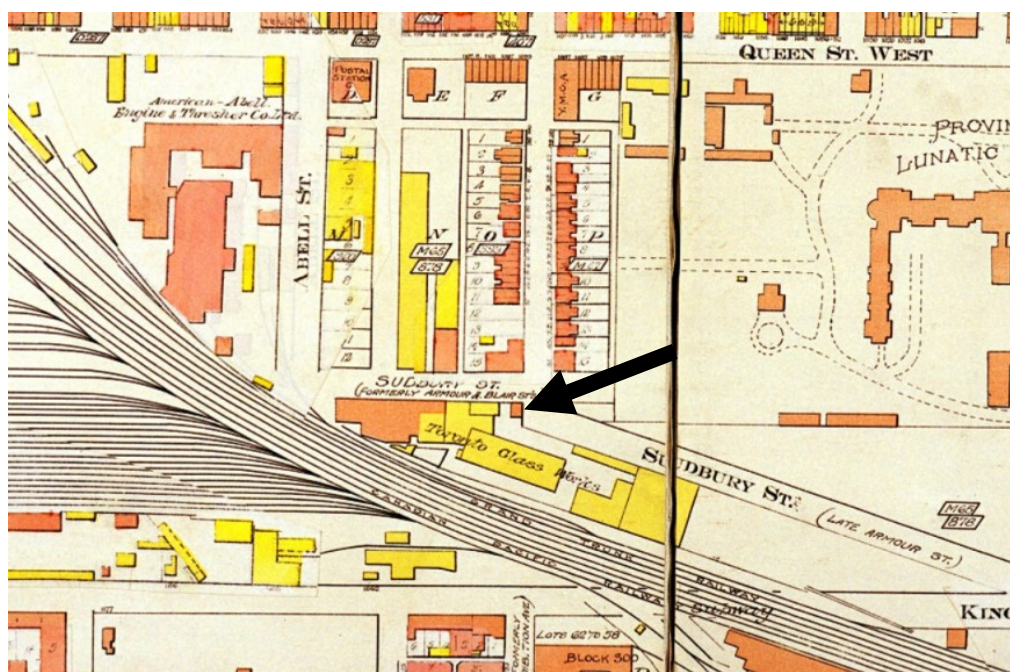


6. Goad, Charles E. *Atlas of the City of Toronto and Suburbs*, (detail) 1899,:  
 showing the identification of the property as the Toronto Glass Works, the  
 removal of the brick building and the extension of Armour Street (now Sudbury  
 St.) (City of Toronto Archives)





7. Goad, Charles E. *Atlas of the City of Toronto and Suburbs*, (detail) 1903,: Apart from the inclusion of streetcar tracks on Armour Street no buildings have been illustrated on the Toronto Glass Works property. (City of Toronto Archives)



8. Goad, Charles E. *Atlas of the City of Toronto and Suburbs*, (detail) 1913,: showing multiple buildings on the site still labeled as Toronto Glass Works but now owned by Dominion Glass; these include 55 Sudbury St (marked by the arrow) as well as the brick factory to the west and the various wooden sheds (indicated in yellow). Armour Street has been renamed Sudbury Street. (City of Toronto Archives)





9. 99 Sudbury Street, Glass Factory: one of the original wood factory buildings with brick cladding on the north façade and two storey brick building as likely identified on Goad's 1913 edition (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)



10. 55 Sudbury Street: North Façade: showing the different coloured brick to the right (west) of the main door and 6 courses above the dentil string course above the first storey indicating later additions (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)



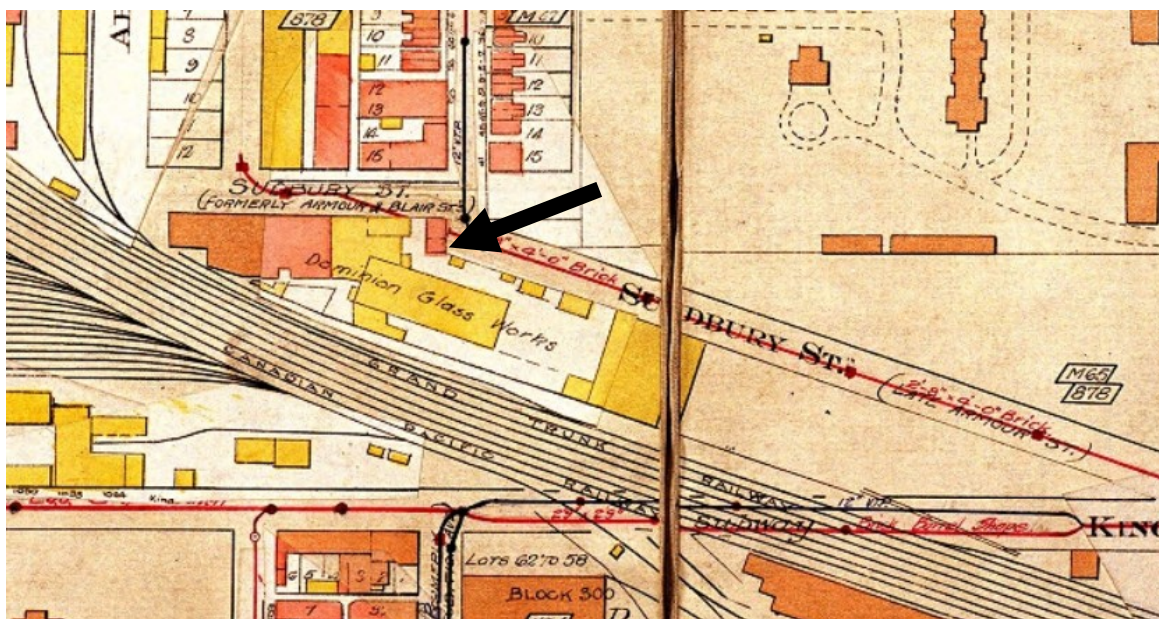


11. 55 Sudbury Street: North Façade (detail): showing the seam in the façade where the two different coloured bricks meet to the right (west) of the main door indicating a later addition (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)



12. 55 Sudbury Street: North Façade (detail): showing the change in brick colour 7 courses above the dentil course indicating a later addition second storey addition (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)





13. Goad, Charles E. *Atlas of the City of Toronto and Suburbs*, (detail) 1924,: showing the property has been re-named Dominion Glass Works and the building known as 55 Sudbury Street has had a brick extension on the south side. (*City of Toronto Archives*)



14. 55 Sudbury Street, East Façade: showing the showing the seam in the façade where the two different coloured bricks meet indicating a later addition as well as the disposition of the windows in single rows. The blocked-up window combines details from various other windows. (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)





15. 55 Sudbury Street, North and West Façade: showing the showing the rows of single windows on the west elevation (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)



16. 55 Sudbury Street, North and West Façade: showing the showing the more disparate arrangement of door and windows on the south elevation (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)



17. 55 Sudbury Street, Chamfered Corner and Corner Window: showing the showing the curved headed windows with the projecting brick keystone and voussoirs in the arches, the rough hewn stone sill, unusual stone lintel at the meeting sash and the brick dentil course (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)



18. 55 Sudbury Street, Second Level Window, North Façade and Ground Floor Window, West Façade: showing the showing the second level windows with curved heads but no projecting keystones or voussoirs or stone lintel (on the left) and the finely crafted voussoirs in the brick window arch on the side elevation windows (on the right)





19. Context of 55 Sudbury Street: showing 99 Sudbury Street as marked by the arrow and recent high-rise towers (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)



20. Context of 55 Sudbury Street: showing late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century houses on Dovercourt Road with new high-rise towers and at the end of the street 55 Sudbury at the right and new low-rise townhouses with gable dormers on the left (*Heritage Preservation Services, June 2014*)