

**Nancy Marshall**

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**From:** Diana Fancher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 13, 2015 11:22 PM  
**To:** Nancy Marshall  
**Cc:** Anne Bailey; David Wencer; Denise Harris  
**Subject:** Building date for storefronts housing St. Clair Silverthorne Branch

To the Board:

On August 25, I received a reply to my presentation at the board meeting of June 22nd from the Director of Branch Libraries, Anne Bailey. However, her letter did not include a date for the building and some of the information about other buildings on the block was also sketchy, so I undertook to do the research myself with the following results:

Building permit #58662 for 2744, 46, 48 St. Clair Ave. [West] was issued to J. Small (undoubtedly the owner William J. Small or a relative) on May 2, 1922; this according to the index of Building Permits for Signs, Stables, Stores for 1922. Unfortunately the actual permit no longer exists. When the 1923 assessment for 1924 was done on May 4, 1923, the three storefronts, along with the upstairs apartments were built and fully occupied. Therefore the building was put up in the summer of 1922.

As for the other storefronts on the block, the five stores immediately east to the corner of Silverthorne Ave. were put up sometime prior to 1918, as according to the city directory for that year they were all occupied. The lots to the west as far as Cloverdale Road were vacant before 1922, and started to be built upon piecemeal around the same time as Mr. Small erected his building. Next door to the west #s 1750, 52, 54 were built the same year.

That was all the information I was able to gather in the limited time I had available. However, if for any reason you would like to have a detailed history of buildings on the block, I would be happy to provide it at a later date. I also have photocopies of the permit index, assessment rolls and the city directory for 1918 on which these statements are based, and can make copies of them to pass along if anyone at the library would like to have copies.

Ms Bailey also quoted the Ontario Heritage Act in her letter, specifically Ontario Regulation 9/06 which prescribes criteria for determining property of cultural heritage value or interest in a municipality. According to #3 on the list:

3. The property has contextual value because it,
  - i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area
  - ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to it's surroundings

It is not necessary that a building be an outstanding landmark to represent the character of a streetscape. The St. Clair Silverthorne Library in it's present incarnation is not only the most attractive storefront on the block, but it is an excellent example of adaptive reuse of an existing storefront that maintains and supports the overall character of the block. Physically, functionally, visually and historically it is also linked to its surroundings. It would be really unfortunate to destroy this very attractive facade.

Yours sincerely,