

Historical Development of the Bathurst-Bloor Four Corners Study Area

28	Capn A. Shaw	Joshua Cozens	1
27	Capn S. Smith	John Playter	1
26	Capn Shank	John Avon	1
25	Capn Shank	A. Skinner	1
24	Capn Shank	Geo-Playter	2
23	Capn Shank		
22	Capn Shank		
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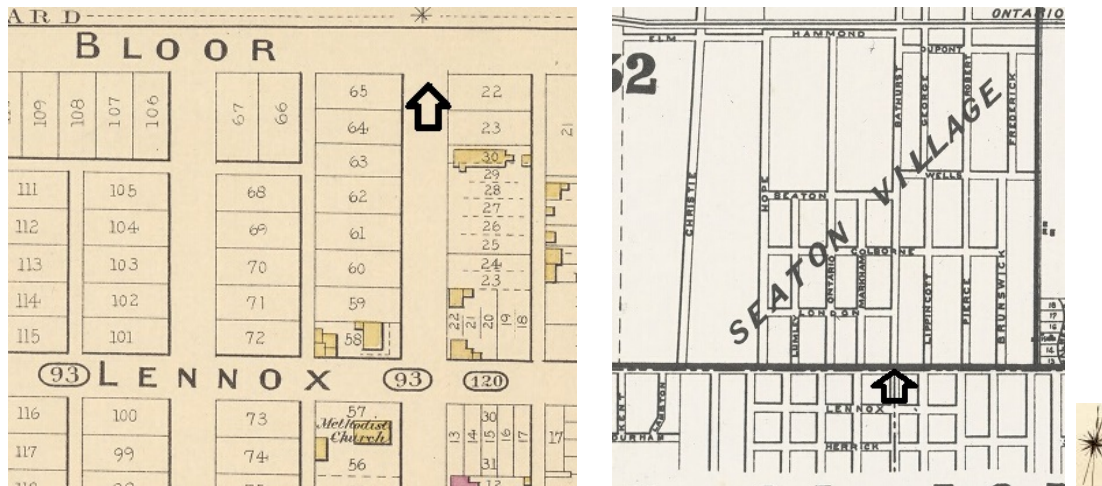
Lumsden, *The Estates of Old Toronto*, 1997, 10: south of Bloor Street West, the **arrow** marks Bathurst Street, the dividing line between Park Lots 18 and 19

After Toronto was founded as the Town of York, the land north of the townsite between present-day Queen and Bloor Streets was parceled into 100-acre "Park Lots" that were awarded to members and associates of the provincial government for country estates. North of Bloor, 200-acre farm lots were subdivided on either side of Yonge Street, which was surveyed in 1796 as a military road to the northern hinterland



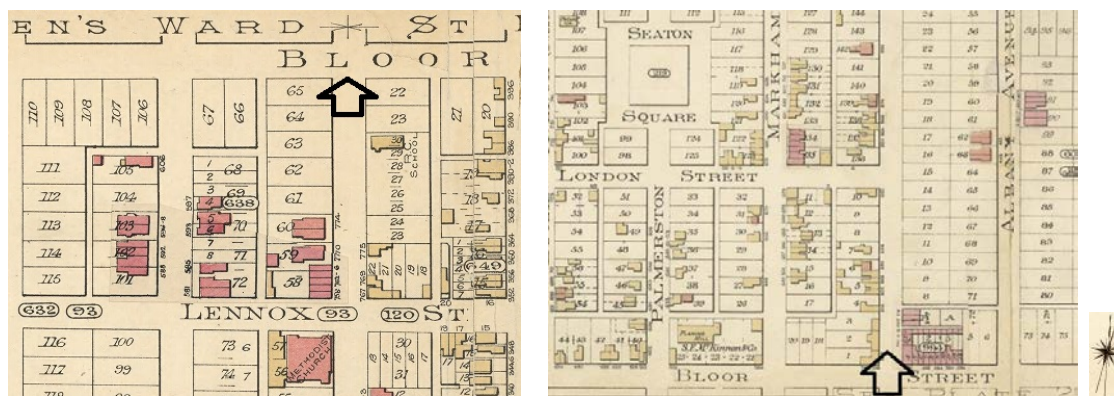
Tremaine, 1860 (left) and York County Atlas, 1878 (right)  
The **arrow** marks the Bathurst-Bloor intersection

Present-day Bathurst Street originated as "Crookshank's Lane," the road to the estate developed by George Crookshank on the park lots and farm land near Bathurst-Bloor. Crookshank sold the lands northwest of this intersection in the 1850s where, a decade later Seaton Village was laid out as a residential subdivision and developed afterward as an unincorporated area adjoining the north boundary of the City of Toronto.



*Goad's Atlas, 1884, south (left) and north (right) of Bathurst-Bloor*  
 The **arrow** marks the Bathurst-Bloor intersection in the above and following maps

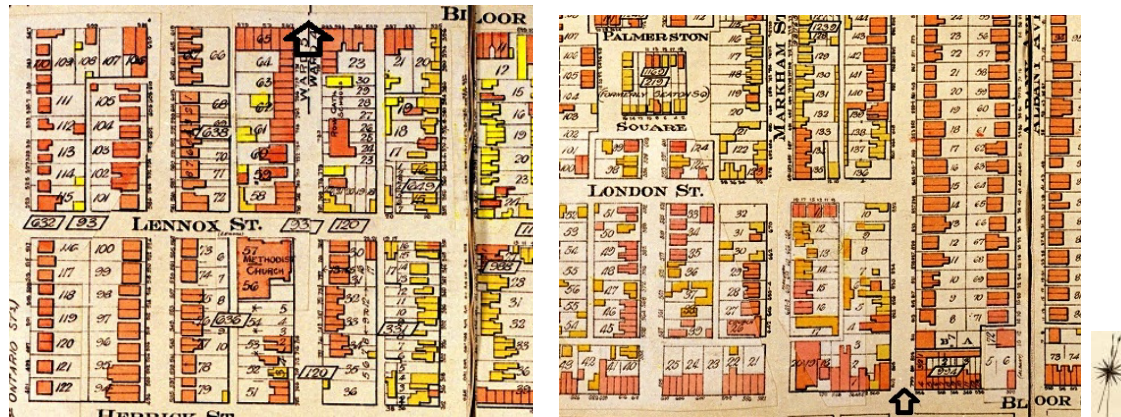
The former park lots southeast and southwest of the Bathurst-Bloor intersection were also subdivided during the late 19th century when the opening of residential neighbourhoods was traced on Goad's Atlases (fire insurance maps). The 1884 Atlas (above left) was the first to illustrate this part of the city where little development had occurred south of the intersection (although Bathurst Methodist Church was in place to serve new congregants), and to the northeast (above right) Seaton Village was soon to be annexed by the City of Toronto in 1888.



*Goad's Atlas, 1894, south (left) and north (right) of Bathurst-Bloor*

By the mid 1890s, the first houses were in place on Markham Street in the developing Palmerston neighbourhood southwest of the Bathurst-Bloor intersection (above left), while Seaton Village (above right) continued to develop following its annexation by the City. Few commercial buildings were in place to serve these residential districts, with the row at 738-746 Bathurst at the northwest corner of Lennox Street among the first.





*God's Atlas, 1910 revised to 1912, south (left) & north (right) of Bathurst-Bloor  
The **arrow** marks the Bathurst-Bloor intersection*

By the World War I era in Bathurst-Bloor, most of the vacant lots remaining on the residential streets in Palmerston (southwest) and Harbord Village (southeast) had been infilled with new houses with classically-inspired designs that distinguished them from their late 19th-century neighbours. The (West) Annex neighbourhood northeast of the Bathurst-Bloor crossroads boasted more substantial residential buildings where the lack of laneways (and stables) reflected the introduction of public transit to the area. Commercial buildings lined both sides of Bloor Street West, as well as sections of Bathurst Street. On Bathurst south of Bloor (above left), the first St. Peter's Church was in place on the east side of the street.



*St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church (1924) on the west side of Bathurst Street, north of Bloor Street (above left), and the commercial building (above right) at 585 Bloor Street West anchoring the southwest corner of Markham Street in the Palmerston neighbourhood  
(City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1266, Items 9639 and 2963)*

Between the wars, the demographics of the neighbourhoods adjoining Bathurst-Bloor shifted with the arrival of new immigrants from places other than the British Isles. Reflecting the growing population, a new St. Peter's Church (above left) was completed northwest of the intersection in the 1920s, while Postal Station E opened on Bloor Street, west of Bathurst during the same decade.



*The evolution of Honest Ed's: house form buildings at the southeast corner of Bloor and Markham in the 1950s (Batten, The Honest Ed Story, 1972, above left), cladding and signage at Bloor and Markham in the 1960s (Chuckman's Postcards, above right), and readograph sign in the 1970s (below, CTA, Fonds 1257, Item 465)*

After World War II, Toronto entrepreneur Edwin "Honest Ed" Mirvish opened his discount store in the former houses at the southeast corner of Bloor and Markham Streets (above left), which he concealed with uniform cladding and iconic signage (above right and above centre). By the close of the 20th century, Mirvish had extended his retail complex eastward along Bloor to Bathurst and opened Mirvish Village in the former houses on Markham Street (below).



*Markham Street, east side, 1962, looking south from Bloor (left) and north from Lennox (right) before the opening of Mirvish Village (CTA, Series 84, File 353)*





*Mirvish Village, showing the east side in the 1960s (above left, Chuckman's Post Cards), both sides from Lennox Street in the 1970s (above right, CTA, Series 1465, Item 6), the west side from Bloor Street West in 1982 (below left, CTA, Series 1465, Item 4) and the east side near Bloor in 1982 (below right, CTA, Series 1465, Item 8)*

Beginning in the late 1950s, Mirvish assembled all of the house form buildings on the east side of Markham Street between Bloor and Lennox Streets with the intention of replacing them with a parking lot for "Honest Ed's" until the City refused the proposal.



*Mirvish Village as "Markham Street Art Colony", 1960s, and Edwin "Honest Ed" Mirvish on Markham Street, 1978 (Toronto Star)*

In the early 1960s, Mirvish opened the "Markham Street Art Colony" (Mirvish Village) as a unique artists' enclave with restaurants, crafts and antique shops, and artists' studios, acquired additional houses on the west side of the street (excluding 586 Markham), and reserved buildings for his wife Anne Macklin Mirvish's sculpting studio and his son David's art gallery and book store.



*Aerial view of the Bathurst-Bloor intersection with the adjoining residential neighbourhoods the institutional buildings on Bathurst, the commercial buildings on Bathurst and Bloor, and Mirvish Village on Markham Street between Lennox and Bloor (<http://www.bing.com/maps>)  
The **arrow** marks the Bathurst-Bloor intersection*



*Fourplex at 588-594 Markham Street (above left); Wrigley Brothers' Grocery Store at 585 Bloor Street West (above right); St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church at 840 Bathurst Street (below)  
(Heritage Preservation Services, May 2015)*

Today, Bathurst-Bloor remains an important intersection in Toronto, which is adjoined by residential, commercial and institutional buildings that have cultural heritage value for their designs, historical associations and contextual importance.