

Nancy Marshall

From: Diana Fancher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2015 2:14 PM
To: Nancy Marshall
Cc: David Wencer; Denise Harris; Anne Bailey; Susan Martin; Carleton-Village Silverthorn
Subject: St. Clair Silverthorne Library

To the Toronto Public Library Board:

In a September 11 email, I notified Anne Bailey of the building date for the St. Clair Silverthorne Library. I have since checked the city directories at the Toronto Reference Library and put together a bit more background information. The complete picture to date follows:

Building permit #58662 was issued to J. Small (probably the owner Wm J Small, possibly a relative) on May 2, 1922 for 3 stores at 1744, 1746, 1748 St. Clair Ave. [West] at a value of \$15,000. This from the 1922 Index to Building Permits for Signs, Stables, Stores. Unfortunately the permit itself no longer exists.

The assessment roll made in 1922 for 1923, Ward 7, Division 1, shows vacant lots for Plan 1760 Lots 56, 57 & 58. In the 1923 for 1924 roll made on May 4th the 3 stores are built and occupied, indicating that the building was put up in the summer of 1922. The block of stores immediately to the west was built the same year.

The stores to the east as far as Silverthorne Ave. were most probably constructed during 1913-14, since they begin to be shown in the city directory in 1914 and are complete by 1915. The rest of the stores west to Cloverdale Rd. were built by the mid-1920s, according to their directory listings.

Summary

The block of 2-storey stores between Silverthorne Ave. and Cloverdale Rd. on the north side of St. Clair Ave. W. was built between 1913 and the mid-1920s in modest styles typical of the period, the library building being the most interesting architecturally. All of the buildings dating from the 1920s were built of rug brick. One or two have been refaced with stucco or a different type of brick. The existing library facade offers an excellent example of how other facades along the block can be adapted to provide attractive modern storefronts that also fit in with the existing streetscape. It is a credit to the designer/architect and to the Toronto Public Library Board.

Yours sincerely
Diana Fancher