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Submitted To:

City of Toronto Heritage Preservation Services (c/o Yasmina Shamji): yasmina.shamji@toronto.ca
Councillor Mike Layton (Ward 11 – University-Rosedale): councillor_layton@toronto.ca
Baldwin Village Community Association (c/o George Traini): georgetraini51@gmail.com
Friends of Chinatown Toronto (FOCT): friendsofchinatownto@gmail.com
Chinatown Business Improvement Area: administrator@chinatownbia.com
The Grange Community Association (c/o Ralph Daley): ralph@grangecommunity.ca
Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel: info@teycpp.ca
Toronto Preservation Board: hertpb@toronto.ca
TO Built, ACO Toronto (c/o Alessandro Tersigni): alessandro@acotoronto.ca

Submitted By:

Adam Wynne: adam.g.wynne@gmail.com

123 Huron Street, Toronto – Heritage Property Nomination:

I am writing to your offices to nominate 123 Huron Street, Toronto for a Heritage Evaluation and to subsequently advocate for this property to be Listed on the municipal *City of Toronto Heritage Register* and/or Designated under the provincial *Ontario Heritage Act*. Located on the east side of Huron Street between Cecil Street and Baldwin Street in the Baldwin Village, Chinatown West, and Grange Park neighbourhoods of Toronto, 123 Huron Street is a detached, 2.5 storey eclectic Queen Anne Revival style house that was constructed in 1881-1883.

123 Huron Street, Toronto may meet criteria for Heritage Status due to the following:

- ❖ Constructed in 1881-1883, 123 Huron Street is representative of early residential development along Huron Street.
- ❖ 123 Huron Street is a good example of detached, eclectic Queen Anne Revival residential architecture within the Baldwin Village, Chinatown West, and Grange Park neighbourhoods of Toronto.

- ❖ 123 Huron Street has significant associative value through its connection to the Macdonell family. Its first occupants were the brothers Alexander Macdonell (1820-1903) and Allan Macdonell (1808-1888). Alexander and Allan Macdonell were sons of The Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie (1762-1842) and Ann(e) Smith (1778-1858). The Macdonells were Scottish-Canadian Loyalists and prominent Catholic members of the Family Compact who arrived in the Town of York in 1797. Alexander and Allan Macdonell's father - the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie – was a close friend of Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe (1752-1806) and served in a number of important positions within Upper Canadian society, including as the first Sheriff of the Home District (which included the present-day Toronto and Niagara regions) between 1792 and 1804/1805; whereas their mother – Ann(e) Smith – was the sister of Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Smith (1756-1826). Alexander Macdonell served as a chief clerk at Osgoode Hall for many years. Allan Macdonell was a barrister, sheriff, and mining executive who also played a key role in representing Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) and Métis communities of the Sault Ste. Marie area in government and mining negotiations during the 1840s and 1850s. Further and more detailed information on the Macdonell family has been included in a subsequent section of this document.

- ❖ 123 Huron Street has associative value through being the former home of Colonel William John Lane Milligan (1836-1919) and family between 1904 and 1905. Colonel Lane Milligan was a British army officer who served on 4 continents, including during the Indian Rebellion (1857) and in South Africa. In Toronto, he served as Staff Officer of Pensioners between 1879 and 1891. Colonel Lane Milligan was also the grandson of a former Governor of Saint Helena.

- ❖ 123 Huron Street has associative value through being the former home of *Daugavas Vanagi (The Latvian Relief Society of Canada)* and *Latvija Amerika (Latvia Newspaper)* between 1952 and 1965/1966. These organizations provided

community, cultural, and immigration settlement support for Latvian-Canadians. During this period, 123 Huron Street served as a “second home” for Toronto’s 8000 Latvians.

- ❖ 123 Huron Street has associative value through being the former home of Italian-Canadian novelist Nino Ricci (born 1959) when he was writing *In a Glass House* during the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- ❖ 123 Huron Street survived a previous proposal of demolition in 1951 which would have seen a private hospital created at this location.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement:

“We acknowledge the land we are meeting on 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. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.” (City of Toronto 2019)

I would additionally like to acknowledge that the names of Huron Street and Spadina Avenue – which are 2 streets in proximity to 123 Huron Street – are derived from regional Indigenous cultures and languages:

Huron derives from a French term used to describe the Ouendat (Wendat / Wyandot) people (Wise and Gould 2011, 127). The Ouendat (Wendat / Wyandot) were a “confederacy made up of five First Nations tribes that lived in the Orillia/Midland area until 1649, when they were dispersed by their enemies, the Iroquois from upstate New York” (Wise and Gould 2011, 127). The Ouendat (Wendat / Wyandot) “made a military and trading alliance with the French in 1609 and by 1820 they dominated the fur trade

in most of Ontario and part of Quebec” (Wise and Gould 2011, 127).

Spadina derives from *Ishpadinaa*, an Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) term for *high hill* or *ridge* and refers to the hill formed by the ancient shoreline of Lake Iroquois to the north of present-day Davenport Road (Wise and Gould 2011, 208, Ojibwe People's Dictionary 2020)

Exterior Architectural Description of 123 Huron Street:

123 Huron Street is one of the largest detached houses in the Baldwin Village, Chinatown West, and Grange Park neighbourhoods of Toronto. 123 Huron Street is a large 2.5 storey house that was constructed between 1881 and 1883. 123 Huron Street is in an eclectic Queen Anne Revival style with Classical and Gothic Revival elements. 123 Huron Street contains several wings and additions constituting an irregular layout. The house has 3 gables, with these being located on its west (front), north (side), and south (side) elevations. The exterior of 123 Huron Street is roughcast or stucco, although a brick, rubble, and/or stone foundation is visible at its base. The roof has been replaced with modern asphalt materials (shingles, etc.). The west elevation of 123 Huron Street has a covered front porch which is supported by 3 groups of 3 pillars on brick bases. With the exception of the west (front) elevation, the placement of windows on 123 Huron Street is in an irregular pattern. Several windows on the west (front) and north (side) elevations have retained pointed pediments and lintels, likely original to the design of the house. Decorative plasterwork around the front door has also been retained. However, all of the doors, windows, and their respective frames appear to have been replaced with modern (likely mid-to-late 20th century) materials. Two windows on the west (front) elevation appear to have been converted to doors during the creation of a balcony above the front porch. The rear (east) elevation of 123 Huron Street appears to have had several additions added on over time and contains rear balconies and a porch.

Alterations to 123 Huron Street:

123 Huron Street has undergone several alterations since its construction in 1881-1883:

- ❖ 123 Huron Street originally occupied a larger lot with extensive grounds. The southern section of its grounds was severed, sold off, and redeveloped with the houses at 117-121 Huron Street in 1907.
- ❖ 123 Huron Street has been divided into rental dwellings since at least 1915. As of 1915, it was used as a boarding house with this use continuing on and off through much of the 20th century. Per recent real estate listings in 2013 and 2016, 123 Huron Street had been divided into 18 apartment units (The MASH 2013, Kehoe 2016). As such, the interior has been heavily renovated.
- ❖ The rear (east) elevation of 123 Huron Street appears to have had additions added onto it since its original construction in 1881-1883.
- ❖ Many of the doors and windows have been replaced with modern materials. This includes aluminum frames, etc. Additional doors may have been created on the side and rear elevations. A few of the windows may have been sealed off.
- ❖ Several rear outbuildings – visible on historic Fire Insurance Plans from the late 19th and early 20th century – have since been demolished.
- ❖ Unfortunately, the present lack of historical depictions of 123 Huron Street renders it difficult to discern other changes to the property over time. The lack of building permit data due to the closure of archival collections during the COVID-19 pandemic also renders it difficult to discern how the property has changed over time.

123 Huron Street, Toronto is surrounded by the following:

To the East: To the east of 123 Huron Street is a parking lot connected to the office complex at 25-33 Cecil Street. This parking lot is accessed via the public laneway LN W Beverley S Cecil.

To the North: To the north of 123 Huron Street is a public, dead-end laneway known as LN S Cecil E Huron. North of the laneway is a 2-storey building known as 125 Huron Street and the rear of houses at 41-49 Cecil Street. Based on Fire Insurance Plans, 125 Huron Street appears to have been constructed between 1903 and 1913. As of 1925, the building housed the *Lion Dollar Taxi* company. By the late 1920s and early 1930s, 125 Huron Street housed the *Stradlneg Synagogue*. 125 Huron Street is presently used for residential purposes.

To the South: To the south of 123 Huron Street is a row of 3 houses at 117-121 Huron Street. 117-121 Huron Street were constructed in 1907 on the south section of 123 Huron Street's grounds, which had been severed and sold off for redevelopment.

To the West: To the west of 123 Huron Street is Huron Street itself. On the west side of Huron Street on this block are a mix of 19th century and early 20th century residences at 120-130 Huron Street.

Historical Overview of Site and Surrounding Area:

Huron Street presently runs north-south between Phoebe Street and Davenport Road. The street name *Huron* derives from a French term used to describe the Ouendat (Wendat / Wyandot) people (Wise and Gould 2011, 127). The Ouendat (Wendat / Wyandot) were a "confederacy made up of five First Nations tribes that lived in the Orillia/Midland area until 1649, when they were dispersed by their enemies, the

Iroquois from upstate New York” (Wise and Gould 2011, 127). The Ouendat (Wendat / Wyandot) “made a military and trading alliance with the French in 1609 and by 1820 they dominated the fur trade in most of Ontario and part of Quebec” (Wise and Gould 2011, 127).

Huron Street south of Bloor Street West is situated almost immediately on the historic boundary of Park Lots 14 and 15 (The Toronto Park Lot Project 2018).¹²³ Huron Street itself is also situated on the historic boundary of Park Lots 14 and 15 with the eastern section of the property being in former Park Lot 14 and the western section of the property being in former Park Lot 15 (The Toronto Park Lot Project 2018). Park Lot 14 was granted to the Hon. Peter Russell (1733-1808) on 4 September 1793; whereas Park Lot 15 was granted to William Willcocks (1735/1736-1813) on 4 September 1793 (The Toronto Park Lot Project 2018).

Some of the earliest residential development in the Baldwin Village, Chinatown West, Grange Park, and Kensington Market neighbourhoods of Toronto included the construction of *Caer Howell* by The Hon. William Dummer Powell (1755-1834) in 1810; *Bellevue* by Captain George Taylor Denison (1783-1853) in 1815; and *The Grange* by D’Arcy Boulton Jr. (1785-1846) and Sarah Anne Boulton (1789-1863) in 1817 (Lundell 1997, 26-30 & 32-33). These were all large estate homes which belonged to prominent Toronto families and located on Park Lots 12, 17, and 13 respectively (Lundell 1997, 26-30 & 32-33, The Toronto Park Lot Project 2018).¹

In the late 1810s or mid-1830s, William Warren Baldwin (1775-1844) “cut an avenue [from his hilltop estate *Spadina*] through the wood all the way so that [the Baldwin family could] see the vessels passing up and down the bay” (Lundell 1997, 65, Wise and Gould 2011, 208).² This avenue became Spadina Avenue.³ The name Spadina

¹ Another estate known as *The Meadows* was located near the present-day northwest corner of Queen Street West and Spadina Avenue (Taylor 2012). By 1858, *The Meadows* was home to the Hon. John Hillyard Cameron (1817-1876) – of whom nearby Cameron Street was named after (Boulton 1858/2021). *The Meadows* was extant as of 1867, albeit had been demolished and the property subdivided for redevelopment by 1890 (Taylor 2012).

² Various sources provide alternative dates as to when Spadina Avenue was first laid out.

³ Nearby Spadina Avenue is an incredibly important and prominent street in Toronto’s history.

derives from *Ishpadinaa*, an Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) term for *high hill or ridge* and refers to the hill formed by the ancient shoreline of Lake Iroquois to the north of present-day Davenport Road (Wise and Gould 2011, 208, Ojibwe People's Dictionary 2020).⁴ The Baldwin family – a prominent landowning and political family in 19th century Toronto – are the eponyms of Baldwin Street, Baldwin Village, and numerous other sites and streets in the vicinity of Spadina Avenue. The Baldwin family continued to own large tracts of land in the Spadina Avenue area through the at least the late 1850s (Boulton 1858/2021) - and potentially later.⁵

Following the construction of *The Grange* in 1817, early commercial and residential intensification in the present-day Baldwin Village, Chinatown West, and Grange Park neighbourhoods had occurred by 1842, although was still largely clustered to the south around Lot Street (now Queen Street West) (see Appendix B, Figure 2). From the late 18th century through to the early-to-mid 19th century, Lot Street (now Queen Street) demarcated the northern town limits of Toronto.⁶ As of 1842, the northern boundary of the town limits of Toronto had been extended north from Lot Street (now Queen Street) to the northern edge of *The Grange* estate house (see Appendix B, Figure 2).⁷

Between 1841 and 1845, a large racecourse known as the *St. Leger / Union Racecourse* was located to the immediate north of *The Grange* estate house (Cane

⁴ The Baldwin's estate house *Spadina* – which was constructed in 1818 – was situated on the top of this hill to the immediate north of the present-day intersection of Davenport Road and Spadina Road. This vantage point – as noted by William Warren Baldwin – provided expansive panoramic views down Spadina Avenue towards Lake Ontario. The Baldwin's *Spadina* estate house was rebuilt, reconstructed, and redesigned after a mid-19th century fire and is now the site of the *Spadina House Museum* (City of Toronto 2021). Of additional note is that Davenport Road follows an ancient Indigenous footpath and portage route occasionally referred to as the *Moccasin Telegraph* (Wise and Gould 2011, 77, Sasaki 2019).

⁵ Interestingly, some members of the Baldwin family – such as William Warren Baldwin (1775-1844) - continued owning land in the area for years after their deaths (Boulton 1858/2021). The Estate of William Warren Baldwin continued owning multiple tracts of land along Huron Street south of College Street in the late 1850s, despite William Warren Baldwin himself having died in 1844 (Boulton 1858/2021, Fraser 1988). The *Spadina* estate itself remained in the Baldwin family until 1865/1866 (Lundell 1997, 65, City of Toronto 2021).

⁶ Between 1793 and 1834, Toronto was known as the Town of York.

⁷ By 1854, the northern town limits of Toronto had been extended north again to present-day Bloor Street (Dennis 1854/2021).

1842/2013). The *St. Leger / Union Racecourse* “was bounded on the west by Spadina Avenue and Russell Creek, on the east by Taddle Creek and bush adjoining Queen’s Park” (Toronto Historical Association 2020). The *St. Leger / Union Racecourse* was a short-lived venture operated by William (Bill) Henry Boulton (1812-1874)⁸ and shutdown in 1845 (Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame 2020).

As of 1842, Huron Street – then an unnamed street – appears on maps running between College Street and Bloor Street West, then the north boundary of the City of Toronto (Cane 1842/2013). A short, dead-end section of Huron Street had additionally been created south of College Street by this point in time, with this fragment of street ending near the northwest corner of the *St. Leger / Union Racecourse* (Cane 1842/2013). The closure of the *St. Leger / Union Racecourse* in 1845 was a major contributing factor that led to much of the area being surveyed for redevelopment and subsequently sold off as medium-to-large size lots in the late 1840s and 1850s. As of the publication of Sir Sanford Fleming’s 1851 *Topographical Plan of the City of Toronto*, Huron Street had been extended south of College Street to Phoebe Street- although the name *Huron Street* and many other neighbourhood streets do not appear in this map (Fleming 1851/2013). The name *Huron Street* subsequently appears in maps issued by the Trustees of the Denison Estate – which was located just west of the area – in March 1854 (Dennis 1854/2021). By 1858, many of the lots along Huron Street south of College Street were owned by members of Toronto’s elite and upper class (Boulton 1858/2021). As of 1858, the future site of 123 Huron Street was then owned by John George Bowes (1812-1863) (Boulton 1858/2021). Bowes served as the Mayor of Toronto in 1851-1853 and 1861-1863, was President of the *Toronto and Guelph Railway Company*, and was involved in a number of other political activities and railway-related enterprises (Mount Pleasant Group 2021). Residential development had not yet occurred along Huron Street south of College Street by 1858, although other area streets – such as Beverley

⁸ William (Bill) Henry Boulton (1812-1874) was the son of D’Arcy Boulton Jr. and Sarah Anne Boulton (née Robinson) (Russell 1982, 40). Between 1844 and 1853, William (Bill) Henry Boulton was a Member of Parliament representing Toronto in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada (Russell 1982, 42-43). William (Bill) Henry Boulton also served on Toronto City Council at various times between the 1830s and 1850s, and as Mayor of Toronto between 1845 and 1847 and again in 1858 (Russell 1982, 42-43).

Street and Cecil Street – had a handful of residences by this point in time. As of 1858, a handful of buildings spread across 2 properties had been constructed on the west side of Huron Street just north of College Street (Boulton 1858/2021). One of these was the residence of the Hon. Adam Wilson (1814-1891), who was a prominent lawyer and judge who served as the Mayor of Toronto between 1859 and 1860 (Boulton 1858/2021, City of Toronto Directory 1858, 206). The Hon. Wilson’s property had its main driveway facing Spadina Crescent with the property’s rear outbuildings backing onto Huron Street (Boulton 1858/2021). The other early property in proximity to Huron Street in 1858 contained 2 frame buildings located on the west side of Huron Street between Harbord Street and Willcocks Street (Boulton 1858/2021). The purposes of these buildings are unknown at present. Of additional note is that by the mid-19th century, early neighbourhood institutions and infrastructure facilities were in operation in the vicinity of Huron Street. Further information on these early neighbourhood institutions and infrastructure facilities has been included below.

The early 1840s saw the establishment of Toronto’s first municipal waterworks, which has a connection to Huron Street. On 18 September 1841, provincial legislation was passed that incorporated Joseph Masson, Albert Furniss, and John Strang as *The Toronto Gas and Light Company* (Ure 1858, 150-151). Albert Furniss was particularly involved in this endeavour, albeit the system was privately operated until shortly after his death in 1872. During the early-to-mid 1840s, Albert Furniss (1807-1872) constructed *The Furniss Works / St. George’s Reservoir*– often just referred to as the *Water Works* – at the present-day southeast corner of D’Arcy Street and Huron Street (Ure 1858, Boulton 1858/2021, Middleton 1923, 228, Toronto Planning Board 1978, Armstrong 1988, 264-265).^{9 10} As of 1858, this reservoir spanned the east side of Huron Street between D’Arcy Street and St. Patrick Street (now Dundas Street West) (Boulton 1858/2021). The initial focus of the *Furniss Works / St. George’s Reservoir* was to provide water for firefighting and public use, rather than private commercial and

⁹ The reservoir was also known as *St. George’s Square Reservoir* (Ure 1858, 153). St. George’s Square was a public square historically located in front of *The Grange* estate house, now in the middle of *Grange Park*.

¹⁰ His surname was spelled both *Furness* and *Furniss* in various historical sources.

domestic use (Ure 1858, 151, *The Globe* (Toronto) 1864, 2, *Fire Engineering* 1911/2021, Armstrong 1988, 265, Niven 2002, Patel 2007, 95).¹¹ ¹² However, numerous complaints about poor water quality hints that the system was likely used for other purposes alongside firefighting during its early years (Legislative Assembly of United Canada 1848/1975, 504, Ure 1858, 150, Timperlake 1877, 224). By 1856, 1/9th of residences in Toronto were connected to the waterworks system (Jones and McCalla 1979, 306). During this period, *St. George's Reservoir* also likely fed public baths, laundries, and a skating rink that were located just to the south of the reservoir on the north side of Phoebe Street just east of Huron Street (Boulton 1858/2013, Ure 1858, 153, *City of Toronto Directory* 1868/1869, 82, Mills 2020).¹³ Improvements were made to the *St.*

¹¹ Fire fighting was a major historical challenge in Toronto. While fire hydrants and reservoirs had been installed in Toronto as early as 1842, there was conflict in mid-19th century Toronto between the various firefighting companies and the *Toronto Gas Light and Water Company* as to the management, maintenance, and use of the hydrants and reservoirs (Armstrong 1988, 264-267, *City of Toronto* 2021). Reports emerged in the 1840s – notably only a few years prior to the Great Fire (Cathedral Fire) of April 1849 – that there was routinely not enough water in some of the firefighting reservoirs (Jones and McCalla 1979, 304, Armstrong 1988, 267). One cause of this issue – noted by Albert Furniss in July 1846 – was that “water from the fire hydrants was used for purposes not contemplated in the contract with the city” (Middleton 1923, 229). Significant leaks stemming from antiquated and poorly maintained equipment posed further challenges (Armstrong 1988, 264-267). Of additional note is that during this period, Toronto’s municipal water system only pumped water during the daytime (Daymond and Wolfe 1977, 115) and only 5 days a week (Jones and McCalla 1979, 316-317). A newspaper article published in *The Globe* in 1864 elucidated low water pressure in the system resulted in water “dribbling” out of Toronto’s fire hydrants during emergencies (*The Globe* (Toronto) 1864, 2). At least one alarming incident was reported to have occurred in 1866 where catfish and mud came out of a fire hydrant at King Street and Yonge Street during an emergency (Barkin and Gentles 1990, 19, Longley 2020). A December 1874 report from the *Water Works Commissioners' Office* identified that the older hydrants in Toronto were defective, largely due to the feeder pipes being too small and unable to bear high water pressure (Bell 1874, 129, Middleton 1923, 229, Jones and McCalla 1979, 305). By 1877, the fire hydrant system of Toronto had been upgraded – due to a \$3 000 000 overhaul of the municipal waterworks – to provide “a pressure of water sufficient to send enormous streams of water over the highest buildings in case of fire” (Timperlake 1877, 224). This also partially laid the foundation for a municipally operated and owned waterworks in Toronto, which allowed use of the system by private businesses and domiciles.

¹² By the mid-1850s, the *Metropolitan Gas and Water Company* - a company separate from Furniss’ *Toronto Gas Light and Water Company* – had constructed a large reservoir near the boundary of Scarborough and Toronto, with water being piped over 5 miles (8 kilometers) to Toronto (Ure 1858, 153). By 1864, Furniss had constructed another reservoir in Yorkville, as the water supply of the *St. George's Reservoir* was insufficient to supply increased demands (*The Globe* (Toronto) 1864, 2). Proposals for the construction of additional reservoirs in the vicinity of Bloor Street West and Saint George Street and Church Street and Maitland Street were also being explored during the mid-to-late 1860s (*The Globe* (Toronto) 1864, 2, *The Globe* (Toronto) 1868, 2).

¹³ Disease-causing decaying matter, sewage, and other particulate matter would often be found in Toronto’s piped municipal water supply during the 19th century (Ure 1858, 150, Timperlake 1877, 224, Brace 1995, *City of Toronto* 2021). Contaminated and poor water quality posed numerous health and social challenges for Toronto’s residents, including, but not limited to, cholera and typhoid (Barkin and

George's Reservoir in 1867/1868 which saw the water supply better interconnected with the Pumphouse on Peter Street and the Yorkville Reservoir (*The Globe (Toronto)* 1868, 2). This saw an increased supply of water to both reservoirs, as well as the establishment of a functional failsafe in case of emergencies and/or equipment failure (*The Globe (Toronto)* 1868, 2). Pipes linked to *The Furniss Works / St. George's Reservoir* ran underneath Huron Street between College Street and Phoebe Street (Copp Clark & Company 1878/2013). The City of Toronto ultimately purchased *The Furniss Works / St. George's Reservoir* in 1873 for \$220 000 after the death of Albert Furniss in 1872 (*The Globe (Toronto)* 1872, 2, *The Globe (Toronto)* 1873, 2, Chipman 1892, 114).¹⁴

Gentles 1990). For many years, the water intake pipes were in the same vicinity of the Toronto Bay as where sewage was actively being dumped (Ure 1858, 150, Timperlake 1877, 224, Barkin and Gentles 1990, 23). Toronto City Council had opted to install the main West End sewage output at the foot of Peter Street in 1845, several years after Albert Furniss had already constructed the city's water intake pipes in the same locale (Middleton 1923, 229, Jones and McCalla 1979, 304, Benidickson 2007, 66). A March 1848 parliamentary debate in response to a petition to formally incorporate the *Toronto Gas Light and Water Company* accused Albert Furniss of having "poison[ed] the people of Toronto with his filthy water and burn[ed] them out from want of it" (Legislative Assembly of United Canada 1848/1975, 504). By 1858/1860, the intake pipe had been extended further across the bay, although this did not alleviate contamination-related issues (Fire Engineering 1911/2021). Filtering cribs had been installed near the water intake pipe by the mid-to-late 1860s (*The Globe (Toronto)* 1868, 2). A complaint published in the *Mail* newspaper in Spring 1872 described that "disease and death lurk in the poisonous liquid which is now supplied to our houses five days of the week" through the pre-existing system that was in Toronto (Jones and McCalla 1979, 316-317). Around this time in 1871/1872, a *Special Act* was passed that appointed a team of 5 commissioners to analyze and construct a water intake system that extended further south into Lake Ontario, away from the pollution that was present in the vicinity of the Toronto Bay (Toronto Harbour) and Toronto Islands (Timperlake 1877, 224, Jones and McCalla 1979, 317). This commission was linked to a bylaw and legislation that was enacted in 1872 to formally authorize Toronto to construct a municipally operated and owned waterworks system (Jones and McCalla 1979, 315). By the late 1870s, the water intake pipe had been upgraded from wood to steel (Barkin and Gentles 1990, 23). However, contamination of the waterworks system continued to occur for years after this – particularly when the water intake pipe became damaged and prior to the construction of the *Island Filtration Plant* in the early 1910s (Barkin and Gentles 1990, 23, City of Toronto 2021).

¹⁴ The relationship between Albert Furniss and Toronto City Council was often poor. Furniss alleged he was often unpaid and treated poorly by Toronto City Council (Ure 1858, 153). Politicians acknowledged that Furniss' work "greatly benefitted the city at a time when nobody else would" engage with the work, yet alleged that Furniss also "poison[ed] the people of Toronto with his filthy water and burn[ed] them out from want of it" (Legislative Assembly of United Canada 1848/1975, 502). Notably, in 1847, Furniss became the sole proprietor of the water works following the deaths of the other founders (Ure 1858, 161). In either 1847 or 1851, Furniss sold the waterworks, only to repurchase them in 1853 (Ure 1858, 151, 153, & 163). Furniss alleged mistreatment from City Council was the cause of this sale, although it was noted that almost all of Furniss' business interests were in Montréal (Ure 1858, 153). Discussions occurred in 1856 which proposed Toronto City Council purchase Furniss' system, although the deal fell through (Middleton 1923, 261). Furniss later sold the water works on the private market second time in 1858, only to repurchase them again a few years later (Ure 1858, 154, Patel 2007, 96). Albert Furniss was ultimately noted to have spent over 30 years of his life in the construction, expansion, and management of Toronto's waterworks (*The Globe (Toronto)* 1872, 2).

Coincidentally, this purchase also coincided with the passing of a municipal bylaw and provincial legislation that authorized the City of Toronto to establish its own municipally-operated public waterworks and to purchase the pre-existing privately operated waterworks within the city (Chipman 1892, 114). As of its purchase in 1873, the *Furniss Works* had approximately 21 miles (33 kilometers) of pipes in Toronto (Chipman 1892, 114).¹⁵ While the pipes from the *Furniss Works / St. George's Reservoir* were retained in general use, the reservoir itself was abandoned shortly after its purchase in 1873 and by 1880 there were calls for the land containing the former reservoir to be redeveloped and/or sold off for private development (*The Globe* (Toronto) 1880, 4, Chipman 1892, 114). Historic *Fire Insurance Plans* and photographs indicate that the reservoir had been demolished and redeveloped by 1884, whereas the site of the public baths, laundries, and skating rink was repurposed as a waterworks storehouse in the early 20th century prior to demolition of the building by the 1970s.¹⁶ Both sites have since had several subsequent waves of intensification and redevelopment.¹⁷ Russell Creek – named after Peter Russell (1733-1808) and now a “lost” (buried) waterway - also historically flowed southeast through the Kensington Market, Chinatown West, and Grange Park neighbourhoods (Lost Rivers 2021). Russell Creek was buried by 1876 (Lost Rivers 2021).

Three other early institutions in the present-day Chinatown West and Grange Park neighbourhoods were *St. George the Martyr Anglican Church*; the *Protestant Orphans' Home*; and the *Phoebe Street Common School*:

St. George the Martyr Anglican Church was established on 9 November 1844 on land donated by the Boulton family, who owned the nearby *The Grange* estate (St.

¹⁵ The pipes had a very limited geographic range prior to a municipal infrastructure construction boom in the late 1870s through early 1890s (Ure 1858, 150, Chipman 1892, 114, Brace 1995, Wynne 2020). In response to these challenges, many parties in Toronto relied on roof rainwater cisterns, surface water (from Lake Ontario and other regional waterways), and wells dug into local aquifers for their water supply for much of the 19th century (Ure 1858, 150, Timperlake 1877, 223).

¹⁶ This was immediately next door (to the west of) George Weston's *Model Bakery / the Canadian Bread Company* bakery, which opened in 1897.

¹⁷ These sites are separate from the 1932 *Water Works* building at 505 Richmond Street West – near Augusta Avenue and Richmond Street West – which is presently undergoing renovation and restoration as part of a mixed-use redevelopment project.

George by the Grange 2021). The original church – located at the historic northeast corner of John Street and Stephanie Street – had seating for 750 and its tall, 150-foot spire “could be seen by ships from the lake and was used for navigation” (St. George by the Grange 2021). The church was expanded with a parish school in 1857 and a rectory (clergy housing) in 1865 (St. George by the Grange 2021). St. George the Martyr Anglican Church was “a popular church [...] often exceedingly difficult to secure sitting accommodation [...] by 1888 there were more than 400 children in two Sunday schools, plus charity missions, a home for the age, an orphanage, a camp, and other worthy projects” (St. George by the Grange 2021). In 1909, *St. George the Martyr* was united with *St. Margaret’s Spadina*¹⁸ by Toronto’s Anglican Bishop as changing neighbourhood dynamics – including a shift from residential to commercial and industrial uses – saw the number of parishioners drop (St. George by the Grange 2021). On 13 February 1955, the church suffered a catastrophic fire which destroyed most of the building, although some items – including important linens – were rescued (St. George by the Grange 2021). After the fire, the church moved their services to the nearby parish school, which is where the church is still based as of 2021 (St. George by the Grange 2021). Only the spire of the original 1844 church remains and is now incorporated into the gardens of Grange Park (St. George by the Grange 2021). In 2018, *St. George the Martyr* was renamed *St. George by the Grange* (St. George by the Grange 2021).

The *Protestant Orphans’ Home* – also known as the *Protestant Widows’ and Orphans’ Home* – was located on the north side of Sullivan Street between Beverley Street and Huron Street and in proximity to Russell Creek (Lost Rivers 2021, Toronto Historical Association 2021). Established as an organization between 1847 and 1852, the *Protestant Orphans’ Home* building on Sullivan Street was completed and in operation by 1854 (Lost Rivers 2021, Toronto Historical Association 2021).¹⁹ Fundraising for the construction of the building was conducted by the rector of *St.*

¹⁸ *St. Margaret’s Spadina* was located nearby on Spadina Avenue (Lost Anglican Churches 2021). It historically had a small attendance of less than 100 adults, although had seating for 600 (Lost Anglican Churches 2021).

¹⁹ The orphanage was briefly in operation on Bay Street prior to 1854 (City of Toronto 2011).

George the Martyr and the Honourable Robert Baldwin donated land (Lost Rivers 2021, Toronto Historical Association 2021). The orphanage was initially designed to house 30 but was expanded twice to eventually house 70 (Lost Rivers 2021, Toronto Historical Association 2021). An infirmary was also noted to have been added in 1864/1865 after a measles outbreak killed 18 children (City of Toronto 2011, Lost Rivers 2021, Toronto Historical Association 2021). The *Protestant Orphans' Home* is the eponym of the neighbourhood's *Orphanage Mews* (City of Toronto 2011). In 1882/1883, the *Protestant Orphans' Home* moved to the west side of Dovercourt Road near St. Annes Road due to overcrowding (City of Toronto 2011, Lost Rivers 2021, Toronto Historical Association 2021). In the 1920s, the *Orange Order* assumed operations of the orphanage and moved it to a larger facility north of the city (Lost Rivers 2021, Toronto Historical Association 2021). The former site of the orphanage on Dovercourt Road became a vocational school for girls (Lost Rivers 2021, Toronto Historical Association 2021).

The *Phoebe Street Common School* was opened on the south side of Phoebe Street just east of Spadina Avenue on 16 April 1855 (Toronto District School Board 2021). The *Phoebe Street Common School* – also later known as the *Phoebe Street School* or *Phoebe Street Public School* – was 1 of the original 6 public schools built in Toronto with public funds (Hardy and Cochrane 1950, 36, TO Built - ACO Toronto 2019). During the 19th century, the area surrounding the school was largely residential and a large student body necessitated the construction of additions to the school in 1868 and 1890 (Toronto District School Board 2021). In the autumn of 1883, a diphtheria outbreak in the Grange Park neighbourhood resulted in the temporarily closure of the *Phoebe Street School*, although it later reopened a few weeks later (The Globe (Toronto) 1886, 8).²⁰ In 1905, a fire damaged a section of the school which resulted in the original building being demolished (Toronto District School Board 2021). A new school was constructed in 1907 and was named the *Ogden Public School* after Dr. William Winslow Ogden (1837-1915) (Toronto District School Board 2021). Dr. Ogden was a physician

²⁰ Further research is required to discern whether this diphtheria outbreak occurred before or after the *Protestant Orphans' Home* moved from Sullivan Street to Dovercourt Road.

and public administrator who lived nearby on Spadina Avenue for many years (Toronto Public Library 1910/2021, Taylor 2013, Wynne 2020).²¹ Dr. Ogden was a member of the Toronto Public School Board for over 40 years and he served as Chairman of the Board in 1876-1877 and 1908-1909 (Parker 1914, 709, Toronto District School Board 2021). The 1907 school building was later demolished and replaced with the present school building in 1957 (TO Built - ACO Toronto 2019, Toronto District School Board 2021). The name was also later changed from *Ogden Public School* to the present name *Ogden Junior Public School*.

Despite appearing in maps in the 1840s and 1850s, Huron Street does not appear in the City of Toronto Directories until the 1872 edition. As of 1872, the street had 11 residences (City of Toronto Directory 1872, 243). Address numbering on Huron Street first appears in the 1873 City of Toronto Directory (City of Toronto Directory 1873 272). Interestingly, despite appearing in maps in the 1840s and 1850s, Huron Street is described as a “a new street” in a September 1874 letter to the editor published in *The Globe* (A Resident of St. Patrick Street 1874, 2). This letter to the editor – titled *A Grave Matter* and written by a local resident – describes the foul condition of Russell Creek which flowed in the vicinity of Huron Street near Dundas Street West (formerly St. Patrick Street) and had been partially buried by this point in time (A Resident of St. Patrick Street 1874, 2). The description of Huron Street as a “new street” is likely in reference to the new residential development along the street and may hint that the street was previously only a tract that provided access to undeveloped parcels of land. Constructed between 1881 and 1883, 123 Huron Street is representative of early residential development along Huron Street. Residential development continued to intensify along Huron Street south of College Street during the late 19th and early 20th century. *Fire Insurance Plans* indicate that by 1913, almost all of the lots on Huron Street south of College Street had been developed. In several cases, early structures were demolished and replaced; and in other cases, larger properties – such as 123 Huron

²¹ Dr. William Winslow Ogden was a physician who specialized in the fields of childhood diseases, forensic medicine, pathology, and toxicology (Parker 1914, 709). In addition to his involvement with the Toronto Public School Board, he was also a founding lecturer of the University of Toronto’s School of Medicine (Parker 1914, 709).

Street – had their lots severed and subdivided for infill development. The 20th century further saw the emergence of apartment buildings in Toronto and several early apartment buildings were constructed along Huron Street during this period in time, including *Sussex Court* (1903) at 21 Sussex Avenue /380 Huron Street (the southwest corner of Huron Street and Sussex Avenue)²²; the *Clifton Apartments* (c. 1918) at 45 Huron Street; the *South Maples Apartments* (1914/1915) at 156 Huron Street; the *Mid Maple Apartments* (later *Lloyd George Apartments*, *King Lee Apartments*, and *Epitome Apartments*) (1890, 1914/1915) at 160 Huron Street²³; and the *North Maple Apartments* (later *Charlton Apartments*) (1914/1915) at 162 Huron Street. Of additional interest is that many buildings situated on corner lots along Huron Street- particularly south of College Street, as well as in Huron-Sussex to the north– were built and/or renovated to contain storefront units. One such example of this is 107 Baldwin Street, which is home to *Reingewirtz Paints (Paint Store Toronto)*. *Reingewirtz Paints* is a paint business that was established by Nathan and Jenny Reingewirtz in March 1929 and is now a 3rd generation family business and one of Toronto’s oldest family-run businesses (Paint Store 2020).

By the 1910s, Kensington Market and the areas surrounding Spadina Avenue had become the epicentre of life for the Jewish communities of Toronto (Donegan and Salutin 1985, 16-17, Speisman 2004, Kensington Market Historical Society 2021). A decade later, by the 1920s, an estimated 80% of Toronto’s Jewish population lived in the vicinity of Spadina Avenue (Lost Rivers 2021). This was a result of several shifts in neighbourhood demographics, including “blue-collar Anglo-Saxons mov[ing] farther away from downtown as their socioeconomic status improved” (Kensington Market Historical Society 2021); as well as the move of Toronto’s Jewish communities out of St. John’s Ward (The Ward) as a result of some residents being able to afford better housing opportunities coupled with poor conditions in the Ward that included overcrowding and unsanitary housing; municipal redevelopment and slum clearing

²² *Sussex Court* was one of the very first purpose-built apartment buildings in Toronto.

²³ 160 Huron Street is particularly interesting, as it contains both the original 1890 houses that were home to and/or built by Toronto builder James McCabe, as well as the 1914/1915 *Mid Maples Apartments* building – with these structures having been consolidated together.

initiatives; stigmatization of the neighbourhood; and high crime rates (Lorinc, et al. 2015). Many of the formerly residential properties in Spadina Avenue area (including Baldwin Village and Kensington Market) were converted to contain a mix of small-scale commercial, institutional, and/or residential spaces following this shift in neighbourhood demographics (Kensington Market Historical Society 2021). The small-scale commercial element of Baldwin Village – initially a residential neighbourhood – also emerged as an “offshoot” of the largely Jewish Kensington Market during this period in time (The Grange Community Association 2021).²⁴ Estimates have emerged that by the 1920s/1930s, there were at least 30 synagogues operating in the vicinity of Kensington Market and Spadina Avenue with many of these congregations being *landsmanshaft* and representing different provinces and specific towns within Eastern Europe (Plummer 2010, Beaton 2017). By the late 1920s and early 1930s, several buildings on Huron Street south of College Street had been adaptatively reused as spaces for synagogues and their congregations. Two examples from 1929 include: 43 Huron Street – initially a house constructed in the early-to-mid 1870s - that was turned into the *Chevra Tiferes Israel Anshe Synagogue*; whereas 125 Huron Street – previously the *Lion Dollar Taxi* company’s garage – was turned into the *Stradlneg Synagogue* (City of Toronto Directory 1929, 1530).²⁵ ²⁶ During the early 20th century, Spadina Avenue south of Dundas Street West and adjacent streets (Adelaide Street West, Richmond Street West, etc.) also emerged as an industrial district that was largely associated with garment-related and general manufacturing industries (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 30, 90, & 135). These industries employed many Jewish residents and recent immigrants to Canada (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 30). By the 1950s and

²⁴ The current character of Baldwin Village – including its many popular cafés, patios, and restaurants – emerged in the 1960s/1970s (The Grange Community Association 2021).

²⁵ Two additional, historic neighbourhood synagogues that were active in the 1920s/1930s adaptively reused spaces that were originally Christian churches. The *Ostroutzer Synagogue* at 58 Cecil Street repurposed the *Church of Christ*, which was originally built in 1891 (Plummer 2010). Similarly, the *Hebrew Men of England Synagogue* at 335 Spadina Avenue repurposed the *Western Congregational Church*, which was originally built in the 1890s (The United Church of Canada Archives 2021). 58 Cecil Street was later used as the *Chinese Catholic Centre* and is now a multipurpose community centre (Plummer 2010); whereas 335 Spadina Avenue was demolished and replaced with a mid-to-late 20th century strip plaza.

²⁶ 43 Huron Street remained in use as a synagogue through the late 1960s (and perhaps later). As of the time of writing this, both 43 Huron Street and 125 Huron Street are now used as residential spaces.

1960s, Toronto's Jewish communities began relocating to neighbourhoods in the northwest area of the City of Toronto, particularly the neighbourhoods north of St. Clair Avenue in the vicinity of Bathurst Street (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 30, Silverstein 2012). However, a handful of Jewish businesses and institutions remained in the areas around Spadina Avenue. *Mandel's Creamery* – which was based at 29 Baldwin Street – was one of the area's last Jewish businesses and shutdown in 1995 after 90 years in operation (The Grange Community Association 2021). Two synagogues remain active in the area: the *Kiever Shul*, which was established in 1912, with the current building at 25 Bellevue Square having been constructed in 1927; and the *Anshei Minsk*, which was established in 1912, with the current building at 10 Saint Andrew Street having been constructed in 1930 (Kiever Shul 2021, Anshei Minsk Congregation 2021).

During the 1950s, the area around Spadina Avenue and Dundas Street West emerged as Chinatown (Chinatown West) (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 30). Historically, Toronto's first Chinatown formed along Elizabeth Street in St. John's Ward (The Ward) during the late 19th century (Law 2019). However, post-World War II civic redevelopment projects and slum clearing initiatives in St. John's Ward – including the construction of new City Hall and Nathan Phillips Square – resulted in the displacement of many Chinese-Canadian businesses and residents (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 30, Law 2019).²⁷ This coincided with the northward migration of Toronto's Jewish communities which “made available a larger number of homes in the [Spadina Avenue] area for the Chinese community” (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 30). By 1951, 20% of the households in the south-east Spadina district were Chinese or Chinese-Canadian; and by 1971, 43% of the households in the south-east Spadina district were Chinese or Chinese-Canadian (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 30). This was, at the time, the largest concentration of Chinese and Chinese-Canadian residents in Toronto (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 44).²⁸ By 1978, Spadina Avenue (between College Street and Queen Street West) and Dundas Street West (between Beverley Street and Spadina Avenue) had

²⁷ An estimated two-thirds of Chinese businesses were expropriated from their land in the Ward from 1947 onward (Law 2019).

²⁸ Chinatown East – located in the vicinity of Broadview Avenue and Gerrard Street East – also emerged as a result of the displacement of Chinese and Chinese-Canadian businesses and residents from the Ward in the 1950s/1960s (Da Silva 2017).

emerged as commercial and shopping thoroughfares that served the growing Chinese-Canadian community (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 32). Dundas Street West – between Beverley Street and Spadina Avenue – has been noted to have undergone significant commercial redevelopment from the 1950s onward (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 90). Numerous community and social organizations and services had also emerged within Chinatown by the 1970s (Toronto Planning Board 1978, 78). Chinatown (Chinatown West) remains an active, strong, and vibrant community and neighbourhood as of 2021.

Several additional neighbourhood-related items of note include:

- The proximity of several large post-secondary institutions – including the University of Toronto, OCAD University, and Ryerson University – has resulted in many properties within the Baldwin Village, Chinatown West, and Grange Pak neighbourhoods having been converted and/or divided for student and university-related housing. This trend has been apparent for many decades (perhaps over a century).
- From the 1960s onward, Cecil Street has been a major hotspot for activism within the City of Toronto. This includes settlement work; equality and equity activism (including LGBTQ and other minority rights); labour activism; environmental activism, etc. Baldwin Village also was a hotspot for antiwar activism and draft dodgers during the Vietnam War (The Grange Community Association 2021).
- The northeast corner of D’Arcy Street and Huron Street has been home to the *First Baptist Church* since 1955 (First Baptist Church 2020). The *First Baptist Church* was founded in 1826 “by fugitive slaves [from the southern United States] who were drawn to Upper Canada by the promise of freedom” (First Baptist

Church 2020). Its first leader was Elder Washington Christian (c. 1776-1850). The *First Baptist Church* is now Toronto's oldest Black Church Congregation.

Redevelopment Potential of 123 Huron Street:

123 Huron Street has redevelopment potential and should be considered at increased risk of eventually being lost to demolition and/or redevelopment. 123 Huron Street was advertised as an “income property” during its 2016 sale; and was also previously featured in a *Managing Multiplex Money* blogpost in August 2014 (Toronto Realty Blog 2014, Kehoe 2016). 123 Huron Street is one of the largest single lots in the Baldwin Village, Chinatown West, and Grange Park neighbourhoods and the current building has a significant setback from Huron Street. This may be indicative of the property eventually being redeveloped for intensification on its sizable lot. In 1951, a proposal was explored to convert 123 Huron Street into a private hospital (The Globe and Mail 1951, 5). This proposal – while ultimately never enacted due to fire code and licensing related issues – explored demolition of the extant house at 123 Huron Street (The Globe and Mail 1951, 5). The surrounding blocks also have a history of intensive development. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Ontario Hydro began purchasing properties in the vicinity of Baldwin Street and Henry Street as part of a “block busting” project to eventually facilitate the construction of a new transformer station for downtown Toronto (Ragnarokr 2007). This saw the demolition of many properties along both the north side of Cecil Street and the west side of Henry Street just north of Baldwin Street (Ragnarokr 2007). In the present day, several properties in the area have been proposed for intensive redevelopment. A 13-storey mixed use building has been proposed for 315-321 Spadina Avenue in July 2019; whereas a rezoning application (zoning review) for an 8-storey building was filed for 106 Huron Street in January-March 2019. Additionally, several tall mixed-use towers were recently completed along the south side of College Street between McCaul Street and Spadina Avenue. Heritage Listing and/or Heritage Designation of 123 Huron Street may prevent the eventual future loss of this property due to demolition and/or redevelopment.

TO Built Link:

123 Huron Street, Toronto:

https://www.acotoronto.ca/show_building.php?BuildingID=13561**Appendix A - Former Occupants and Uses:**

Please note that date ranges on this chart are approximate and that the data is not exhaustive of all former occupants. This chart aims to give a general overview of the former occupants of 123 Huron Street, Toronto.

Date(s)	Name(s)	Note(s):
May 1881, 1883-1904	Alexander Macdonell and Allan Macdonell	<p>Alexander Macdonell (1820-1903) acquired the land in May 1881 and 123 Huron Street was completed and occupied by 1883 (City of Toronto Directory 1883, 75, Supreme Court of Canada 1886). He resided here until his death in 1903. The property was still owned by the Macdonell family as of 1904 (City of Toronto Directory 1904, 171).</p> <p>Alexander Macdonell's eldest brother – Allan Macdonell (1808-1888) – lived here until his death in 1888.</p> <p>The Macdonells also had several domestic workers who resided at the property over time.</p>

		Please see sections below this chart for detailed biography.
1905-1906	Colonel William John Lane Milligan, Isabella Margaret Lane Milligan, and Catherine (Kate) McDermott	<p>Colonel Lane Milligan was originally from England and served in the military across the British Empire, including in India during the Indian Rebellion (1857); in South Africa; and in Canada (McEvoy 2021). He was also the grandson of a former Governor of Saint Helena (Burke 1891, 323). In Toronto, Colonel Lane Milligan served as the Staff Officer of Pensioners between 1879 and 1891 (McEvoy 2021). Colonel Lane Milligan was married to Isabella Margaret Lane Moir (The Toronto Daily Star 1905, 18, McEvoy 2021). Colonel Lane Milligan was retired by the time he resided at 123 Huron Street (McEvoy 2021).</p> <p>No further information is available about Catherine (Kate) McDermott at present (City of Toronto Directory 1905, 170 & 659).</p>
1907-1912	William Duckworth and Thomas Duckworth	William Duckworth was a plasterer at the plastering company <i>Duckworth Brothers</i> ; whereas Thomas Duckworth was a furrier by trade (City of Toronto Directory 1907, 176, City of

		<p>Toronto Directory 1910, 569, City of Toronto Directory 1912, 199).</p> <p>The Duckworths may have had a role in the construction of neighbouring 117-121 Huron Street, although this requires further research to verify.</p> <p>Despite having the same name, this William Duckworth appears to be a different individual from William Duckworth who served on Toronto's City Council and as a Conservative MPP during the early-to-mid 20th century.</p>
1913-1914	Jennie Stewart	Jennie Stewart was the widow of Walter Stewart (City of Toronto Directory 1913, 211 & 1344, City of Toronto Directory 1914, 230).
1915 to early 1920s	Harry Bowra, Henry R. Bowra, and Ann Bowra	The Bowra family operated a boarding house at 123 Huron Street (City of Toronto Directory 1915, 247, City of Toronto Directory 1920, 300).
Circa. 1925	Edward Swain	Edward Swain was a clerk at the Canadian National Railway (City of Toronto Directory 1925, 1335).
Circa. late 1920s to early 1930s	Mary Hart	Unfortunately, no further information is available about Mary Hart at present (City of Toronto Directory 1929, 580, City of Toronto Directory 1930, 690).

Circa. mid-1930s to 1939	Severi Solin	Severi Solin operated a boarding house at 123 Huron Street (City of Toronto Directory 1935, 255, City of Toronto 1939, 255).
Circa. early 1940s	Dilta Maki and Hannah Maki	Unfortunately, no further information is available about the Makis at present (City of Toronto Directory 1940, 256, City of Toronto Directory 1941, 877).
Circa. 1945	Leonard Siponen	Leonard Siponen was a carpenter by trade (City of Toronto Directory 1945, 268 & 1347).
Circa. 1950/1951	Andrew Stefirny	Andrew Stefirny was a knitter at the <i>York Knitting Company</i> (City of Toronto Directory 1950, 1486, City of Toronto Directory 1951, 234).
May 1951	Private Hospital (Proposed)	In May 1951, an application was submitted by Dr. F. S. Nishikawa and Edith Nishikawa to operate a private hospital at 123 Huron Street (The Globe and Mail 1951, 5). The application was rejected as the building is of a frame construction and did not meet fire codes for a hospital facility (The Globe and Mail 1951, 5). Potential demolition of the extant building was also contemplated in 1951, but ultimately did not occur (The Globe and Mail 1951, 5). 123 Huron Street was vacant as of 1952 (City of Toronto Directory 1952, 246).

<p>Circa. 1953 to 1965/1966</p>	<p><i>Daugavas Vanagi (The Latvian Relief Society of Canada), Latvija Amerika (Latvia Newspaper), Latvian Banquet Hall, and Various Residential Units</i></p>	<p>From approximately 1952 until 1965/1966, 123 Huron Street had significant associations with Toronto's Latvian-Canadian community (City of Toronto Directory 1953, 258, City of Toronto Directory 1965, 387, City of Toronto Directory 1966, 421). In 1952, <i>Daugavas Vanagi</i> (the <i>Latvian Relief Society of Canada</i>) purchased 123 Huron Street for \$12 000 (The Globe and Mail 1957, 4). A March 1957 <i>The Globe and Mail</i> article described 123 Huron Street as a "second home for Toronto's 8000 Latvians" (The Globe and Mail 1957, 4). By 1954, the <i>Latvija Amerika</i> (<i>Latvia Newspaper</i>) was operating from the property (City of Toronto Directory 1954, 301); and by the mid-1960s the property was also known as the <i>Latvian Banquet Hall</i> (City of Toronto Directory 1965, 387). These organizations provided community and cultural support for Latvian-Canadians.</p> <p>During this period, 123 Huron Street also had several residential units, many of which were home to Latvian-Canadians.</p> <p>123 Huron Street was vacant in 1966-1967 (City</p>
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		of Toronto Directory 1966, 421, City of Toronto Directory 1967, 331).
1968 to Present Day	Various Units	By 1968, 123 Huron Street had been converted back to solely residential use, although had been divided into approximately 9 units (City of Toronto Directory 1968, 351). Classified ads in regional newspapers indicate that 123 Huron Street remained divided into various units through the late 20 th and early 21 st century. Per real estate ads from the mid-2010s, 123 Huron Street presently contains 18 apartment units (Kehoe 2016).
Circa. 1989-1991, potentially 1993	Nino Ricci	Italian-Canadian novelist Nino Ricci (born 1959) resided at an apartment at 123 Huron Street while writing <i>In a Glass House</i> in 1989-1991 (Ricci 2021). Nino Ricci may also have resided here circa. 1993 (Gatenby 1999, 145).

Alexander Macdonell and the Macdonell Family:

Alexander Macdonell (1820-1903):

The first occupant of 123 Huron Street was Alexander Macdonell (19 September 1820- 14 December 1903). Alexander Macdonell acquired the land on Huron Street in May 1881 (Supreme Court of Canada 1886). By 1883, 123 Huron Street was completed and occupied (City of Toronto Directory 1883, 75). Alexander Macdonell lived at the property from 1883 until his death in 1903. Alexander Macdonell was born in the Town

of York in 1820 and was the 2nd youngest son of the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie (1762-1842) and Ann(e) Macdonell (née Smith) (1778-1858) (Ancestry.ca Library 2021).²⁹ ³⁰ Both his parents were from prominent Scottish Loyalist families. His father was a veteran of the Revolutionary War (1775-1783) and the War of 1812 and was an eminent, influential citizen of Upper Canada; whereas his mother was the sister of Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Smith (1756-1826) (Bumsted 1988/2016).³¹ Alexander Macdonell was likely born at the Macdonell family's home at the northwest corner of Adelaide Street West and John Street (Macdonell 1793/1890). He was admitted as a solicitor in 1844 and called to the Bar in 1845 (Hamilton 1904, 66). He then practiced law in Toronto (City of Toronto Directory 1846, 45). As of the enumeration of the 1851 Census, he was living in Lancaster, Glengarry County (Census of Canada 1851). By 1858/1859, had returned to Toronto, resumed his law practice, and taken up residence near the southern terminus of Church Street (City of Toronto Directory 1858/1859, 129). Around the mid-1860s, Alexander Macdonell began working at Osgoode Hall (The Globe (Toronto) 1903, 14). For most of his career, he served as chief clerk in various divisions at Osgoode Hall, including the Court Writs, Queen's Bench, and Process offices. (The Globe (Toronto) 1903, 14, Hamilton 1904, 65-66). Alexander Macdonell was known as "Uncle Alick" at Osgoode Hall and was the oldest employee at that institution upon his death at age 84 in 1903 (The Globe (Toronto) 1903, 14, Hamilton 1904, 65). Alexander Macdonell does not appear to have ever married nor did he have any known children. However, census records do identify that several domestic workers (maids, labourers, etc.) resided at 123 Huron Street with him during his residency. Regarding other aspects of his personal life, Alexander Macdonell was noted to have had a keen interest in horticulture (The Globe (Toronto) 1903, 14) – which was likely reflected in the extensive grounds that 123 Huron Street originally had (see Appendix B,

²⁹ Due to their similar names, I am using *Alexander Macdonell* to refer to the son who resided at 123 Huron Street; whereas *Alexander Macdonell of Collachie* refers to his father.

³⁰ Please note that I have used the spelling *Macdonell* throughout this document. However, the family also used the spellings *MacDonell*, *McDonell*, and *Mcdonell*.

³¹ Further details on the Macdonell family are included in the sections below.

Figures 6 to 11).³² Oddly, in October 1901, Alexander Macdonell opposed the paving of Huron Street and issued a court writ “to restrain the city from going on with the work of laying an asphalt pavement” (Toronto Daily Star 1901, 1). The current condition of Huron Street indicates that the work was eventually completed despite this opposition. Alexander Macdonell was also the custodian of his father’s journals, which documented early life in the Town of York during the late 18th and early 19th century (Macdonell 1793/1890, 128). He allowed for excerpts of these journals to be published on occasion, including sections which described an expedition undertaken by his father and Lieutenant Governor Simcoe to Matchetache Bay near Lake Simcoe in 1793 (Macdonell 1793/1890).³³ These journals are now in the possession of the *Toronto Public Library’s Special Collections*, with additional materials held by *Library and Archives Canada*. Alexander Macdonell died at 123 Huron Street on 14 December 1903 (The Globe (Toronto) 1903, 14). His death may have been from a complication of a fall several months earlier in January 1903 (The Globe (Toronto) 1903, 23). Alexander Macdonell’s funeral was held at St. Patrick’s Church and was noted to have been “very well attended” (The Globe (Toronto) 1903, 10). Judge John Winchester (1850-1919) posthumously described Alexander Macdonell as “one of the most delightful Christian and lovable characters that he had ever known ... he was a most charitable man and few had so many calls upon his charity, none being refused” (The Globe (Toronto) 1903, 14). James Cleland Hamilton (1836-1907) further notes in *Osgoode Hall: Reminiscences of the Bench and Bar* (1904) that Alexander Macdonell’s death “removed one of the few remaining links connecting the present generation [in 1904] with that of Simcoe, Osgoode, and the young Attorney-General [James Macdonell] who fell with General Brock” (65).

³² These grounds were later subdivided for development after the death of Alexander Macdonell in 1903. 117-121 Huron Street were constructed on the south section of 123 Huron Street’s former grounds in 1907.

³³ This was reproduced in the *Transactions of The Canadian Institute* journal in October 1890 (Macdonell 1793/1890).

Allan Macdonell (1808-1888):

During the 1880s, Allan Macdonell (1808-1888) also resided at 123 Huron Street with his brother Alexander Macdonell. Allan Macdonell was born in York, Upper Canada in 1808 and was the eldest biological child of the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie and Ann(e) Macdonell of Collachie (née Smith) (Ancestry.ca Library 2021).³⁴ He was called to the bar in 1832 and worked as a lawyer in Upper Canada until 1837 (Swainson 1982). Between 1837 and 1842, Allan Macdonell served as the Sheriff of the Home District, the same position which his father held between 1792 and 1804/1805 (Swainson 1982, Bumsted 1988/2016). Allan Macdonell was a Major in the Queen's Rangers and during the Rebellion of 1837-1838, he "raised and equipped a troop of cavalry at his own expense" (Swainson 1982). By the mid-1840s, Allan Macdonell had shifted his attention to mining and railroad related interests (Swainson 1982).

Through his mining and railroad related interests, Allan Macdonell played a role in an 1840s-1850s Indigenous resource rights movement; the Mica Bay Incident of 1849; and also likely spurred the creation of the Robinson Treaties of 1850. In 1845/1846, Allan Macdonell "obtained a government license ... for exploring the shore of Lake Superior for mines [...] prospecting primarily for copper" and was subsequently "instrumental in organizing the *Quebec and Lake Superior Mining Association* in 1847" (Swainson 1982, Knight and Chute 2006, 90). Early on in his prospecting, Allan Macdonell met with Chief Shingwaukose (1773-1854) - a prominent Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) leader - to seek advice on locating regional ore deposits (Knight and Chute 2006, 91). Chief Shingwaukose initially welcomed mineral exploration in his area (Knight and Chute 2006, 91). Subsequently, Allan Macdonell and Chief Shingwaukose established several independent and private agreements, including 999-year leases for mining sites with the condition that mining be undertaken within 5 years; as well as a lease for a strip of land that could be used to construct a railway, which the Anishinaabe would receive toll remuneration from (Knight and Chute 2006, 94). As part of these agreements, Macdonell was additionally hired as a lawyer by Chief Shingwaukose to represent Anishinaabe and Métis interests during correspondence and negotiations with

³⁴ Allan Macdonell was likely named after his grandfather Captain Allan Macdonell of Collachie.

the government and mining companies (Knight and Chute 2006, 94). Notably, in 1846, the government sent Alexander Vidal (1819-1906) – a young surveyor – to conduct resource surveys of the areas surrounding Sault Ste. Marie (Knight and Chute 2006, 92). During these surveys, Chief Shingwaukose expressed concerns over the lack of compensation to regional Anishinaabe and Métis communities from proposed resource extraction on their lands; the anticipated damage to the surrounding environments from unrestricted blasting, mining, and logging activities; and the significant impact these activities would have on Anishinaabe and Métis livelihoods and ways of living (Knight and Chute 2006, 92). These government surveys were also being conducted without the consent of the Anishinaabe or Métis communities (Knight and Chute 2006, 92). Chief Shingwaukose subsequently attempted to establish an agreement with the government during these early surveys as to lease the land for mining activities in exchange for revenue to the Anishinaabe and Métis communities (Knight and Chute 2006, 92). When this was ignored, Chief Shingwaukose ordered the expulsion of Vidal from the area (Knight and Chute 2006, 92). However, this did not deter the government, which began to issue mining licenses for the area – including to the *Quebec and Lake Superior Mining Association* – by 1847 (Swainson 1982). Allan Macdonell was noted to have had conflicts between his business interests and his loyalty to his Anishinaabe and Métis allies during this period (Knight and Chute 2006, 93). By 1848, Allan Macdonell had disagreements with the directors of the *Quebec and Lake Superior Mining Association*, as an executive decision was made to treat mining on the north shore of Lake Superior as “a speculative enterprise, rather than a long-term venture that would foster social as well as economic development” (Chute 1998, 132).

Allan Macdonell accompanied Chief Shingwaukose, his son Ogista, Chief Nebenaigoching (c. 1808-1899), their interpreter Louis Cadotte, and several other First Nations and Métis representatives to visit the Governor Lord Elgin (1811-1863) in Montréal in 1848 and again in 1849 (Knight and Chute 2006, 92). While these visits were well publicized in newspapers, they resulted in no change to the government’s policy towards issuing licenses for resource extraction in the Sault Ste. Marie area (Knight and Chute 2006, 92). In the summer of 1849 gunpowder and other supplies allegedly started to go missing from mining camps in the Sault Ste. Marie area (Knight

and Chute 2006, 93-94). This spurred a response from the government who sent a 2-person commission – consisting of Alexander Vidal (1819-1906) and Thomas G. Anderson (1779-1875) – to investigate (Knight and Chute 2006, 93). This commission sought to meet with Chief Shingwaukonse, Allan Macdonell, and other community leaders (Knight and Chute 2006, 93-94). Anderson was noted to have known Chief Shingwaukonse from the War 1812; spoke fluent Anishinaabe; and was sympathetic to the position of the Anishinaabe and Métis (Knight and Chute 2006, 93-94). However, Vidal was less experienced, less sympathetic to the Anishinaabe and Métis – especially after his past experience in the area, and was unfortunately placed in charge of the commission (Knight and Chute 2006, 93-94). Vidal “aroused ire” by asking “on what authority [the Anishinaabe and Métis] claimed their lands” (Knight and Chute 2006, 94). Communications had broken down by the final commission meeting on 15 October 1849 (Knight and Chute 2006, 94). By this point in time, the Anishinaabe and Métis leaders refused to speak to the commissioners except through their lawyer Allan Macdonell (Knight and Chute 2006, 94). In response, the commissioners called into question whether Allan Macdonell’s business interests in the affairs were impacting his motives (Knight and Chute 2006, 93-94).

In November 1849, the Mica Bay Incident unfolded. During this incident, Allan Macdonell and his Anishinaabe and Métis allies “intended to take over the Québec and Lake Superior Association’s holdings at Mica Bay [...] including a mining settlement of about one hundred miners and their families [with the] idea to put the [Anishinaabe and Métis] in possession, but to carry on mining operations under the superintendence of the present acting captain [Joseph Rodd] by removing the manager [and trustee] Mr. Bonner [and its employees] altogether from the mines” (Knight and Chute 2006, 95). On 11 November 1849, “two vessels – one a schooner named the *Falcon*, owned by Allan Macdonell” set out for the mine (Knight and Chute 2006, 95). On board were Allan Macdonell, his brother Angus Duncan Macdonell (1815-1894), Wharton Metcalfe, Chief Shingwaukonse, Chief Nebenagoching, approximately 25 other Anishinaabe – including the American head Chief Cassaquadung – and four prominent Métis leaders (Knight and Chute 2006, 95). Another party approached the mine overland and reportedly lit numerous bonfires along the lakeshore to give the appearance that hundreds of people

were present (Knight and Chute 2006, 95). The Anishinaabe and Métis contingent were reportedly not armed, although had “absconded with two small cannons originally belonging to the Hudson’s Bay Company” (Knight and Chute 2006, 95). Allan Macdonell successfully negotiated the departure of Bonner and the mine’s employees without bloodshed; however, Bonner later sued the government for damages (Knight and Chute 2006, 95). In response to the incident, a contingent from the Second Rifle Brigade was sent from Toronto, although the brigade could not reach the mine due to poor weather (Knight and Chute 2006, 96). Allan Macdonell and the others peacefully turned themselves in on 4 December 1849 and were taken to Penetanguishene and then Toronto, where they were “briefly imprisoned and released” (Knight and Chute 2006, 96). Media accounts distorted the incident, with some accounts reporting that Allan Macdonell wielded a bowie knife while dressed in buckskins, while other accounts reported the murder of mine employees and other violent acts (Knight and Chute 2006, 95-97). In April 1853, Allan Macdonell penned a letter to George Brown (1818-1880) and *The Globe* which stated that “he had promoted the Ojibwas’ plan because he had wanted to re-establish a fertile middle ground on the frontier for diverse ideas, where Native prerogatives could be recognized equally along with settler rights” and that “without his assistance at the time of the Mica Bay Incident, violence might very well have broken out” (Knight and Chute 2006, 97). The Mica Bay Incident (1849) likely directly contributed to the subsequent cession of Anishinaabe and Métis lands along the northwest shore of Lake Huron and northern shore of Lake Superior with these being the subject of the *Robinson Treaties* of 1850 (Surtees 1986).³⁵

By the 1850s, Allan Macdonell’s “chief passion had become westward expansion, the annexation of the lands of the Hudson’s Bay Company, and the destruction of that company’s trade monopoly in the west” (Swainson 1982). Allan Macdonell attempted to obtain a charter to establish a railroad to the Pacific coast of Canada in 1851, 1853, and 1855 but was unsuccessful with each attempt as “they did not have the agreement of the

³⁵ *An Act to Make Better Provision for the Administration of Justice in the Unorganized Tracts of Country in Upper Canada* was also passed in 1853, which made it a felony to incite First Nations or Métis to disturb the peace with this carrying a punishment of a minimum of 2 years in provincial penitentiary (Knight and Chute 2006, 98). George Brown notably described this as “an Act to procure the conviction of Allan Macdonell” (Knight and Chute 2006, 98).

Imperial government which was sovereign in the northwest, of the HBC which governed the area, or of the Indian tribes which inhabited the territory ... [and] they had no capital” (Swainson 1982). Similar unsuccess occurred during Macdonell’s 1852 proposal to construct a canal linking Lake Huron and Lake Superior near Sault Ste. Marie (Swainson 1982). By 1856, he was serving as the first president of the *Victoria Mining Company* (Swainson 1982). Interestingly, a December 1856 article in the *Leader* reportedly described Allan Macdonell as a “monomaniac who possessed an unconquerable penchant for magnificent schemes” (Swainson 1982). Allan Macdonell’s was eventually successful in obtaining a charter for the *North-West Transportation, Navigation and Railway Company* in 1858, which was likely spurred by the completion of the *Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railroad* in 1855; a shift in public opinion regarding westward expansion and annexation of the Hudson Bay Company’s lands; as well as increased public interest in the West following the discovery of gold in British Columbia (Swainson 1982). Allan Macdonell was elected the founding director of the *North-West Transportation, Navigation and Railway Company* this same year (Swainson 1982). He was “one of the most active members of its board [as well as] its chief propagandist” (Swainson 1982). The *North-West Transportation, Navigation and Railway Company* was ultimately an unsuccessful venture due to underfunding; questionable business arrangements between its board members and their colleagues and friends; as well as a lack of support from the *Hudson’s Bay Company* and Imperial government who owned the western lands that the company would need to pass through (Swainson 1982). These factors – coupled with a Recession in 1857 – eventually resulted in a lawsuit being brought against the company by its shareholders (Swainson 1982). The *North-West Transportation, Navigation and Railway Company* was restructured in 1859 as the *North-west Transit Company*, but had folded by 1860 with its charter expiring that same year (Swainson 1982). By 1865, Allan Macdonell was serving as the managing director of the *Upper Canada Mining Company* (Swainson 1982). He reportedly fell out of the public eye in his later years (Swainson 1982). Allan Macdonell does not appear to have ever married (Knight and Chute 2006, 95). Allan Macdonell died at 123 Huron Street age 80 on 9 September 1888 (*The Globe* (Toronto) 1888).

The Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie (1762-1842):

Alexander Macdonell of Collachie and Ann(e) Smith were the parents of the above-described Alexander Macdonell and Allan Macdonell. The Macdonell family were originally from Glengarry and Inverness, Scotland (Harkness 1946, 11, Bumsted 1988/2016, McDonell and Campbell 1997, 36). As a result of the Jacobite rising of 1745, the Macdonell family lost large parts of their Glengarry estates and were treated poorly by the Duke of Cumberland (1725-1765) (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37). In 1773, 3 brothers of the Clan Macdonell of Glengarry – Allan Macdonell (Collachie) (1712-1792); Alexander Macdonell (Aberchalder) (c. 1713-1789); and John Macdonell (Leek) (1707-1782); – arranged passage of their families and several hundred Scots aboard the ship *Pearl* (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37).³⁶ The *Pearl* left the West Coast of Scotland in early-to-mid September 1773 and arrived in New York 6 weeks later on 25 October 1773 (Harkness 1946, 11, McDonell and Campbell 1997, 36, Alexander and MacDonell n.d.). In New York, the Macdonells settled on the estate of Sir William Johnson (c. 1715-1774) in the Mohawk Valley (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37).³⁷ The Macdonells were undertaking improvements to the Johnson’s estate and lands when hostilities broke out during the start of the Revolutionary War in 1775 (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37). During the Revolutionary War, some members of the Macdonell family were Loyalists and supported the British Crown (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37). As such, in January 1776, General Philip Schuyler (1733-1804) of the Revolutionary Army marched into the Mohawk Valley with “considerable force and asked for an interview with the loyalists, who had been reported to be drilling and fortifying [the Johnson residence] (Harkness 1946, 36). General Schuyler then met with Sir John Johnson and Captain

³⁶ A 1773 newspaper article reporting the arrival of the *Pearl* in New York notes that the ship had “about 280 Souls” on board (Alexander and MacDonell n.d.). However, James K. McDonell and Robert Bennett Campbell in *Lords of the North* (1997) notes that the 3 Macdonell brothers arranged passage for over 600 of their kinfolk (36-37). It is possible that the others arrived on different ships.

³⁷ Sir William Johnson was a prominent New York baronet, colonial administrator, and military officer (Harkness 1946, Gwyn 1979). In 1738, he moved to New York to manage an estate – *Johnson Hall* and *Johnstown* - on Mohawk territory that was purchased by his uncle Admiral Peter Warren (1702-1752) (Gwyn 1979). Sir William Johnson died in 1774, shortly after the arrival of the Scottish settlers (Harkness 1946, Gwyn 1979). After his death, his son Sir John Johnson (1741-1830) assumed control and responsibility for the estate (Harkness 1946).

Allan Macdonell (Harkness 1946, 36). During this meeting, an agreement was signed “that the loyalists would give up their arms and undertake not to engage in hostilities” and in exchange were “not to be molested in person or property” (Harkness 1946, 36). The agreement also stipulated that 6 hostages were to be taken to Lancaster, Pennsylvania (Harkness 1946, 36-37). One of the hostages was Captain Allan Macdonell, who was reported to be neutral and too old to fight, but considered an important community leader in the Scottish settlement nonetheless (Harkness 1946, 36, McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37).³⁸ At least 4 others of the 6 hostages were also members of the Macdonell family (Harkness 1946, 36-37). A few months later, in June 1776, General Schuyler sent Colonel Elias Dayton (1737-1807) to arrest Sir John Johnson for an alleged “violation of the agreement” (Harkness 1946, 37). Upon learning of this, around 250 residents of the Johnson estate – led by Sir John Johnson himself – fled by foot to Canada (Harkness 1946, 37, McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37). The party arrived “worn out and destitute” in Montréal after “19 days of great hardship” (Harkness 1946, 37, McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37). Notably, while other members of the Johnson estate fled to Canada in 1776, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie – then age 13/14 – enlisted as a volunteer with the 1st Battalion of the Royal Highland Emigrants (Bumsted 1988/2016).³⁹ He served in the Middle States and in the Occupation of Philadelphia (Bumsted 1988/2016). Following the evacuation of Philadelphia in June 1778, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie “made his way to Quebec and received a lieutenant’s commission in Butler’s Rangers” which were led by Sir John Johnson, then in exile from the United States (Bumsted 1988/2016). In the final years of the Revolutionary War, he led “several raiding parties down the Mohawk Valley” (Bumsted 1988/2016). His father – Captain Allan Macdonell – remained prisoner in the United States until 1779, when he escaped to Québec (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37). Captain Macdonell remained in Québec until his death in 1792 (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37).

³⁸ Captain Allan Macdonell received the rank Captain during the Revolutionary War, likely due to his role as a prominent community leader and founder of the Scottish settlement. However, he was in his 60s and considered too old to fight directly in battle (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37).

³⁹ Captain Allan Macdonell was married to Helen McNab (Bumsted 1988/2016). Some sources note that Captain Allan Macdonell and Helen McNab had only 2 sons (Flamborough Archives & Heritage Society 1984/2021), whereas other sources note that he had at least 5 children (2 daughters and 3 sons) (Burke, A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Colonial Gentry 1895, 562).

During the Revolutionary War, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie became friends with (future Lieutenant Governor) John Graves Simcoe (Bumsted 1988/2016). Following the Revolutionary War, the Macdonell family resided in Québec for several years (Bumsted 1988/2016). In 1790, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie and several family members from Québec to Kingston, Upper Canada (Bumsted 1988/2016). In 1792, Lieutenant Governor Simcoe appointed the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie the first Sheriff of the Home District, which included the settlements of Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) and York (Toronto) (Macdonell 1793/1890, 128, Bumsted 1988/2016). In 1793, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie accompanied and organized an expedition with Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe to Matchetache Bay on Lake Simcoe (Macdonell 1793/1890, Bumsted 1988/2016). Alexander Macdonell of Collachie reportedly spoke English, French, Gaelic, and several Indigenous languages – all of which came in use during the expedition (Macdonell 1793/1890, 128, Bumsted, Alexander McDonell (Collachie) 1988/2016). In 1797, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie and his family moved from Kingston to York (Bumsted 1988/2016). Alexander Macdonell of Collachie became a “resident of York from its very foundation” (Dooner 1939, 52) and “one of the best known of the early citizens of Toronto” (Macdonell 1793/1890, 128). Due to their allying with the British, the Macdonells gained further notoriety as a large and prominent United Empire Loyalist family (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 37). As a result of this, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie received a grant for Park Lot 32 in May 1797 (The Toronto Park Lot Project 2018). Park Lot 32 was the westmost of the Park Lots and overlaid the present-day neighbourhood of Parkdale (The Toronto Park Lot Project 2018). Parkdale’s Macdonell Avenue bisects former Park Lot 32 and is named after the family (Laycock and Myrvold 1991, 59). The historic McDonell Square that surrounded St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church and its parish buildings on Bathurst Street was also likely named for the family. McDonell Square was later renamed as Portugal Square and a segment of Adelaide Street West.

In 1800, Alexander of Macdonell formally entered legislative politics after being elected to represent Glengarry & Prescott in the 3rd Parliament of Upper Canada (Bumsted 1988/2016). Despite not residing in the Glengarry & Prescott riding, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie was “undoubtedly chose[n] to represent the Highland

community because of his family connections and his residence at York” (Bumsted 1988/2016).⁴⁰ Notably, this was in addition to his simultaneous position as Sheriff of the Home District. Just prior to the turn of the 19th century, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie was challenged to a duel by William Jarvis (1756-1817), although it is unclear as to whether this duel ever occurred (Bumsted 1988/2016). Around this time, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie was also reported to have been an “active member of the small bachelor élite in the tiny capital of York, dining in the mess, drinking tea and wine in great quantities, and playing whist in the evening” (Bumsted 1988/2016). In 1800, he served as “second to John Small in the notorious duel in which Attorney General John White was fatally wounded” (Bumsted 1988/2016). In 1804, Alexander Macdonell of Collachie “seconded an unsuccessful motion to change the name of York to Toronto, and he failed also to get majority support for a bill requiring schools in each district in the province” (Bumsted 1988/2016). Alexander Macdonell of Collachie additionally served as Speaker of the House of the Parliament of Upper Canada between 1804/1805 and 1808 (McDonell and Campbell 1997, 38, House of Commons 2021).

Alexander Macdonell of Collachie remained in the position as Sheriff of the Home District until his resignation in 1804/1805 (Burke 1895, 562, Scott 1939, 31, Knight and Chute 2006, 89).⁴¹ This resignation was likely a result of his 1804 appointment as Thomas Douglas’s, the 5th Earl of Selkirk’s settlement agent for the Baldoon Settlement (Bumsted 1988/2016). The Earl reportedly required that Alexander Macdonell of Collachie “surrender all offices” prior to being appointed as his settlement agent (Bumsted 1988/2016). However, this “commitment was soon forgotten” and Alexander Macdonell of Collachie was simultaneously serving as the Earl’s settlement agent and in Upper Canadian politics by 1805, including re-election as representative for Glengarry & Prescott in 1806 (Scott 1939, Bumsted 1988/2016). Early 1805 also saw Alexander Macdonell of Collachie’s marriage to Ann Smith (Bumsted 1988/2016).⁴²

⁴⁰ York had become the new provincial capital of Upper Canada only 3 years earlier in 1797.

⁴¹ An 1803 portrait of Alexander Macdonell of Collachie completed by William Berczy (1744-1813) has been included in Appendix B, Figure 23.

⁴² Alexander and Ann Macdonell of Collachie had 7 children – 2 daughters and 5 sons - between 1808 and 1823 (Ancestry.ca Library 2021). Alexander Macdonell – who resided at 123 Huron Street – was the 2nd

Ann Smith was the daughter of a prominent Scottish Loyalist family and the sister of eminent Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Smith (1756-1826) – who was a Commandant at the Fort York Garrison and in the Queen’s Rangers, an early landowner in present-day Etobicoke, a member of the Executive Council, and briefly the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada between June 1817 and August 1818 (Mealing 1987/2021, Bumsted 1988/2016).⁴³ Alan Knight and Janet E. Chute note in *A Visionary on the Edge: Allan Macdonell and the Championing of Native Resource Rights* (2006) that following Alexander Macdonell of Collachie’s “auspicious marriage” to Anne Smith he was “accepted into Tory compact circles with increased opportunity for public recognition” (89). In Upper Canada, these circles – known as the Family Compact – “controlled the Bench, the Magistracy, the Church, the Legal Profession, and the vast majority of the newspapers ... they had grabbed the public lands, they owned the Banks, and they divided amongst themselves all offices of trust and profit” prior to the Rebellion of 1837 (Dooner 1939, 55). This acceptance into the Family Compact was further augmented by Alexander Macdonell of Collachie’s close friendship with Reverend (later Bishop) Alexander Macdonell (1762-1840) – a cousin – who arrived in North America in 1803 and who later became the first Bishop of Kingston, Upper Canada in 1826 (Knight and Chute 2006, 89). Reverend (later Bishop) Alexander Macdonell played an exceptionally influential role in the early settlement of Catholics in Upper Canada and reportedly held the earliest Catholic masses in the Town of York from the residences of Alexander Macdonell of Collachie and James Baby prior to the construction of the Town of York’s first Catholic Church (St. Paul’s Church) in 1822 (Dooner 1939, 52). The Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie served as a “lay leader of Catholics throughout most of his long life” (Bumsted 1988/2016). During the early 19th century, he served as a lay trustee for the Catholic Church lot in 1806; assisted with the establishment of St. Paul’s Basilica in the early 1820s; and later served as a treasurer of St. Paul’s Congregation (Bumsted 1988/2016).

youngest son. Additional information about other members of the Macdonell family has been included in the final paragraph of this section.

⁴³ Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Smith was the eponym of Colonel Samuel Smith Park in Etobicoke.

The above-mentioned Baldoon Settlement was envisioned by Thomas Douglas, the 5th Earl of Selkirk during his tour of Upper Canada in 1803-1804 (Bumsted 2015). The Earl selected a site on the “swampy north shore of Lake St. Clair” that was both isolated from other colonial settlements and in a justifiably strategic location (Bumsted 2015).⁴⁴ While isolated from other colonial settlements, the location of the Baldoon Settlement was in proximity to several Odawa and Ojibwe villages, as well as land that was reserved for the “settlement of Indigenous allies loyal to the Crown who were waging war with the American colonists to the south” via the Chenail Ecarté Treaty of 1796 (Fehr, Macbeth and Macbeth 2019, 22). The name *Baldoon* was derived from a recently sold estate in Scotland (Bumsted 2015). The Earl subsequently promoted and sponsored the settlement of poor Highlander Scots at Baldoon with the hopes of establishing a large sheep farm in the area (Bumsted 2015). The Earl reportedly had a fondness for Catholic Highlander Scots and Alexander Macdonell of Collachie’s ancestry is theorized to have been part of the reason the Earl selected him to act as his agent at Baldoon despite other’s voicing opposition to the appointment (Bumsted 1988/2016). The earliest settlers of Baldoon arrived in the Summer of 1804 (Bumsted 2015). Upon arriving at Baldoon, these early Scottish settlers were faced with flooding and large malaria outbreaks that killed an estimated 1/3rd of the population, alongside hardships stemming from its extreme isolation from other colonial settlements, communication networks, and trade routes (Bumsted 1988/2016, Bumsted 2015, Fehr, Macbeth and Macbeth 2019, 20, Ontario Heritage Trust 2021). Alexander Macdonell of Collachie’s role as the settlement agent for the Baldoon Settlement also brought him into contact with the nearby Odawa and Ojibwe Anishinaabeg, including Chief Zhaawni-binesi (Yellow Bird) of the Ojibwe (Fehr, Macbeth and Macbeth 2019, 23). Correspondence between Chief Zhaawni-binesi and Alexander Macdonell of Collachie dating to 1806 has survived and documents the Ojibwe community’s concerns over the Scottish settlers’ livestock roaming free and destroying the chief’s cornfields along the Sydenham River (Fehr, Macbeth and Macbeth 2019, 23).⁴⁵ In response to this, Chief Zhaawni-binesi

⁴⁴ The Earl had sought to isolate the settlers to limit their assimilation (Bumsted 1988/2016).

⁴⁵ This correspondence is preserved in the Macdonell of Collachie family papers fonds at Library and Archives Canada (Fehr, Macbeth and Macbeth 2019).

threatened to kill the livestock unless restitution was paid, which Alexander Macdonell of Collachie offered as flour and potatoes (Fehr, Macbeth and Macbeth 2019, 23). By 1809, some settlers had abandoned Baldoon and “a small number of the disaffected community members moved directly north of Baldoon to become farm labourers for the Anishinaabeg” (Fehr, Macbeth and Macbeth 2019, 24). This was additionally accompanied by calls for the government to “claim the Chenail Ecarté tract for the resettlement of Baldoon” (Fehr, Macbeth and Macbeth 2019, 25). One settler requested Macdonell send whiskey to “assist” with the negotiations with the Indigenous hosts in hopes of persuading the chiefs to sell their land, although Macdonell refused this request (Fehr, Macbeth and Macbeth 2019, 25). The Baldoon Settlement itself was short-lived. By the late 1800s and early 1810s, Upper Canadian authorities – including Alexander Macdonell of Collachie – were attempting to persuade the Earl to abandon the settlement and move his attention and resources elsewhere (Bumsted 2015). The Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie was an “absentee paymaster” who did not reside at Baldoon and infrequently visited (Bumsted 1988/2016). Additionally, “gaps in the accounts and the problems of currency conversion make it impossible to ascertain precisely how much Baldoon cost Selkirk [however] the figure was in excess of £10,000 sterling” (Bumsted 1988/2016). In 1811, McDonnell was summoned to England by the Earl to “report in detail on his stewardship and accounts” (Bumsted 1988/2016). The Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie left Upper Canada on 29 June 1811 and returned in 1812 (Bumsted 1988/2016). Subsequently, during the War of 1812, Baldoon was “ravaged by the invading American army” and was deemed a failure shortly after (Bumsted 2015).⁴⁶ The Earl then directed his attention to setting up the Red River Colony in Manitoba (Bumsted 2015). At this time, the Earl asked Macdonell if he would go to the Red River Settlement, although Macdonell declined this offer (Corbett 1977, ii).

Around late 1811 or early 1812, the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie lost his seat as the political representative of Glengarry & Prescott to The Hon. John Macdonell of Greenfield (1785-1812), a cousin of his who had contested the seat (Marsh

⁴⁶ A handful of early Highlander Scots reportedly stayed in the Baldoon area after the War of 1812, although moved to higher ground in 1818 (Bumsted 2015, Ontario Heritage Trust 2021).

2013).⁴⁷ Notably, shortly beforehand, the Hon. John Macdonell of Greenfield had been appointed Attorney General of Upper Canada and had displayed loyalty to Sir Isaac Brock (1769-1812) (Marsh 2013). In April 1812, the Hon. John Macdonell of Greenfield was further appointed as the Provincial Aide-de-Camp to Sir Brock and a Lieutenant-Colonel in the militia (Marsh 2013). In May 1812, mere weeks before the official start of the War in June 1812, Sir Isaac Brock – then the Administrator of Upper Canada – dissolved the Parliament of Upper Canada in hopes of forming a more loyal cabinet (Wilson 2013). This resulted in the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie losing his seat to the Hon. James Macdonell of Greenfield (Scott 1939, 21).

Despite having lost his political seat, at onset of the War the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie was appointed “deputy paymaster with the rank of colonel” (Bumsted 1988/2016). However, the Hon. James Macdonell of Greenfield was killed in action alongside Sir Brock at the Battle of Queenston Heights in October 1812 (Marsh 2013).⁴⁸ This resulted in the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie regaining his political seat as the representative of Glengarry & Prescott, although he continued serving in the War (Scott 1939, 21, Bumsted 1988/2016). During the Battle of Fort George (May 1813), the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie was captured by American troops as a prisoner of war (Merritt 2012, 211). Coincidentally, he was “incarcerated in the same prison in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which a generation earlier had contained his father” during the Revolutionary War (Bumsted 1988/2016). The Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie was released on parole on grounds of ill health in January 1814, although was unable to return to his military or political duties until May 1814 (Corbett 1977, ii).⁴⁹

Following the War of 1812, the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie served in a number of colonial administrative positions. In 1815, he accepted the position of

⁴⁷ Genealogical sources note that the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie and Ann Smith may have also adopted the Hon. John Macdonell of Greenfield (McEvoy 2020).

⁴⁸ The Hon. John Macdonell of Greenfield is buried with Sir Isaac Brock under Brock’s Monument at Queenston Heights (Macdonell 1793/1890, 128).

⁴⁹ During this period, his temporary replacement was Samuel Street (1775-1844) (Corbett 1977, ii).

Superintendent of the Perth Settlement in 1815 (Bumsted 1988/2016). The Perth Settlement was a “a belated attempt by the British government to populate Upper Canada with potential soldiers by encouraging emigration from Scotland” (Bumsted 1988/2016). The Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie temporarily resided at the settlement during its early years; was reportedly popular with the settlers; and remained associated with the Perth Settlement until his death in 1842, at which point his son James Macdonell (1810-1865) took over its administration (Corbett 1977, ii, Bumsted 1988/2016). Supplementary to this position, the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie was also appointed the Assistant Secretary of the Indian Department in Upper Canada in 1816 and held this position until his retirement on pension in 1822 (Bumsted 1988/2016). The Macdonells briefly resided in the Niagara area around this time, although the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie “complained constantly of the costs and disadvantages of living away from York” and by 1818 “he was building a substantial residence in York” (Bumsted 1988/2016). This residence was located at the northwest corner of Adelaide Street West and John Street and became a “social centre of the town for many years” (Macdonell 1793/1890, Bumsted 1988/2016). The residence also supported his growing family, which eventually included his wife and 7 children – 2 daughters and 5 sons – born between 1808 and 1823 (Bumsted 1988/2016, McEvoy, Alexander Macdonell (1762 - 1842) 2020).⁵⁰ ⁵¹ By this time, the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie had acquired over 10 000 acres of prime land in Upper Canada, although was concerned about his financial situation due to numerous expenses (Bumsted 1988/2016). This concern, however, was mitigated in 1828 when the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie received a lucrative boost in income after being appointed the Inspector of Licenses for the Home District, a position he held until 1841 (Bumsted 1988/2016). The 1830s also saw Alexander Macdonell of Collachie appointed to the Legislative Council of Upper Canada in 1831, where he sat until the dissolution of the Council in 1841; as well as his appointment as the Treasurer of the St. Paul’s

⁵⁰ As noted above, genealogical sources note that the Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie and Ann Smith may have adopted the Hon. John Macdonell of Greenfield (McEvoy, Alexander Macdonell (1762 - 1842) 2020).

⁵¹ Their youngest son – Samuel Smith Macdonell (1823-1907) – served in a number of influential positions in the Windsor region, including as the first Mayor of Windsor (Tupling 2015).

Congregation in 1830 and as a Director of the Bank of Upper Canada in 1835 (Bumsted 1988/2016). During the 1830s, he also “led York Catholics in periodic expressions of support for the government against the reformers” (Bumsted 1988/2016). The Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie died in Toronto in 1842 (Bumsted 1988/2016). His widow – Ann(e) Macdonell of Collachie – died 16 years later in Toronto in December 1858 (Ancestry.ca Library 2021).

Other Members of the Macdonell Family:

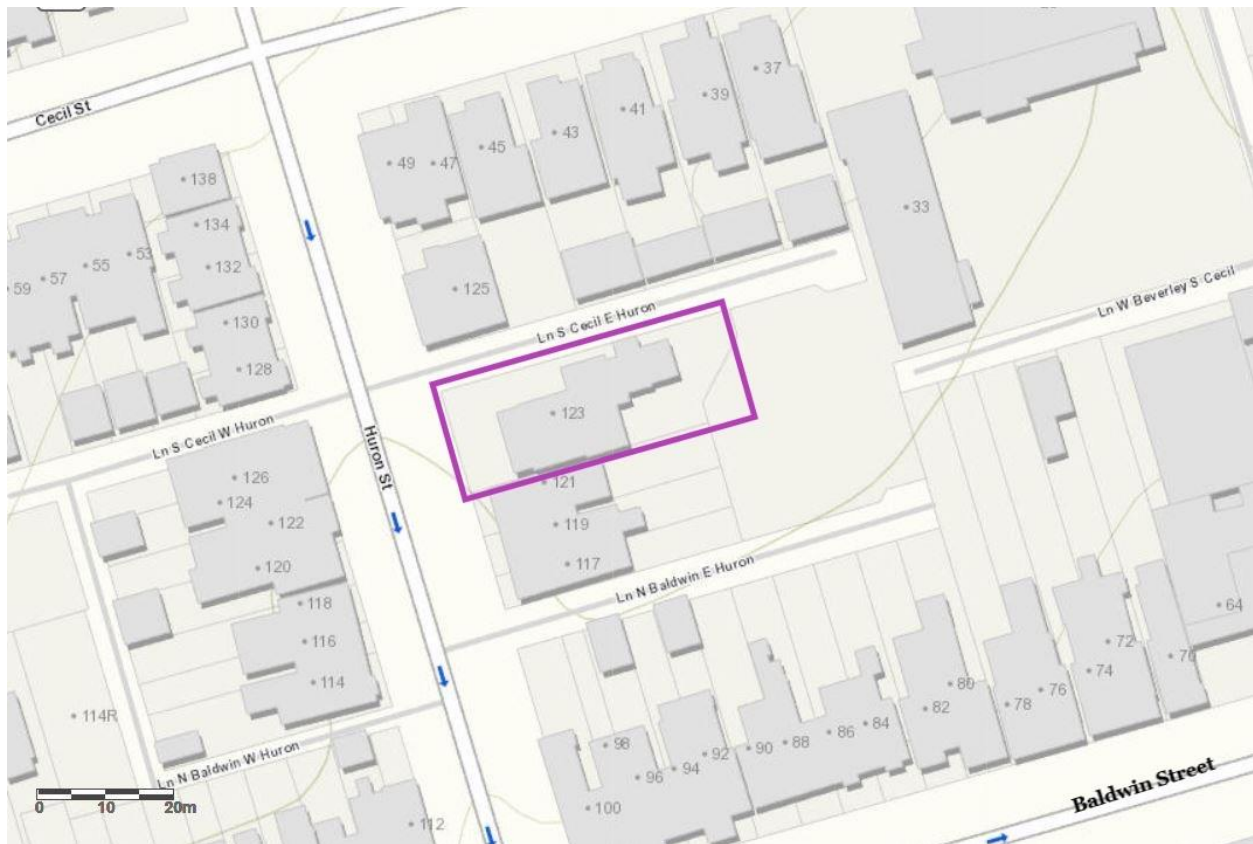
For more information on other prominent members of the Macdonell family in Canada, please consult *Lords of the North* (1997) by James K. McDonell and Robert B. Campbell; the *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York, Ontario* (1907) by J. H. Beers; and the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*.

Appendix B – Maps, Photographs, and Other Visual Resources:

Additional, downloadable, and higher quality resources are available in this Google Drive Album:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tyUI7eQakp_Dx5eLdy8Mt1lTU4XK3SSR?usp=sharing

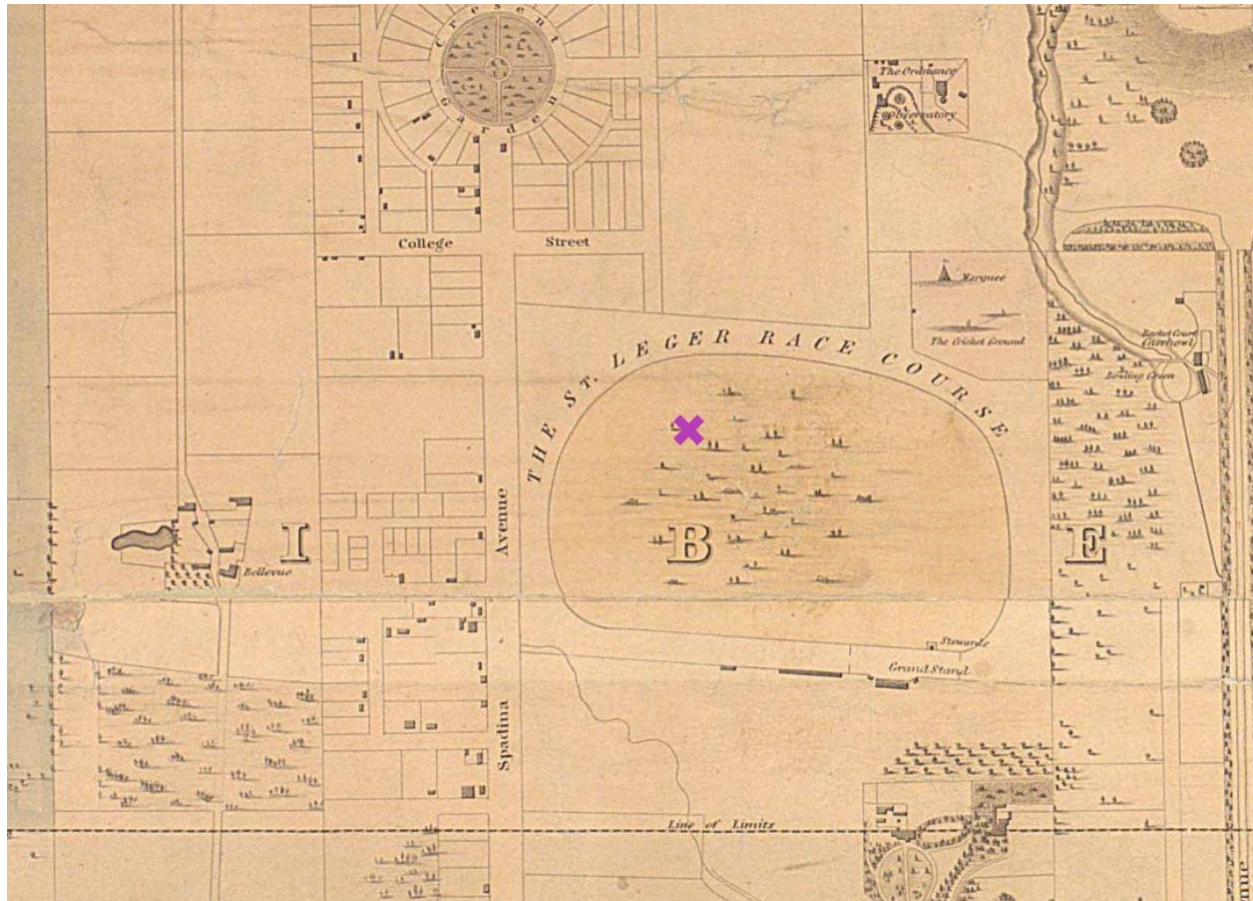
Note: North is towards the top of the maps unless otherwise noted.



Appendix B, Figure 1

Above: The location of 123 Huron Street, Toronto – highlighted in purple.

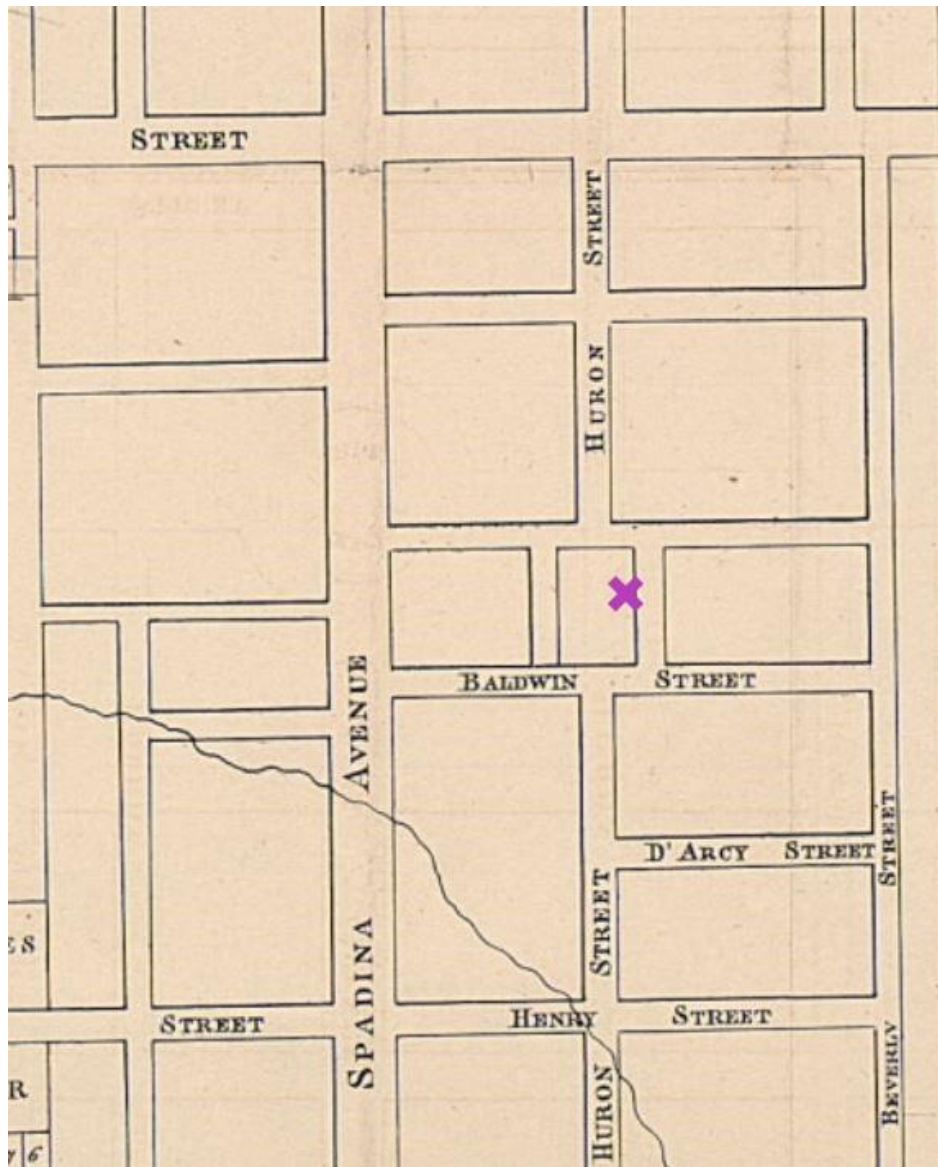
Source: City of Toronto Interactive Map, annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 2

Above: The approximate future location of 123 Huron Street, Toronto – marked with the purple X – in 1842.

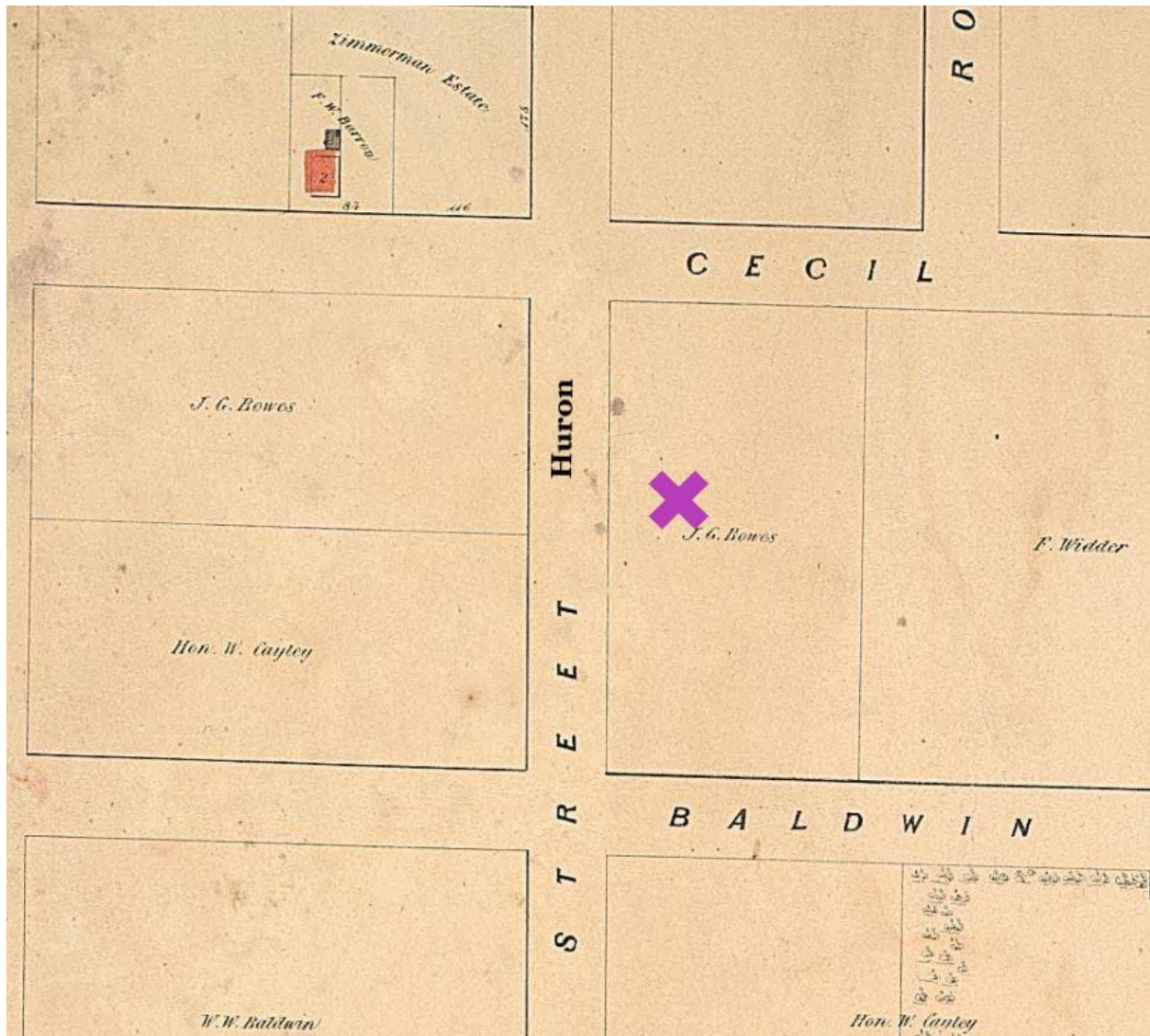
Source: James Cane's 1842 *Topographical Plan of the City and Liberties of Toronto*, annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 3

Above: The approximate future location of 123 Huron Street, Toronto – marked with the purple X – in 1854. Note the not-yet-buried Russell Creek flowing southeast through the area.

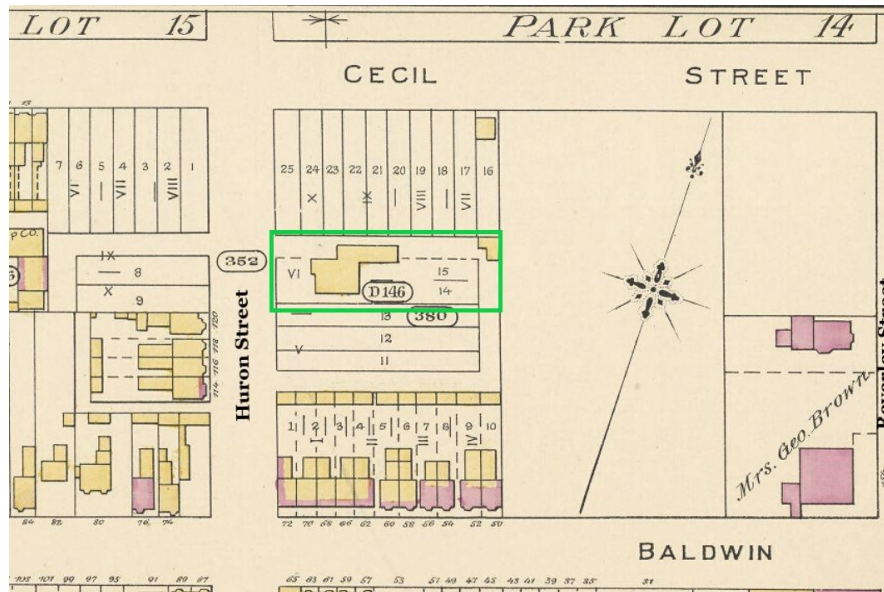
Source: The Trustees of the Denison Estate's March 1854 *Plan of the Part of the City of Toronto Shewing Town Lots on Bellevue*, annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 4

Above: The approximate future location of 123 Huron Street, Toronto – marked with the purple X – in 1858. As of this point in time, the land was owned by John George Bowes (c. 1812-1864). Bowes served as the Mayor of Toronto from 1861-1863; on the City Council for many years; and was also involved in railroad-related ventures.

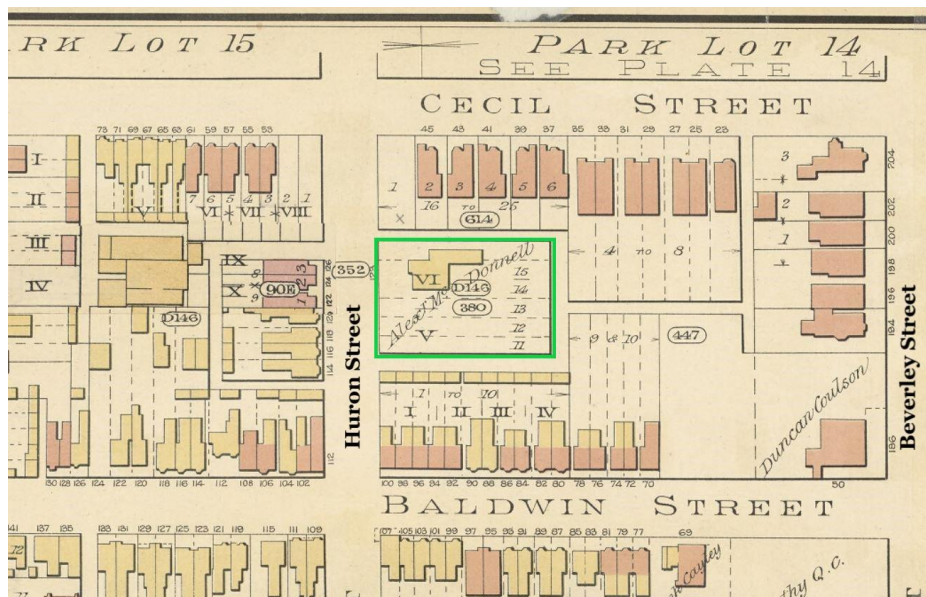
Source: William Somerville Boulton's 1858 *Atlas of the City of Toronto and Vicinity*, annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 6

Above: The location – highlighted in green – of the then newly constructed 123 Huron Street, Toronto in 1884.

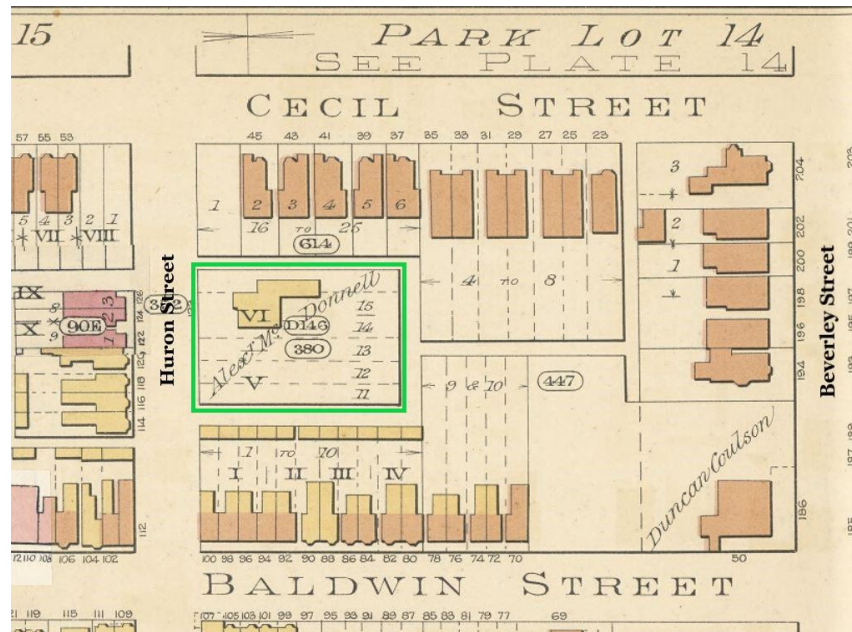
Source: 1884 Edition of Fire Insurance Plans, Plate 11 – annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 7

Above: The location – highlighted in green – of 123 Huron Street, Toronto in 1894.

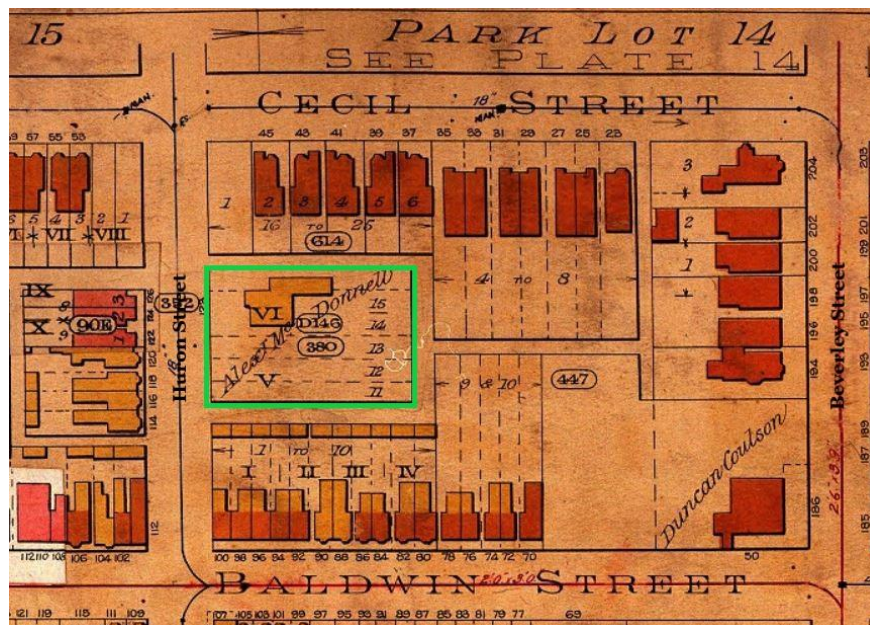
Source: 1894 Edition of Fire Insurance Plans, Plate 11 – annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 8

Above: The location – highlighted in green – of 123 Huron Street, Toronto in 1899.

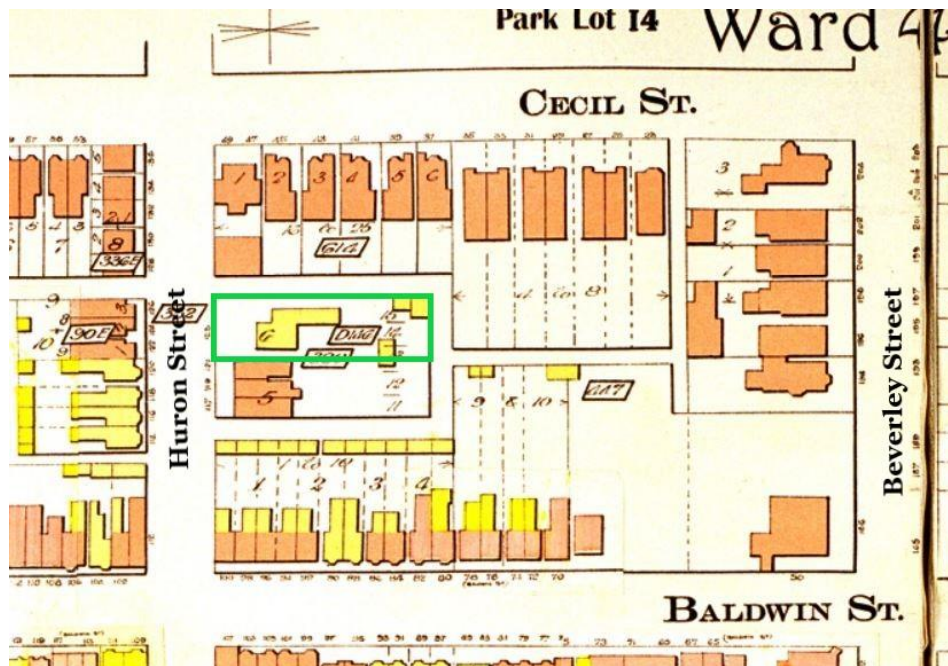
Source: 1899 Edition of Fire Insurance Plans, Plate 11 – annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 9

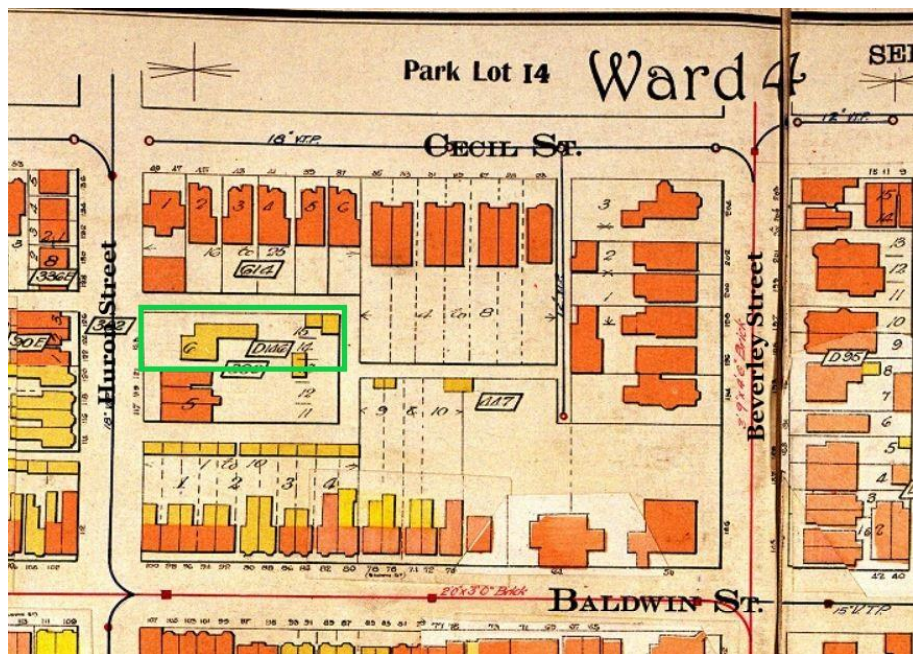
Above: The location – highlighted in green – of 123 Huron Street, Toronto in 1903. This is the same year that Alexander Macdonell (1820-1903) – one of its first occupants – died. Note the intensification of development on the lots surrounding 123 Huron Street when compared to previous years.

Source: 1903 Edition of Fire Insurance Plans, Plate 11 – annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 10

Above: The location – highlighted in green – of 123 Huron Street, Toronto in 1913.
Source: 1913 Edition of Fire Insurance Plans, Plate 11 – annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 11

Above: The location – highlighted in green – of 123 Huron Street, Toronto in 1924.
Source: 1924 Edition of Fire Insurance Plans, Plate 11 – annotated by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 12

Above: 123 Huron Street, Toronto on 17 July 2021.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 13

Above: 123 Huron Street, Toronto on 15 April 2021.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 14

Above: 123 Huron Street, Toronto on 16 January 2021.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 15

Above: 123 Huron Street, Toronto on 21 December 2020.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 16

Above: 123 Huron Street, Toronto on 21 December 2020.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 17

Above: The north (laneway) elevation of 123 Huron Street, Toronto in October 2020.

Source: Image via Google Streetview.



Appendix B, Figure 18

Above: Front entryway details, 123 Huron Street, Toronto on 17 July 2021.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.



Appendix B, Figure 19

Above: East (rear) elevation of 123 Huron Street, Toronto on 17 July 2021.

Source: Photograph by Adam Wynne.

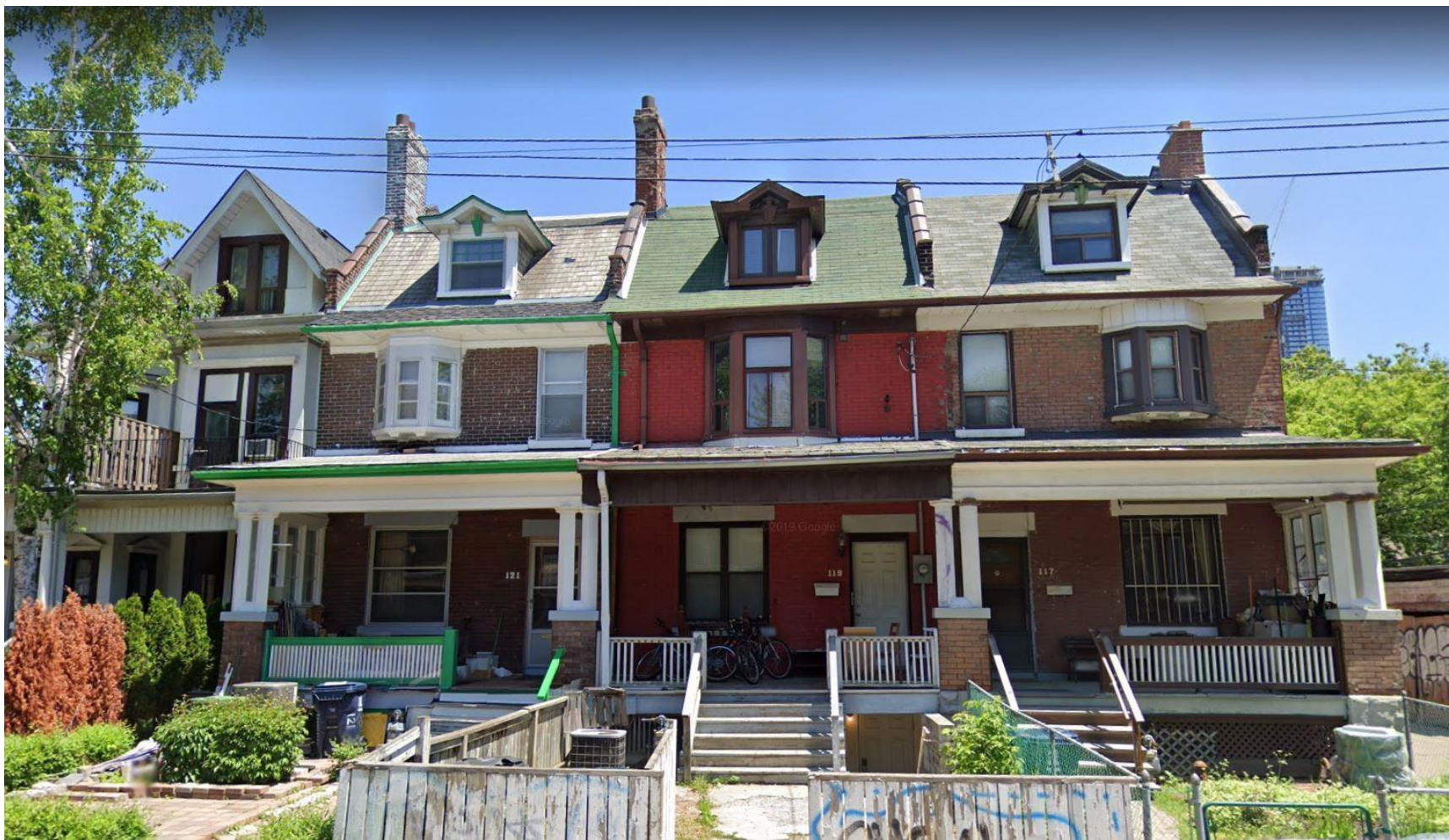


City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 2032, Series 841, File 33, Item 34

Appendix B, Figure 20

Above: The southeast corner of Cecil Street and Huron Street in 1972. The roofline of 123 Huron Street is just visible near the top-right of the photograph.

Source: Photograph via City of Toronto Archives.



Appendix B, Figure 21

Above: 117-121 Huron Street, Toronto in June 2019. These Edwardian houses were constructed on the south section of 123 Huron Street's grounds in 1907. 123 Huron Street is visible on the left-hand side of the image.

Source: Image via Google Streetview.



Appendix B, Figure 22

Above: Neighbouring 125 Huron Street in October 2020. 125 Huron Street was constructed between 1903 and 1913 and was formerly home to the *Lion Dollar Taxi Company* (circa. 1925) and *Stradneg Synagogue* (circa. late 1920s and early 1930s) – among other uses.

Source: Image via Google Streetview.



Appendix B, Figure 23

Above: 1803 portrait of The Hon. Alexander Macdonell of Collachie (1762-1842) by William Berczy.

Source: Reproduced from *On Common Ground: The Ongoing Story of the Commons in Niagara on the Lake* (2012) by Richard D. Merritt.

Appendix C - Sources:

The City of Toronto Interactive Map, Google Maps, and Google Streetview were examined for map-related information.

James Cane's 1842 *Topographical Plan of the City and Liberties of Toronto*; Sir Sandford Fleming's 1851 *Topographical Plan of the City of Toronto*; the March 1854 *Plan of Part of the City of Toronto Shewing the Town Lots on Bellevue for Sale by Trustees for the Denison Estate*; and William Somerville Boulton's 1858 *Atlas of the City of Toronto and Vicinity*; and Copp Clark & Company's 1878 *Plan of the City of Toronto: Waterworks* were examined for historical map-related data.

Goad's Fire Insurance Plans were examined for various years between 1884 and 1924. Aerial photographs of the City of Toronto were examined for various years between 1947 and 1969.

Records from the Census of Canada were examined for various years between 1851 and 1921.

The City of Toronto Directories were consulted for various years between 1837 and 1969. Ancestry.ca's database was consulted for genealogical information and photographs pertaining to former residents of the subject property.

The Globe / The Globe and Mail and *Toronto Star* historical article databases were examined via the Toronto Public Library's system.

The City of Toronto Archives and Toronto Public Library's Digital Archives were examined for historical photos of the subject site and surrounding area.

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