

55 Sudbury Street - Notice of Intention to Designate a Property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

Date: June 18, 2026

To: Planning and Housing Committee

From: Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning

Wards: 9 - Davenport

SUMMARY

This report recommends that City Council state its intention to designate the property at 55 Sudbury Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value according to the Statement of Significance and description of heritage attributes found in Attachment 1.

The subject property is located in the Little Portugal neighbourhood at the southernmost tip of Ward 9. The property at 55 Sudbury Street is located at the junction of Sudbury Street and Dovercourt Road, along the north side of the main railway corridor through Toronto. A location map and current photograph of the heritage property are found in Attachment 2.

The property at 55 Sudbury Street comprises the former Diamond (later Dominion) Glass Company office building, constructed in 1899-1900. The two-storey building is Romanesque Revival style with Italianate influences and is finished in red brick and rough-dressed stone. The building features a distinctive main entrance arch and Italianate-style window hoods.

The property at 55 Sudbury Street was listed on the City's Heritage Register on August 28, 2014.

Staff have determined that the property at 55 Sudbury Street has cultural heritage value and meets five of the Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. A property may be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, if it meets two or more of the nine criteria.

Designation enables City Council to review proposed alterations or demolitions to the properties and enforce heritage property standards and maintenance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning recommends that:

1. City Council state its intention to designate the property at 55 Sudbury Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act in accordance with the Statement of Significance for 55 Sudbury Street (Reasons for Designation) attached as Attachment 1, to the report, June 18, 2026, from the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning.
2. If there are no objections to the designation, 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.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations included in this report in the current budget year or in future years.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the information as presented in the Financial Impact Section.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council listed the property at 55 Sudbury Street on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register on August 28, 2014. <http://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2014.TE34.40>

POLICY AND REGULATION CONSIDERATIONS

Provincial Plans and Policies

The conservation of cultural heritage resources is an integral component of good planning, contributing to a sense of place, economic prosperity, and healthy and equitable communities. Heritage conservation in Ontario is identified as a provincial interest under the Planning Act. <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90p13>

Further, the policies and definitions of the Provincial Planning Statement (2024) identify the Ontario Heritage Act as the primary legislation through which heritage evaluation and heritage conservation will be implemented. <https://www.ontario.ca/files/2024-08/mmah-provincial-planning-statement-en-2024-08-19.pdf>

Ontario Regulation 9/06 sets out the criteria for evaluating properties to be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. The criteria are based on an evaluation of design/physical value, historical and associative value and contextual value. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Act if it meets two or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/060009>

Official Plan

The City of Toronto's Official Plan implements the provincial policy regime and provides policies to guide decision making within the City. It contains a number of policies related to properties on the City's Heritage Register and properties adjacent to them, as well as the protection of areas of archaeological potential. The Official Plan should be read as a whole to understand its comprehensive and integrative intent as a policy framework for priority setting and decision making. The Official Plan can be found here:

<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/planning-development/official-plan-guidelines/official-plan/>

COMMENTS

Evaluation Analysis

The following evaluation analysis is based on the comprehensive research conducted on the property at 55 Sudbury Street (see Attachment 3) and provides the rationale for the recommendations found in this report.

The property at 55 Sudbury Street meets the following five of nine criteria:

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method

Stylistically, the building valued is for its combination of largely Romanesque Revival architecture, which was contemporary with the era, alongside earlier Italianate style influences. Romanesque Revival-style features include the main entrance arch with multiple receding reveals and contrasting masonry finishes of light stone with darker brick, as well as the rough-dressed stone finishes, bands of brickwork dentils and deeply inset segmental-arch windows. The distinctive window hoods, executed in shaped brick, are stylistic holdovers of the earlier Italianate style.

The building at 55 Sudbury Street was first constructed in 1899-1900 as a one-storey office building with basement. From the slightly differentiated brick colour and seams, it is evident that at least four subsequent expansion campaigns occurred to produce the building that currently exists. Despite numerous extensions and additions, and the differentiation in the shade of brickwork, the building is remarkably unified with similar detailing serving to tie the design together. Finishes uniting the composition include a rough dressed stone foundation and window sill detailing, segmental window openings,

ornamented window heads, bands of dentil brickwork, and a simple sheet-metal cornice.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community

Built in 1899-1900, the former Diamond (later Dominion) Glass Company office building at 55 Sudbury Street is valued its contribution to the activity of manufacturing in Toronto. 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. The company manufactured electrical, telegraph and telephone insulators as well as various bottles, tumblers, lamp chimneys and containers. By the 1960s it was reported to be the biggest glass manufacturing company in Canada. It has also been credited with producing some of the finest glass, especially before automation when glass products were still blown. The company is further credited with contributing to Canadian decorative arts and its products are featured in public collections such as the Royal Ontario Museum. The property at 55 Sudbury Street contains one of the few remaining historical factory-complex buildings in the area, and provides a physical link to the important social, cultural and economic aspects of manufacturing history in the area and the broader city.

The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture

By the mid-1880s, manufacturing industries dominated the lands on both sides of the railway corridor in the vicinity of 55 Sudbury Street. To the west was the John Abell Company factory (later American- Abell Engine & Thrasher Co.); and to the north was the Standard Soap Company, in addition to other Glass Company buildings. To the east was the Dominion Bridge Company factory (later Northey Manufacturing Company, engine manufacturers) and beyond that was the massive Massey-Harris Company factory, makers of farm implements, established in the area since 1879. The industrial and manufacturing buildings historically comprising the swath of land lining the railway corridor defined the industrial character of the vicinity into the early 2000s but have subsequently been redeveloped. Accordingly, 55 Sudbury Street is a rare surviving component of the area's industrial heritage. It is the last known building in the vicinity north of the railway corridor between Dufferin and Massey streets to yield information about this former industrial history of the area, including the socio-economic history.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings

The extant physical and historical link of proximity to the city's main railway corridor continues to tie the property to its context. The building is situated on the southern edge of the Queen Street West neighbourhood and adjacent to (north of) the main railway corridor running through Toronto. The locational relationship was integral to operations with a rail spur entering the site from the rail corridor. The railway brought raw materials to the site and transported finished products across the Dominion.

The property has contextual value because it is a landmark

The jog in Sudbury Street at the junction with Dovercourt Road provides the building prominence and heightened visibility. This locational prominence combined with its historic architecture amidst so much new development makes it stand out as a distinctive local landmark.

Prescribed Event Status

As of July 1, 2021, Section 29(1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act restricts City Council's ability to give notice of its intention to designate a property under the Act to within 90 days of a "Prescribed Event".

A Prescribed Event is a point of time when the application for an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and/or Draft Plan of Subdivision Application has been deemed complete and the City Clerk provides notice of that complete application to the public in accordance with the Planning Act. The Prescribed Event is not the date a development application is deemed complete or when an application is made to the City. A Prescribed Event, including any prescribed exceptions, are defined under O. Reg 385/21.

If a new or subsequent Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and/or Draft Plan of Subdivision Application is submitted on the same property, the Prescribed Event date is reset to the new date the City Clerk issues notice to the public of the new or subsequent complete application.

As of January 1, 2023, should a property be subject to an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and/or Draft Plan of Subdivision Application that would trigger a Prescribed Event, the property must be listed in the heritage register prior to the Prescribed Event occurring to designate a property under Section 29(1.2)1 of the Ontario Heritage Act. This requirement does not apply to a Prescribed Event that has occurred prior to January 1, 2023.

CONCLUSION

Staff have determined that 55 Sudbury Street meets five out of nine criteria in Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. As such, the property merits designation and staff recommend that Council support the designation of this property to conserve its cultural heritage value.

The Statement of Significance: 55 Sudbury Street - Statement of Significance (Reasons for Designation) attached as Attachment 1 to this report comprises the Reasons for Designation, which is the Public Notice of Intention to Designate.

CONTACT

Clint Robertson, Heritage Planner, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning
416-396-4946; Clint.Robertson@toronto.ca

Mary L. MacDonald, Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, Urban Design, City Planning
416-338-1079; Mary.MacDonald@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Jason Thorne
Chief Planner and Executive Director
City Planning

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – 55 Sudbury Street - Statement of Significance (Reasons for Designation)

Attachment 2 – Location Map and Current Photograph

Attachment 3 – Research, Evaluation & Visual Resources

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**(REASONS FOR DESIGNATION)**

The property at 55 Sudbury Street is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value and meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the provincial criteria prescribed for municipal designation under the categories of design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual value.

Description

Located on the south side of Sudbury Street, at the junction with Dovercourt Road in the southern tip of the Little Portugal neighbourhood between Queen Street West and the city's main railway corridor, the property at 55 Sudbury Street comprises a two-storey office building that formerly contained the offices of the Diamond (later Dominion) Glass Company factory. The building was completed in several phases beginning with the first phase of construction in c. 1899-1900.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

Built in 1899-1900, the former Diamond (later Dominion) Glass Company office building at 55 Sudbury Street is valued its contribution to the activity of manufacturing in Toronto. 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. The company manufactured electrical, telegraph and telephone insulators as well as various bottles, tumblers, lamp chimneys and containers. By the 1960s it was reported to be the biggest glass manufacturing company in Canada. It has also been credited with producing some of the finest glass, especially before automation when glass products were still blown. The company is further credited with contributing to Canadian decorative arts and its products are featured in public collections such as the Royal Ontario Museum. The property at 55 Sudbury Street contains one of the few remaining historical factory-complex buildings in the area, and provides a physical link to the important social, cultural and economic aspects of manufacturing history in the area and the broader city.

By the mid-1880s, manufacturing industries dominated the lands on both sides of the railway corridor in the vicinity of 55 Sudbury Street. To the west was the John Abell Company factory (later American- Abell Engine & Thrasher Co.); and to the north was the Standard Soap Company, in addition to other Glass Company buildings. To the east was the Dominion Bridge Company factory (later Northey Manufacturing Company, engine manufacturers) and beyond that was the massive Massey-Harris Company factory, makers of farm implements, established in the area since 1879. The industrial and manufacturing buildings historically comprising the swath of land lining the railway corridor defined the industrial character of the vicinity into the early 2000s but have subsequently been redeveloped. Accordingly, 55 Sudbury Street is a rare surviving component of the area's industrial heritage. It is the last known building in the vicinity north of the railway corridor between Dufferin and Massey streets to yield information about this former industrial history of the area, including the socio-economic history.

Stylistically, the building is valued for its combination of largely Romanesque Revival architecture, which was contemporary with the era, alongside earlier Italianate style influences. Romanesque Revival-style features include the main entrance arch with multiple receding reveals and contrasting masonry finishes of light stone with darker brick, as well as the rough-dressed stone finishes, bands of brickwork dentils and deeply inset segmental-arch windows. The distinctive window hoods, executed in shaped brick, are stylistic holdovers of the earlier Italianate style.

The building at 55 Sudbury Street was first constructed in 1899-1900 as a one-storey office building with basement. From the slightly differentiated brick colour and seams, it is evident that at least four subsequent expansion campaigns occurred to produce the building that currently exists. Despite numerous extensions and additions, and the differentiation in the shade of brickwork, the building is remarkably unified with similar detailing serving to tie the design together. Finishes uniting the composition include a rough dressed stone foundation and window sill detailing, segmental window openings, ornamented window heads, bands of dentil brickwork, and a simple sheet-metal cornice.

The extant physical and historical link of proximity to the city's main railway corridor continues to tie the property to its context. The building is situated on the southern edge of the Queen Street West neighbourhood and adjacent to (north of) the main railway corridor running through Toronto. The locational relationship was integral to operations with a rail spur entering the site from the rail corridor. The railway brought raw materials to the site and transported finished products across the Dominion.

The jog in Sudbury Street at the junction with Dovercourt Road provides the building prominence and heightened visibility. This locational prominence combined with its historic architecture amidst so much new development makes it stand out as a distinctive local landmark.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

The following heritage attributes contribute to the design and physical value of the property:

- the two-storey, rectangular form with chamfered front corners
- the flat roof with its sheet-metal roofline cornice
- the red-brick exterior walls and brick detailing comprising bands of brickwork dentils and Italianate-style window hoods
- the stone detailing of the foundation, window sills and mullions, and main entrance arch finishes
- the arrangement and type of window openings including segmental arched the main entrance with semi-circular arch opening and transom light

Historical and Associative Value

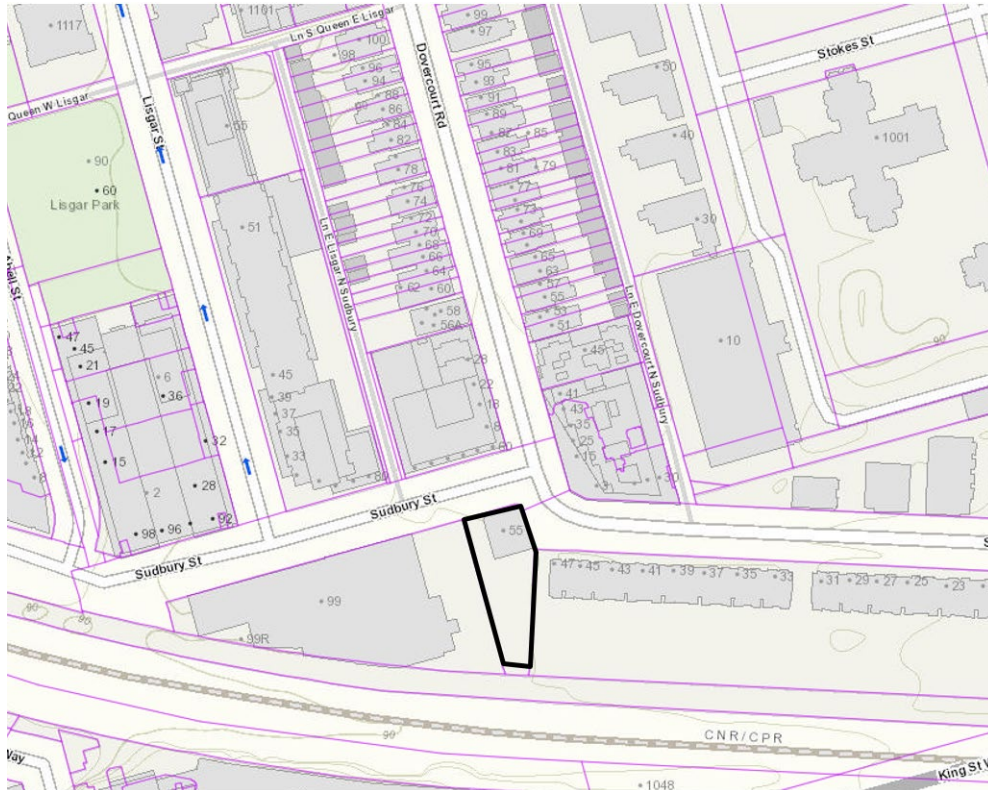
The following heritage attributes contribute to the historical and associative value of the property:

- the location and siting of the property, adjacent to the city's main railway corridor

Contextual Value

The following heritage attributes contribute to the contextual value of the property:

- the placement, setback and orientation of the property, adjacent to the city's main railway corridor
- the physical and visual prominence of the property in its location at the junction of Dovercourt Road and Sudbury Street

55 SUDBURY STREET

This location map is for illustrative purposes only; the exact boundaries of the property are not shown. 55 Sudbury Street is indicated by a heavy outline. (City of Toronto mapping)



55 Sudbury Street, 2026 (City of Toronto Heritage Planning)

RESEARCH, EVALUATION & VISUAL RESOURCES

ATTACHMENT 3

55 SUDBURY STREET

In undertaking this research and evaluation, we recognize that the area now known as the City of Toronto is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit (1805), and the Williams Treaties (1923) signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.



Oblique view from northwest of 55 Sudbury Street, 2026 (City of Toronto Heritage Planning)

1. DESCRIPTION

55 Sudbury Street - former Diamond (later Dominion) Glass Company	
ADDRESS	55 Sudbury Street
WARD	9 - Davenport
NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY	Little Portugal
CONSTRUCTION DATE	c.1899-1900 (first phase) with at least four subsequent additions
ORIGINAL USE	Factory Offices
CURRENT USE* (*This does not refer to permitted use(s) as defined by the Zoning By-law	Offices
ARCHITECT	Unknown
ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	At least four additions after 1899
LISTING DATE	August 28, 2014

2. ONTARIO REGULATION 9/06 CHECKLIST:

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The following checklist identifies the prescribed criteria met by the subject property at 55 Sudbury Street for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act. There are a total of nine criteria under O. Reg 9/06. A property may be designated under Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act if the property meets two or more of the provincial criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest.

The evaluation table is marked "N/A" if the criterion is "not applicable" to the property or "✓" if it is applicable to the property.

55 SUDBURY STREET

1.	The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.	✓
2.	The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	N/A
3.	The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	N/A
4.	The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.	✓
5.	The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.	✓
6.	The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.	N/A
7.	The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.	N/A
8.	The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.	✓
9.	The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.	✓

3. RESEARCH

This section of the report describes the history, architecture and context of the properties. Visual resources related to the research are located in Section 4. Archival and contemporary sources for the research are found in Section 5 (List of Sources).

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

For time immemorial, Toronto has been home to Indigenous peoples. Ojibway oral histories speak of Ice People, who lived at a time when ice covered the land.¹ Following the retreat of glaciers approximately 13,000 years ago, small groups of Indigenous peoples moved from place to place, hunting and gathering the food they needed according to the seasons. Over millennia, they adapted to dramatically changing environmental conditions, developing and acquiring new technologies as they did so. Waterways and the lake were vital sources of fresh water and nourishment, and shorelines and nearby areas were important sites for gathering, trading, hunting, fishing, and ceremonies. Long-distance trade moved valuable resources across the land.

After maize and squash were introduced to Southern Ontario, by approximately 500 CE, horticulture began to supplement food sources. By 1300 CE, villages focused on growing food became year-round settlements surrounded by crops. These villages were home to ancestors of the Huron-Wendat Nation, who would continue to occupy increasingly larger villages in the Toronto area and beyond. These villages were connected to well-established travel routes which were part of local and long-distance trail networks, including the Carrying Place trails on the Don, Rouge and Humber rivers that connected Lake Ontario to Georgian Bay. Beads made from seashells from the eastern seaboard were found at the Alexandra site in North York, which was a community of 800-1000 people in approximately 1350.

By 1600, the Wendat had formed a confederation of individual nations, and had concentrated most of their villages away from Lake Ontario, in the Georgian Bay area. Following contact with French explorers and missionaries in Southern Ontario in the early 1600s, European diseases decimated First Nations. Competition for furs to trade with Europeans and the desire to replenish numbers through absorption of captives, among other factors², contributed to the Beaver Wars, which after 1640, saw the Haudenosaunee Confederacy expand into Southern Ontario, dispersing the Wendat. Within the boundaries of today's Toronto, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy then occupied villages on the Carrying Place trails on the Humber and Rouge Rivers from approximately the 1660s to the 1680s.

In the late 1680s, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy chose to leave their village in the Toronto area and returned to their homelands in upstate New York. As evidenced by the 1701 Great Peace of Montreal, the 1701 Nanfan Treaty, and the Dish with One Spoon Treaty, the Haudenosaunee continued to have an interest in the resources of the area.

Anishinaabe people from the Lake Superior region then moved into the Toronto area. While the Wendat and Haudenosaunee people lived in year-round villages surrounded by crops, the Anishinaabe people continued to live primarily by seasonally moving across the land to hunt, fish and gather resources that were available at a specific time,

¹ With thanks to Philip Cote for the reference to Benton-Banai, Edward, *The Mishomis book: The voice of the Ojibway* (Indian Country Press, 1985), p. 26.

² <https://histindigenouspeoples.pressbooks.tru.ca/chapter/chapter-5-colonial-wars-looking-east>; Gary Warrick, "The Aboriginal Population of Ontario in Late Pre-history," in Munson and Jamieson, eds., *Before Ontario: The Archaeology of a Province* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013), p. 72.

including migrating birds and maple syrup. To the west of Toronto, the Anishinaabe people became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit. To the east, they became known as the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island.³

In 1787, as the British began to prepare for an influx of colonists into the area following the American Revolution, the British Crown negotiated the Toronto Purchase with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation to obtain title to the land. The flawed and poorly documented agreement was invalidated, and Treaty 13 was negotiated in 1805 for lands now including much of the City of Toronto. In 1923, the Governments of Ontario and Canada signed the Williams Treaties for over 20,000 km², including portions of eastern Toronto, with seven First Nations of the Chippewa of Lake Simcoe (Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama) and the Mississauga of the north shore of Lake Ontario (Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island).

The Mississaugas, Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, or the Wendat did not traditionally regard land as a commodity to be sold. Following the Toronto Purchase, the British government quickly set out to survey the land into lots which were either sold or granted into private ownership of settlers. In 2010, the Government of Canada settled the Toronto Purchase Claim with the Mississaugas of the Credit after agreeing that the Mississaugas were originally unfairly compensated. In 2018, the Williams Treaties First Nations settled litigation about land surrenders and harvesting rights with the Governments of Canada and Ontario.

The City of Toronto remains the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. Toronto is also covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with seven Mississaugas and Chippewa First Nations.

I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The following section outlines the history and facts related to the property which are the basis for determining historical or associative value of Criteria 4, 5 or 6 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

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). 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 the railways to the city in the 1850s resulted in numerous lines (originally the Ontario Simcoe and Huron Railway, then the Northern Railway, Grand

³ Mississaugas of the Credit, "The History of Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation." n.d.

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 including the Central Prison and Mercer Reformatory south of King Street, 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.

By the mid-1880s, manufacturing industries dominated the lands on both sides of the railway corridor in the vicinity of 55 Sudbury Street. To the west was the John Abell Company factory (later American-Abell Engine & Thrasher Co.), and to the north was the Standard Soap Company, in addition to other Glass Company buildings. To the east was the Dominion Bridge Company factory (later Northey Manufacturing Company, engine manufacturers) and beyond that was the massive Massey-Harris Company factory, makers of farm implements, established in the area since 1879.

As early as 1884, maps show a long brick building located on the site of 55 Sudbury Street, although it's not known which company was originally associated with the structure. Directories show that by 1894 the company known as the Toronto Glass Works were located at this site. 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 to construct the current building at 55 Sudbury Street for use as offices.⁴ The first permit, 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).

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 1857.⁵ 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.⁶ Based in Montreal, they purchased glass manufacturing companies from Nova Scotia to Manitoba including the Toronto Glass Works in 1899.⁷ 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.⁸ The company manufactured electrical, telegraph and telephone insulators as well as various bottles, tumblers, lamp chimneys and containers.⁹ It has also been credited with producing some of the finest glass,

⁴ City of Toronto Building Permits, 1899, no. 128, 129, 130

⁵ King, Thomas B., "Glass in Canada"

⁶ ibid

⁷ ibid

⁸ ibid

⁹ ibid

especially before automation when glass products were still blown.¹⁰ 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.¹¹ 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.¹² Directories show that 1970 was the last year the company was located on Sudbury Street, having moved to 4 Eva Road in Etobicoke by 1971. In that same year, the company which was subsequently known as DomGlass became a subsidiary of Consolidated-Bathurst, which was subsequently controlled by Power Corporation.¹³

The industrial and manufacturing buildings historically comprising the swath of land lining the railway corridor characterized the industrial nature of the vicinity into the early 2000s. Almost all have been demolished, with an exception being the 1885 offices of the Massey-Harris Company at 915 King Street West, just east of Massey Street, which were designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act in 2008.

ii. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The following section provides an architectural description and analysis related to the property which will establish the basis for determining design or physical value of Criteria 1, 2 or 3 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

The building at 55 Sudbury Street was first constructed in 1899 as a one-storey office building with basement, according to permits. From the slightly differentiated brick colour and seams, it is evident that several expansion campaigns occurred to produce the building that currently exists. Between 1913 and 1924, fire insurance maps show that an extension had occurred to the rear (south end) of the building; however, some of the other expansions may have occurred during this period too. At some point, the building's width was almost doubled with an extension to the west, as well as having a second story added over the one-storey original building.

Despite at least four subsequent campaigns of extensions and additions, and even with the differentiation in the shade of brickwork, the building is remarkably unified with similar detailing serving to tie the design together. Finishes uniting the composition include a rough dressed stone foundation and window sill detailing, segmental window openings, ornamented window heads, bands of dentil brickwork, and a simple sheet-metal cornice.

Stylistically, the building is unique for its eclectic combination of largely Romanesque Revival architecture, which was contemporary with the era, alongside earlier Italianate influences. Romanesque Revival-style features include the main entrance arch with multiple receding reveals and contrasting masonry finishes of light stone with darker

¹⁰ Western University Libraries, "Dominion Glass Company"

¹¹ *ibid*

¹² *Toronto Daily Star*, 19 September 1964, p 38.

¹³ Archives of Canada, "Diamond (Dominion) Glass Company"

brick, as well as the rough-dressed stone finishes, bands of brickwork dentils and deeply inset segmental-arch windows. The distinctive window hoods, executed in shaped brick, are stylistic holdovers of the earlier Italianate style.

iii. CONTEXT

The following section provides contextual information and analysis related to the property which is the basis for determining contextual value of Criteria 7, 8 or 9 according to O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria.

The property at 55 Sudbury Street is situated in the southernmost tip of the Little Portugal neighbourhood adjacent to (north of) the main railway corridor running through Toronto. Such a location was integral to the property's historic operations, with a rail spur entering the site from the main rail corridor. The railway brought raw materials to the site and transported finished products across the Dominion.

From the late 1800s, the other glass-works buildings were situated to the west, north south and east of the subject building with the last of these buildings, at 99 Sudbury Street, being demolished c. 2021-2022. Historically, both sides of the railway corridor adjacent to 55 Sudbury Street were lined with manufacturing and industrial properties but have since been replaced by modern low-rise town houses to the east and mid- to high-rise condominiums to the north and west along Sudbury and Lisgar Streets.

The jog in Sudbury Street at the junction with Dovercourt Road provides the building with physical and visual prominence. This locational prominence combined with its historic architecture amidst so much new development makes it stand out as a distinctive local landmark.

4. VISUAL RESOURCES



Figure 1: North and east façades, 2026 (City of Toronto Heritage Planning)



Figure 2: South façade, 2026 (City of Toronto Heritage Planning)



Figure 3: East façade, 2026 (City of Toronto Heritage Planning)



Figure 4: East façade, June 2021 (Google Maps)



Figure 5: Main entrance, north facade, 2026 (City of Toronto Heritage Planning)



Figure 6: Example of window detailing, north façade, 2026 (City of Toronto Heritage Planning)

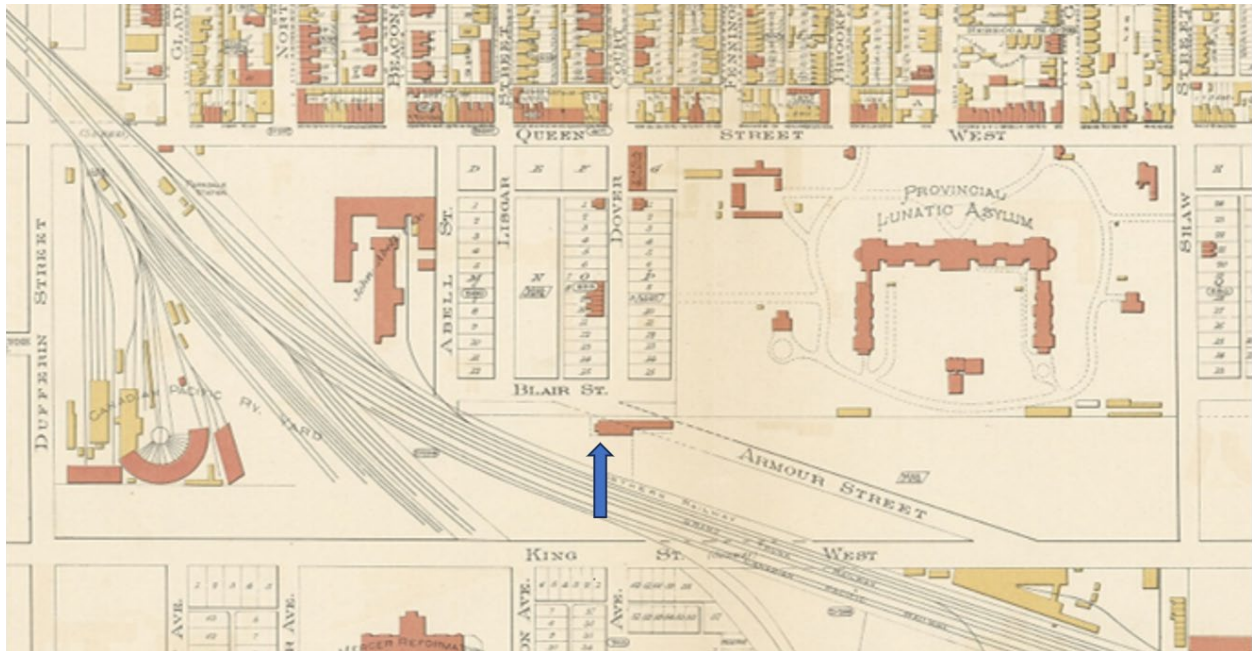


Figure 7: Goad's Atlas map, with subject site indicated by arrow and showing a pre-existing building, 1894 (City of Toronto Archives)

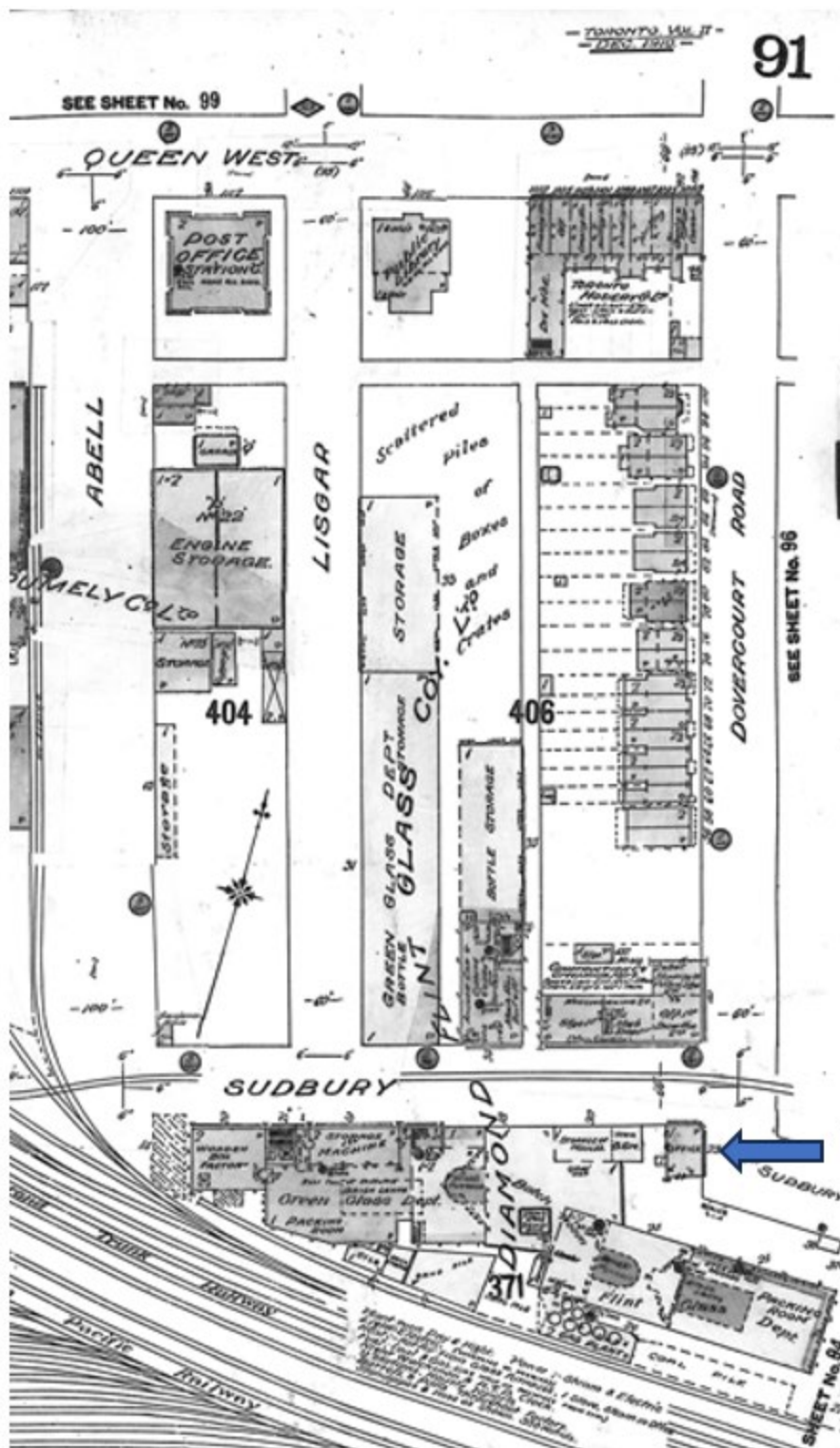


Figure 8: Goad's Atlas map, with subject site indicated by arrow, showing Glass Company buildings also occupying property on the north side of Sudbury Street, 1910 (City of Toronto Archives)

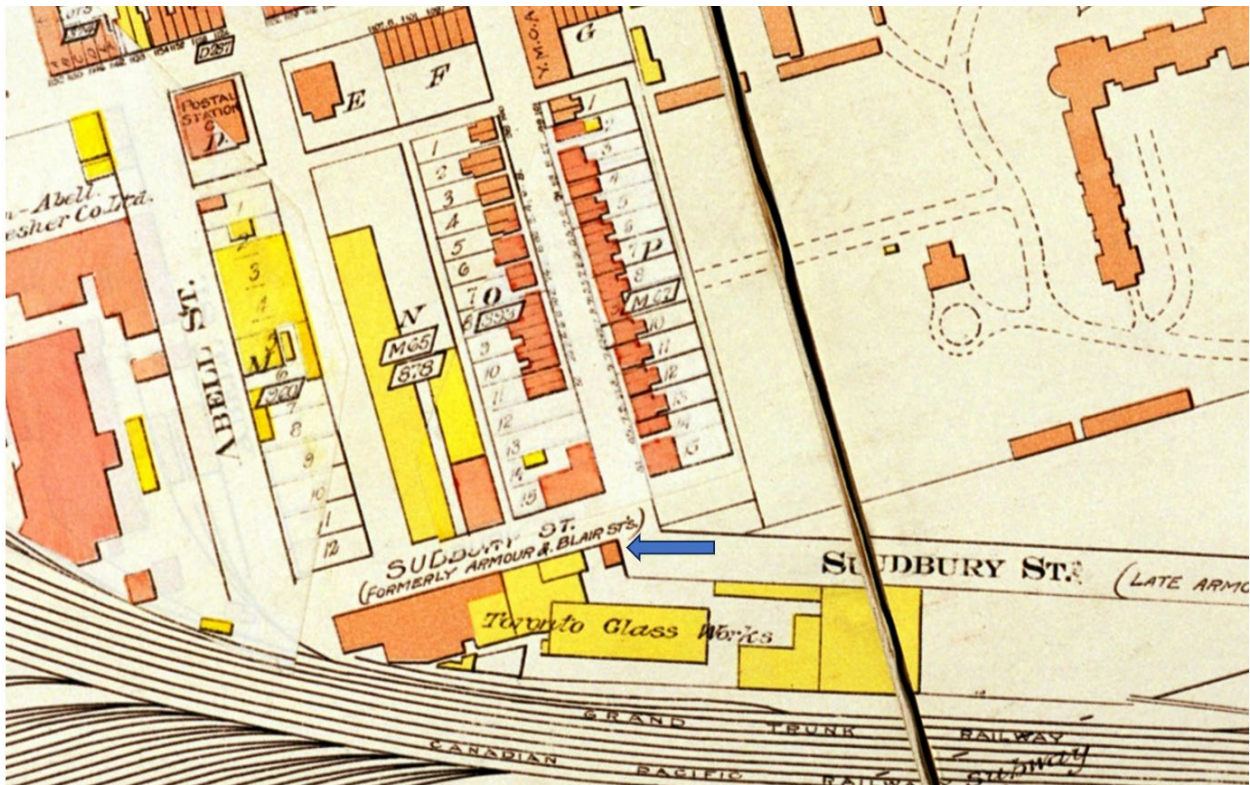


Figure 9: Goad's Atlas map, with subject site indicated by arrow, showing the building not yet expanded to the south, 1913 (City of Toronto Archives)

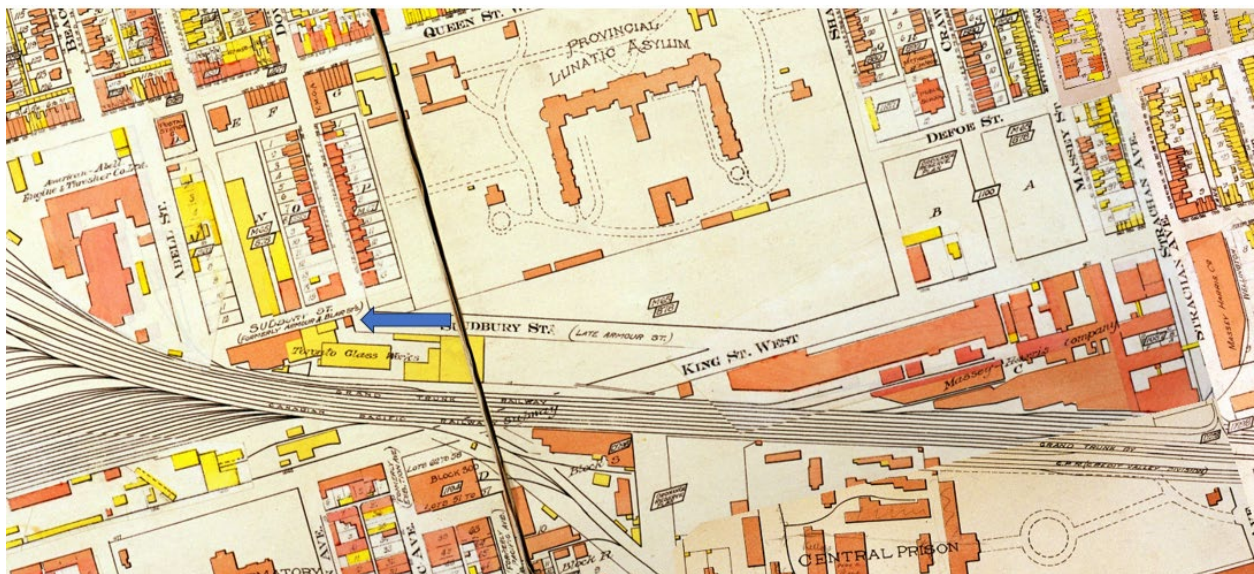


Figure 10: Goad's Atlas map, with subject site indicated by arrow, showing the building in its broader historical context with industrial and manufacturing buildings in each direction, including the Standard Soap Company across Sudbury Street to the north, the Abell Company to the west, and the Massey-Harris Company to the east, 1913 (City of Toronto Archives)

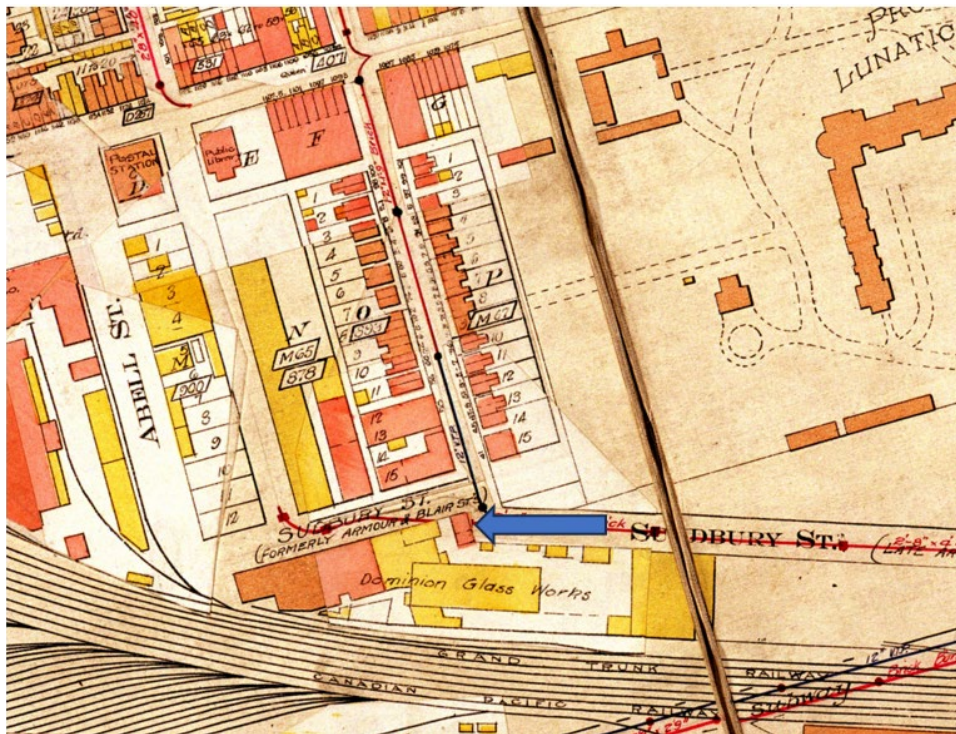


Figure 11: Goad's Atlas map with subject site indicated by arrow, showing the building expanded to the south, 1924 (City of Toronto Archives)

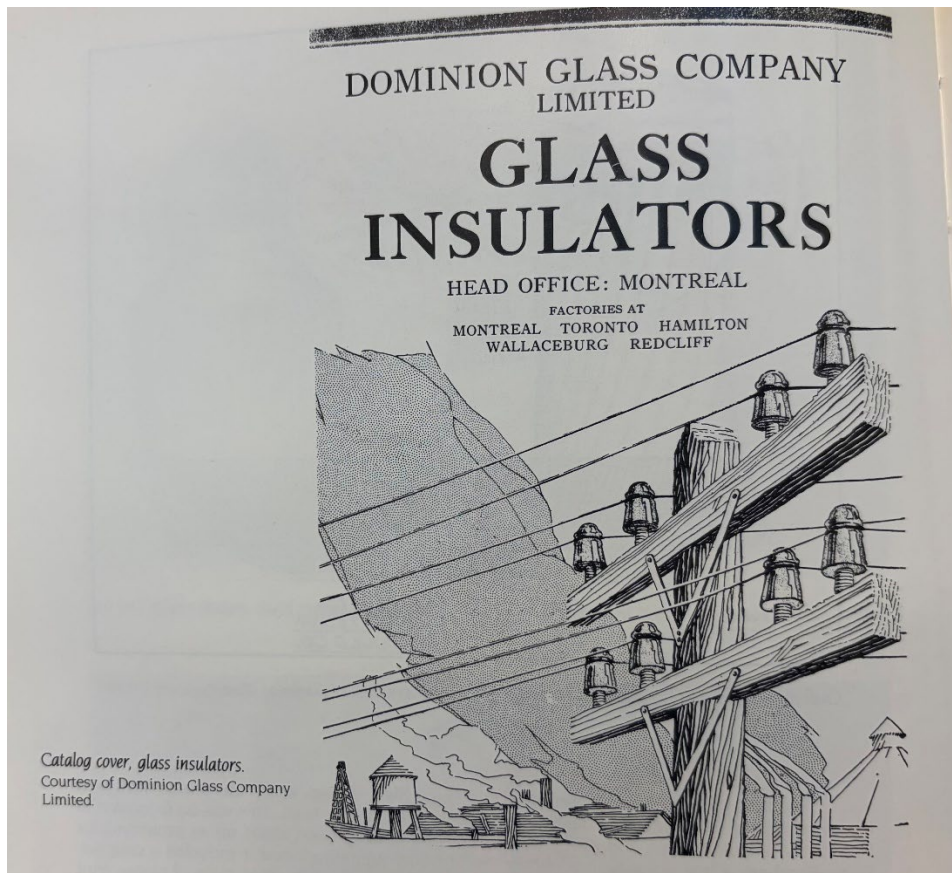


Figure 12: Catalogue cover showing the Glass Company's insulators, no date (King, Thomas B., "Glass in Canada")

5. LIST OF SOURCES

ARCHIVAL SOURCES

- City of Toronto Archives - Building Permit 128, 129 and 130 (1899)
- City of Toronto Public Library - Toronto Directories
- Archives of Canada, "Diamond (Dominion) Glass Company" <https://recherche-collection-search.bac-> accessed June 9, 2026.
- lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?app=fonandcol&idnumber=100559&ecopy=Goad, Charles, Atlas of the City of Toronto and Suburbs, 1880 - 1946 (City of Toronto Archives; City of Toronto Public Library; University of Toronto Library, Digital Collection)
- King, Thomas B., "Glass in Canada" Boston Mills Press, 1987
- The Toronto Daily Star, 19 September 1964, p 38, 4 February 1965, p 11.
- Western University Libraries, "Dominion Glass Company" <http://web.archive.org/web/20091130095620/http://www.lib.uwo.ca/programs/compagnyinformationcanada/ccc-dominion.htm> accessed June 9, 2026

SECONDARY SOURCES

- City of Toronto (June 25, 2014). Inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties - 55 Sudbury Street, City of Toronto, Ontario.