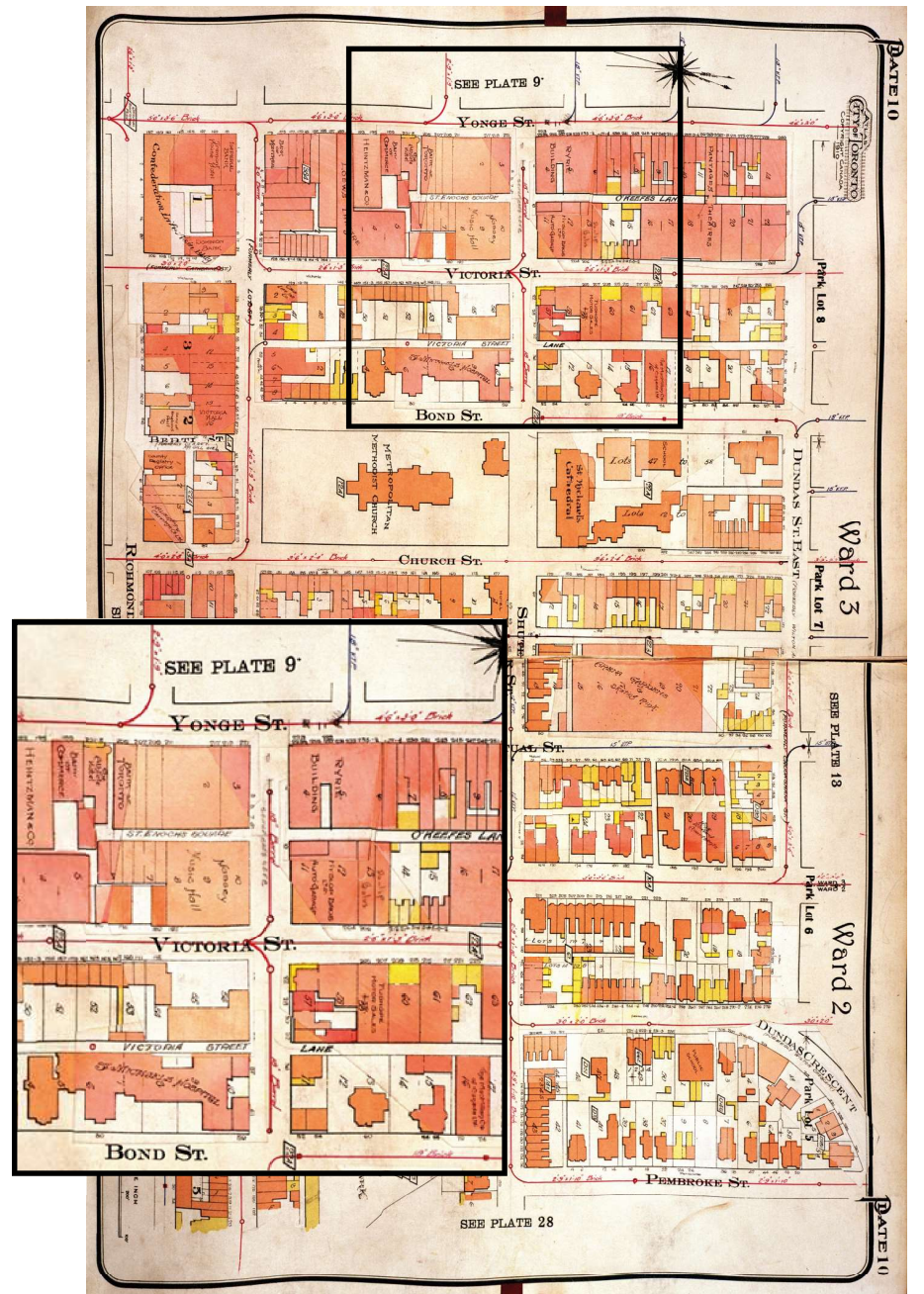


211 Yonge Street.

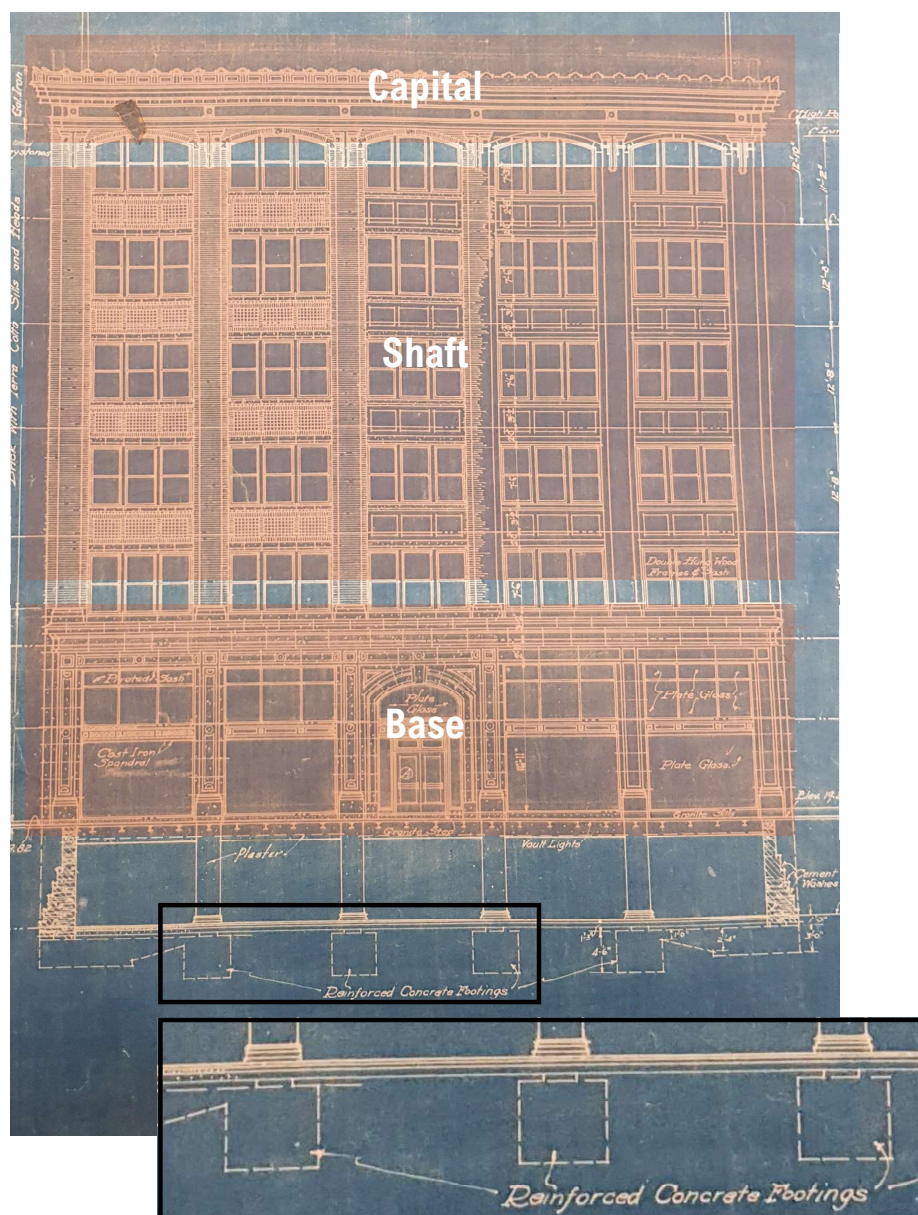
This 7 stories high, brick building on Yonge St is located in a mix of residential and office towers in the heart of downtown Toronto, south of Shuter Street. It is part of the Garden district neighbourhood, which includes a number of early, mostly non-government institutions like churches, places of entertainment and the University of Ryerson. 215 and 219 Yonge Street refer to the same building as 211.

It was built in 1920 designed by William Steele and Sons Company. Initially, the building operated as the Adams Furniture Company flagship store, which is the reason it is also known as the Adams Building. In 1978, the Adams Furniture Company left the building and it was renovated to accommodate retail on the ground floor and offices on the top five floors. In 1990, the building was adopted by the City Council (The City of Toronto, 1994). Currently, the retail spaces are being renovated again and retrofitted by HNR properties, Walton GC and Giaimo.



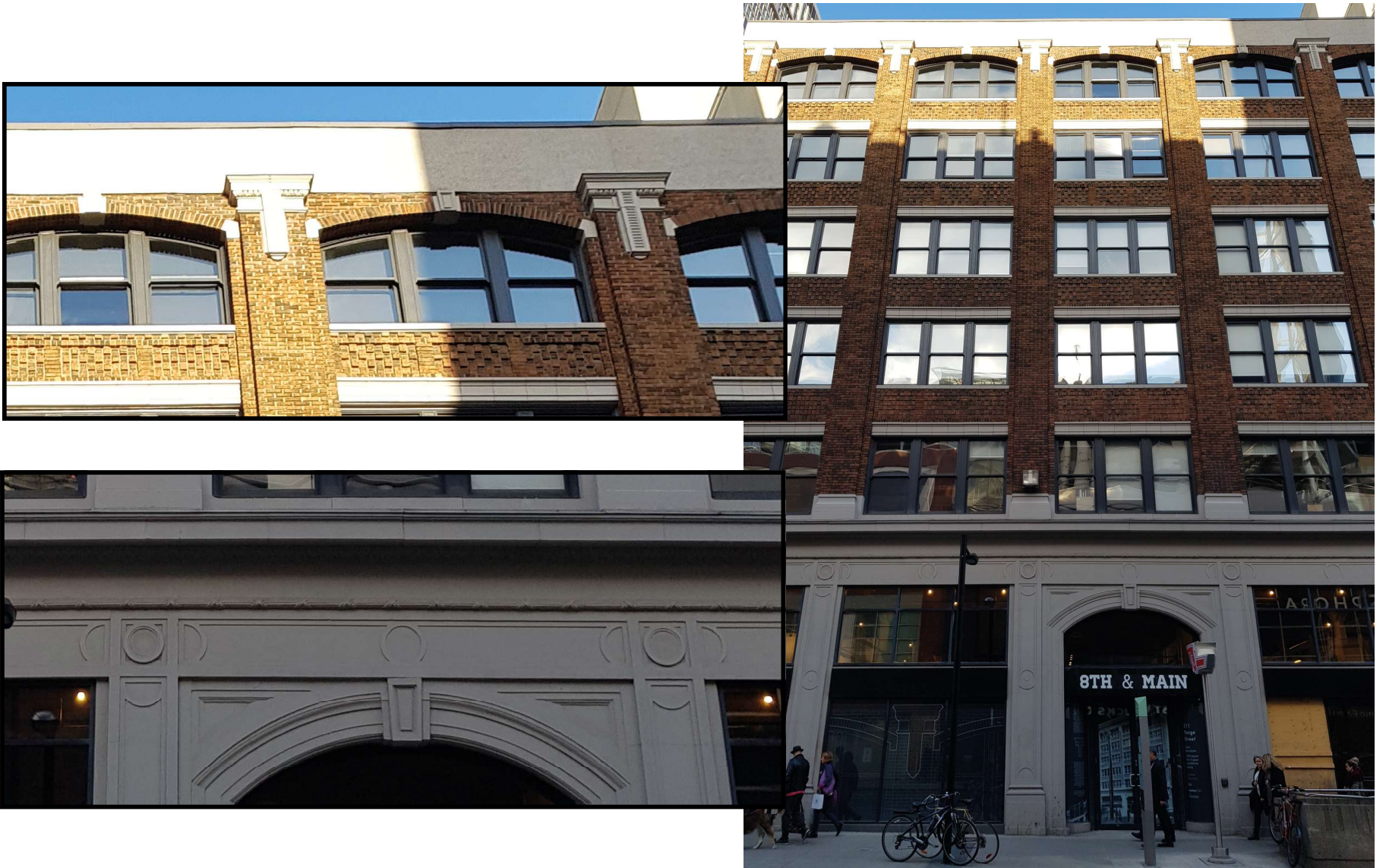
Fire Insurance Map (Chas. E. Goad Company, 1924).

Blueprints accessed in the City of Toronto Archives confirming the use of reinforced concrete and dividing the facade into the three parts of a classical column (William Steele and Sons Company, 1919).



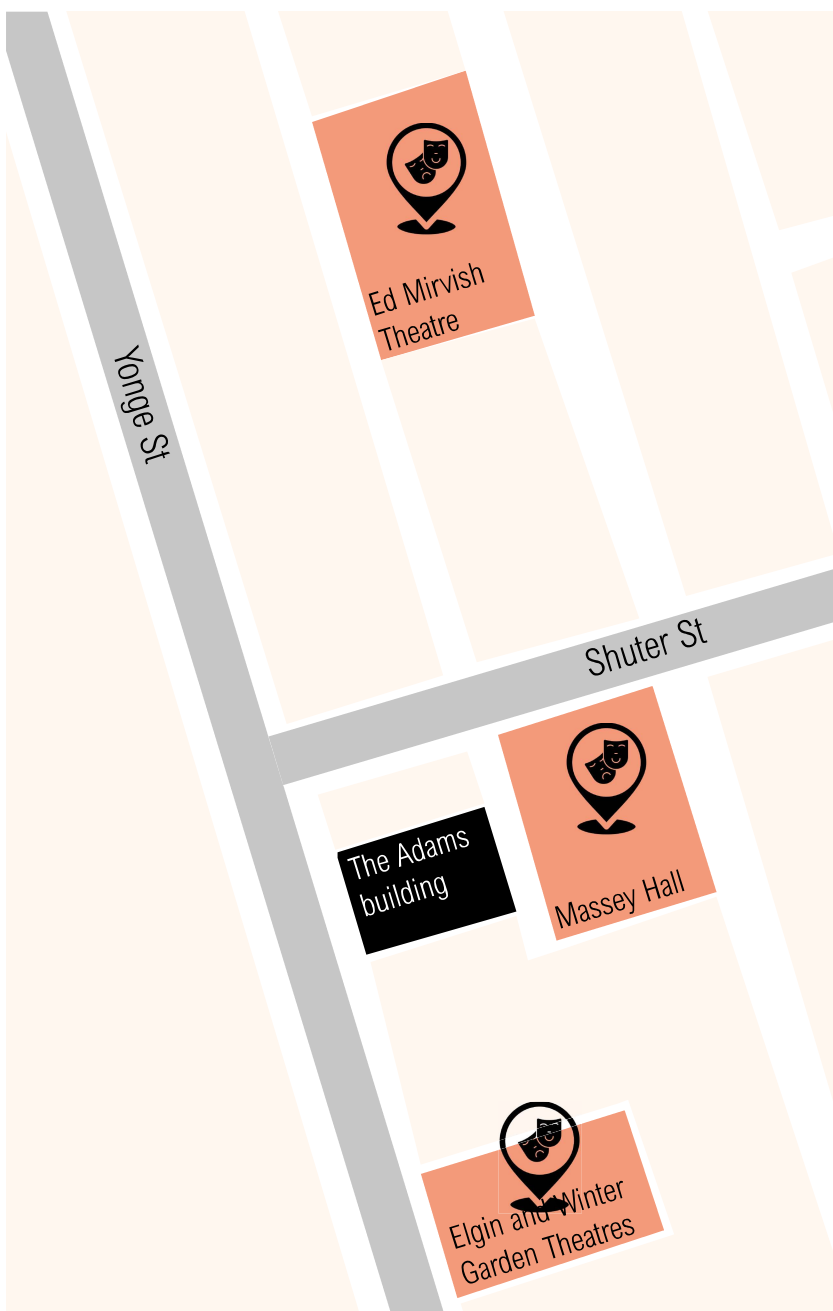
The style.

William Steele and Sons Company, a Philadelphia based architecture firm, was among the first to introduce a Chicago-style buildings in Toronto's warehouse construction ('Steele, William | Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada,' n.d.). With its obviously Chicago-style characteristics, the Adams building is one of them. The innovative use of a reinforced concrete frame allows large glazing from floor to ceiling, which are some of the distinguishing features of the Chicago School. Also, the elements of neoclassical architecture, used in the Chicago School, can be seen on the exterior of the Adams building. The façade is divided into the three parts of a classical column. The ground floor represent the base, the floors in the middle functions as the shaft, and the last floor and the eave act as the capital. Besides this, the windows of the Adams building consist of three parts, like a typical 'Chicago window', and create a grid pattern on the façade, also a characteristic of the Chicago-style. (Anchilles, 2013)



The facade of the Adams building, zoomed in on the classical ornaments (Own source, 2019).

Theatres in Garden district (Own source, 2019).



The Garden District theatres.

When the Adams building was built in 1920, some major theatres nearby defined the area. In 1906 Toronto's first permanent space for showing moving pictures was opened at 183 Yonge Street. This theatre complex was originally built as the flagship of Marcus Loew's theatre chain. The complex contained two full-sized theatres on top of each other. Those 'stacked theatres' were among fewer than a dozen built in North America. Today, this location is the only one in Canada that remains in operation. The Elgin and Winter Garden complex is currently located on just a portion of this site. In 1982, the complex was designated a National Historic Site of Canada. Thomas Lamb, who designed the Elgin and Winter Garden complex, also designed the Ed Mirvish Theatre nearby. The Ed Mirvish theatre was built in 1920, like the Adams building, and used to be the largest Cinema in Canada. Directly behind the Adams building, the Massey Hall is located, which opened in 1894. In 1981, the building was designated a National Historic Site of Canada and is currently being renovated. (Tayler, 2014)

Statement of significance.

Description of the project.

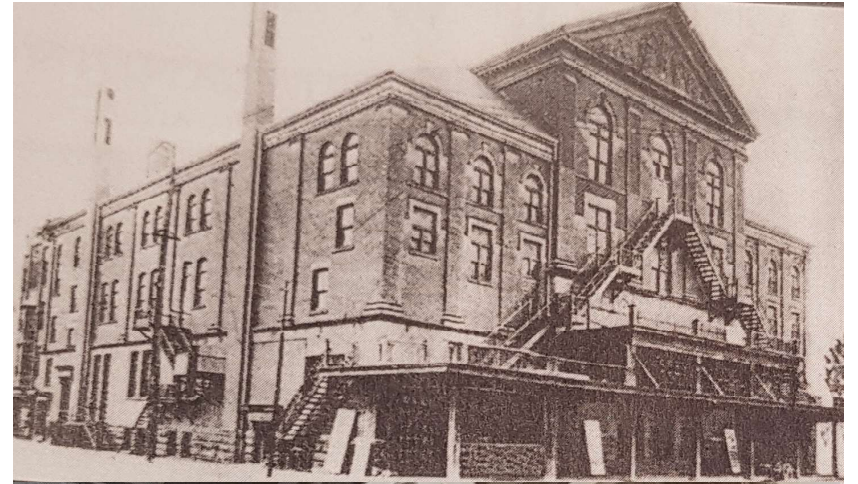
This brick building was built in 1920 at the major road of the city of Toronto. It is also known as the Adams Building, because the building operated as the Adams Furniture Company flagship in the past. The building currently accommodates retail on the ground floor and offices on the top five floors.

Contextual and architectural value.

The Adams building was one of the first buildings in the Chicago School built in Toronto. The 7 stories high building is relatively high for a remaining building of this type for its time. The building was built around the same time as the historical, major theatres in the same area. Together, those buildings create a historical district in downtown Toronto.

Character-defining elements.

The typical façade, designed in the architectural style the Chicago School, still remains like the original facade today. The major characteristics of



Upper: Massay Hall (Brown, 1996).

Lower: Interior of the Elgin theatre (City of Toronto Archives, Series 881, File 53)

The Adams building and its adjacent buildings (Own source, 2019).



this style, like the use of a reinforced concrete frame, large windows in a grid pattern and neoclassical details, as well as, a façade divided in the three parts of a classical column can all be found in this building.

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