Inventory & Research IRWG (IRWG)

Meeting Notes
November 28, 2022 (6:00pm-8:00pm)
City of Hamilton WebEx Virtual Meeting

Present:	Janice Brown (Chair); Graham Carroll; Alissa Denham-Robinson; Lyn Lunsted; Sarah Sheehan (Guest Presenter); Ann Gillespie (Guest Presenter)
Staff Present:	Alissa Golden (Senior Project Manager, Heritage and Urban Design); Chloe Richer (Cultural Heritage Planner); Meg Oldfield (Heritage Intern)
Regrets:	Jim Charlton; Brian Kowalesicz; Raminder Saini; Chuck Dimitry; Ken Coit (Manager, Heritage and Urban Design); Lisa Christie (Cultural Heritage Planner)

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE INVENTORY & RESEARCH WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING TO THE HAMILTON MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE:

1. Modernist Residential Designs of Jerome Markson, Architect

a) The Inventory & Research Working Group recommends that the following properties be listed on the Municipal Heritage Register as non-designated properties, due to their physical/design value as unique and exceptional examples of modernist design and historical/associative value based on their association with Jerome Markson, prominent Canadian architect recognized for his modernist architectural design:

i. M. Goldblatt Residence (1957) – 79 Amelia Street, Hamilton (Kirkendall)
ii. Moses Residence (1959) – 8 Mayfair Place, Hamilton (Westdale)
iii. Minden Residence (1959) – 125 Amelia Street, Hamilton (Kirkendall)
iv. Lawrence H. Enkin Residence (1967) – 538 Scenic Drive, Hamilton (Ward 14) – (Also known as “The Stream”)

2. 922 Main Street East, Hamilton

a) The Inventory & Research Working Group recommends that **922 Main Street East, Hamilton**, be listed on the Municipal Heritage Register as a non-designated property, due to its physical/design value as an example of a Neo-Gothic church, its historical/associative value due to its association with the Victoria Avenue Baptist Church and prominent Hamilton architectural firm Hutton & Souter, and its contextual value as a prominent building on Main Street East.

b) The Inventory & Research Working Group recommends that 922 Main Street East, Hamilton, be added to Staff’s Designation Work Plan as a high priority, with the intent on achieving Part IV Designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

NOTES

1. **Chair's Remarks**
   Welcome to all.

2. **Declarations of Interest**
   None.

3. **Review and Approval of Meeting Notes**
   N/A
   By consensus, the I&R Working Group agreed to forward the Meeting Notes of October 26, 2022 directly to the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee, in order to meet development related deadlines.

4. **Supplementary Report – 3 Main Street, Dundas (Ann Gillespie)**

   Ann presented a supplemental report describing additional historical and architectural information related to the property, as information only.
   a. The Working Group's recommendation for this property has gone through to HMHC.
   b. As supplemental information, this document can be attached to the I&R meeting notes – this information is valuable for the Working Group to have and for the Dundas Inventory Project.
   c. This information will be on file for this property with the Heritage Planning Department and available upon request.
   d. This information can be shared with the HPL – Heritage Staff to facilitate this transfer of information.
   e. The report will also be shared with the Dundas Museum and Archives as well as the Waterdown Archives.

5. **Properties of Interest – Dr. Sarah Sheehan – Jerome Markson in Hamilton, Preliminary Research – Private Residences**

   Dr. Sarah Sheehan provided the Working Group with an overview of the research prepared by Professor Laura J. Miller (Daniels, University of Toronto) and contained with the publication known as *Toronto's Inclusive Modernity, The Architecture of Jerome Markson*. She highlighted five key Markson commissions in Hamilton:

      a. **Markson House (a.k.a. G. Goldblatt Residence), 1955, 45 Amelia Street**
      b. **M. Goldblatt Residence, 1957, 79 Amelia Street**
      c. **Moses Residence, 1959, 8 Mayfair Place**
      d. **Minden Residence, 1959, 125 Amelia Street**
      e. **Enkin Residence, 1967, 538 Scenic Drive**

   Other key takeaways from the presentation* include:
   - Jerome Markson is an important Canadian Architect
   - Recognized by Royal Canadian Institute of Architects for his work
   - His designs demonstrated a sense of inclusive modernity – excellent example of City Building

- One of the first Jewish Architects trained at the University of Toronto's School of Architecture after the war. Many of his Hamilton clients were part of the Hamilton Jewish Community.
- His early career included experimental single-family residential design.
- Markson House – 45 Amelia St. (1955) – was already added to the Register.
- Other exceptional works include:
    - M. Goldblatt Residence (1957) – 79 Amelia St.
    - Moses Residence (1959) – 8 Mayfair Pl. (Westdale) *First design for award recognition
    - Minden Residence (1959) – 125 Amelia St. (considered one of the most important modern residences in Hamilton
    - Lawrence H. Enkin Residence (1967) – 538 Scenic Dr. (Ward 14) – "The Stream"
- Some properties have been altered (for example: 125 Amelia and 79 Amelia) - Modernist architecture is at risk of loss if it is not protected in some way.
- Some related properties that have not been listed on the Inventory – Staff to follow-up to add these Markson designs to the Inventory and updated mapping.
- The Levy Residence was mentioned in the author's research, but not identified with an address. It may be located on Sterling Avenue – Alissa G. and other members of the working group to work to search for the related address.
- Netkin Residence on Winston Ave. is another property of interest.

Recommendation:

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    viii. Lawrence H. Enkin Residence (1967) – 538 Scenic Drive, Hamilton (Ward 14) – (Also known as "The Stream")

*Note, a revised presentation was submitted by Dr. Sarah Sheehan to Janice Brown (Chair) on January 17, 2023; see related attachment.

6. **Preliminary Inventory & Research – 876 Main Street East (Jim Charlton)**
   This item is deferred to a future meeting.

7. **Stained Glass / MacNab Street Presbyterian Church Tour** – Invitation by Trustee – Ken Post
    a. Chloe provided some background and informal update.
    b. Ken offered an idea to have a stained glass tour of Hamilton and offers suggested historical references (MacNab Street Presbyterian, St. Paul's Presbyterian, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Basilica of Christ the King, etc.)
    c. Janice has an information booklet on stained glass as provided by Ken, Chloe to compare to the information that staff already have on file.
    d. Chloe talked to Ken Coit who has experience with special projects such as this – Chloe looked at funding opportunities or for exhibitions.

e. At this time, the HMHC Working Groups may not have the capacity to take on a special project like this, but there may be potential for other groups to pick-up a project like this (For example: Doors Open Hamilton, Jane's Walk, the ACO, etc.)
f. Linkages with Artists, ACO, HBSA, businesses like an historic stain glass company in Toronto could create a unique experience
g. Other links may be possible; such as connecting a tour with the completion of MacNab's window restoration campaign.

8. New Business:

a) 922 Main Street East – (Trinity Baptist Church) (Victoria Avenue Baptist Church)

i. Property currently up for sale, for unknown reasons.
ii. The previous development plan had received conditional Site Plan Approval for a proposal that integrated the existing historic place of worship into the development. However, the owner had not started to clear the conditions on their application.
iii. City staff have previous documentation (August 2020 CHIA) on file with an *Ontario Regulation 9/06* evaluation, historical summary, preliminary list of heritage attributes, etc.) – this report could used this as a starting point for designation, supplemented by additional review by staff.
iv. Hutton & Souter - Architect
v. W. Cooper Construction – Builder

Recommendations:

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b) The Inventory & Research Working Group recommends that 922 Main Street East, Hamilton, be added to Staff's Designation Work Plan as a high priority, with the intent on achieving Part IV Designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

9. Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 PM

Next Meeting: Monday January 23, 2023 (6pm - 8pm)

Osler Block/ Former Dundas Masonic Hall, 3 Main Street, Dundas

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLES OF ARCHITECTURAL SHEET-METALWORK IN ONTARIO, 1870 to 1890

Prepared for the HMHC's Inventory & Research Group by Ann Gillespie, November 2022

The former Dundas Masonic Hall, originally known as the Osler Block as it appears today. Photo by the author of this report, August 2022.

1. Introduction

This report is a supplement to the Background Documentation Report prepared to accompany a recommendation from Inventory & Research Working Group made at its meeting held August 22, 2022, to add the former Dundas Masonic Hall at 3 Main Street in Dundas to the Municipal Heritage Register (since added to the Register). Its purpose is to substantiate the architectural significance of the exterior architectural sheet-metalwork of the Osler Block within a regional context.

The research for this report is based on an M.A. thesis completed in 1985 while enrolled in the Institute of Canadian Studies at Carleton University.[1] This thesis was completed in 1985 under the supervision of Dr. Norman Ball, then employed by the Public Archives of Canada as a specialist in the history of technology and engineering. In the early 1980s, Dr. Ball had recently acquired a collection of trade catalogues produced by companies which manufactured sheet-metal building products. This collection

[1] Ann Gillespie, "Decorative Sheet-Metal Building Components in Canada, 1870–1930: Tin-Shop Methods of Fabrication and Erection" (Ottawa: Carleton University, April 1985); hereafter cited as Gillespie, M.A. thesis. This thesis has been digitized, as part of the CURVE (Carleton University Research Virtual Environment) project undertaken by Carleton University's MacOdrum Library. It can be accessed via this link: https://curve.carleton.ca/9cba0166-bef3-4fea-82ff-a111e38f2465. Unfortunately, the quality of the scanned document, especially the illustrations, is rather poor as it was generated from a microfilmed copy. The author of this report has therefore taken the initiative to produce a better-quality scan and when this task has been completed, the rescanned thesis will be submitted to CURVE.

formed the foundation of my thesis topic, the development of methods of fabricating and erecting decorative sheet-metal building components in Canada during the late Victorian era, which for the purpose of my thesis covered the period from 1870 to 1930. This period was divided into two phases of sheet-metalworking technology: the use of traditional tinsmithing techniques, which dominated the two decades from 1870 to 1890, and a later phase after 1890 when several large Canadian companies first emerged. These companies specialized in sheet-metal building products and adopted mass-production and mail-order marketing techniques, following a trend established in the U.S. in the 1870s and 1880s.

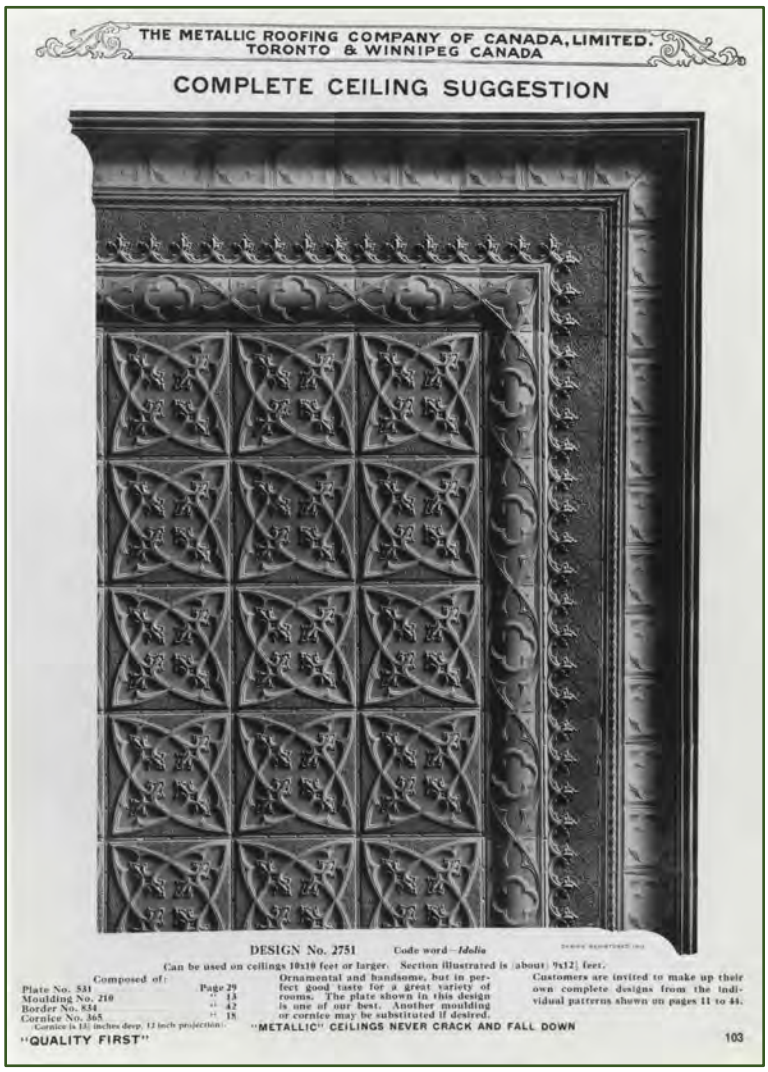
2. General Background

Architectural Use of Sheet Metal in Canada, 1870–1930

From the 1870s through the 1920s, sheet metal was used in Canada for a variety of decorative exterior building components, largely fabricated by traditional tinsmithing techniques. The sheet metal used for these components included sheet iron (later steel) coated with zinc to prevent rusting and was known as "galvanized iron", sheet copper and sheet zinc. The various types and gauges of sheet metal and their relative pros and cons are discussed in my M.A. thesis.[2] From the 1890s on, the various types of sheet metal were also machine-stamped to create embossed ceiling and wall panels and linear border components, as illustrated by the accompanying page from a 1916 catalogue of the *Metallic Roofing Company of Canada* (Toronto). These standardized components were produced in quantity and generally made available through manufacturers' trade catalogues, from which they could be ordered by stock number. *The Pedlar People* (Oshawa) also offered highly ornate store fronts assembled from pediments, cornices, stamped frieze panels, columns and rock-faced siding were also offered by one Canadian company. The Pedlar "Modern Building Fronts" were intended to showcase the full spectrum of exterior siding and ornamental elements that could be made of sheet metal. Shunned by contemporary architects as the epitome of vulgar taste, such catalogue illustrations would nevertheless have had a strong appeal to public taste by offering maximum ornamentation for a minimal cost. In reality, very few building facades in Ontario were clad entirely in sheet metal, primarily because brick masonry was the dominant form of construction for commercial buildings in towns and cities. Sheet metal (most often galvanized iron) was more commonly used for individual architectural elements, such as cornices and window surrounds.

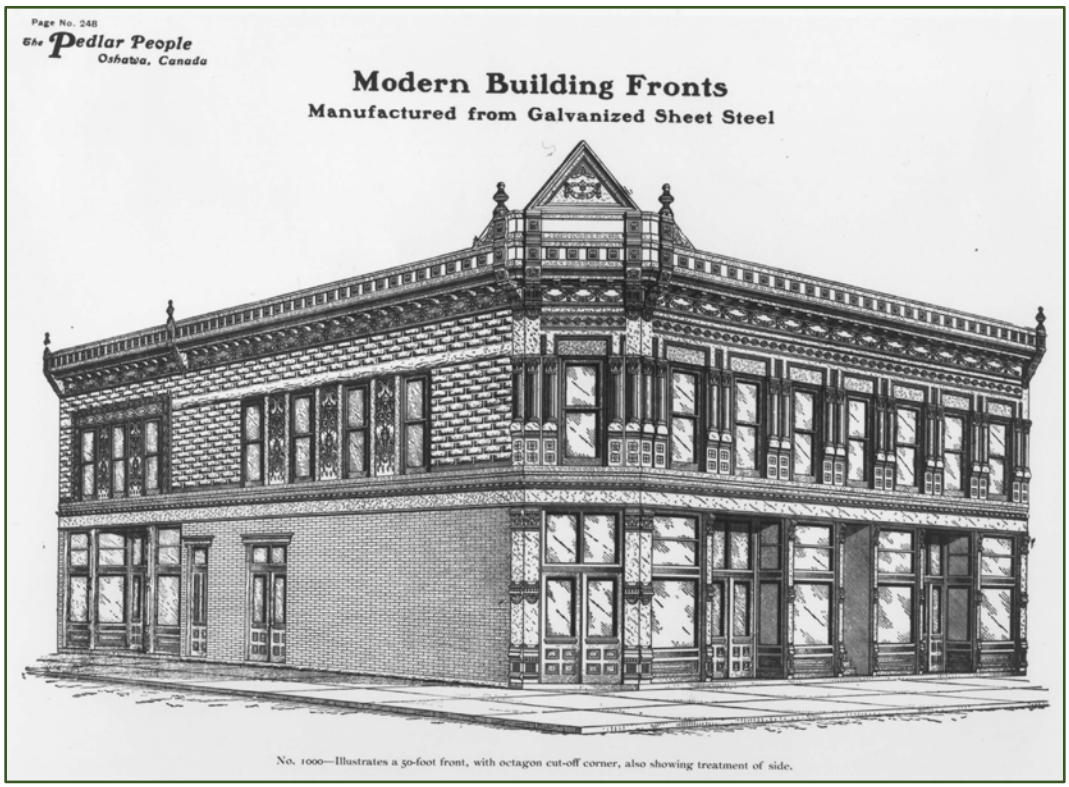
Early architectural sheet-metalwork was typically shaped and finished to resemble cut and carved stone and when viewed from a distance was virtually indistinguishable from solid masonry, at least to the untrained eye. Tell-tale signs of sheet-metal construction are signs of rust resulting from peel pain and the wearing off of the zinc coating, dents, and splitting of soldered joints. Sheet-metalwork, by its hollow nature, was much lighter in weight than solid stone or cast-ironwork and could therefore be formed into more robust shapes.

[2] Gillespie, M.A. thesis, section 3.3, pp. 50-51.



Part of a ceiling composed of square tiles and various border elements, manufactured by the Metallic Roofing Company of Canada in Toronto.

Page from the company's 1916 catalogue of *"Metallic" ceiling and wall materials*; Public Archives of Canada



A complete sheet-metal façade, including the decorative cornice, window and storefront divider components, imitation stone ashlar and pressed brick siding.

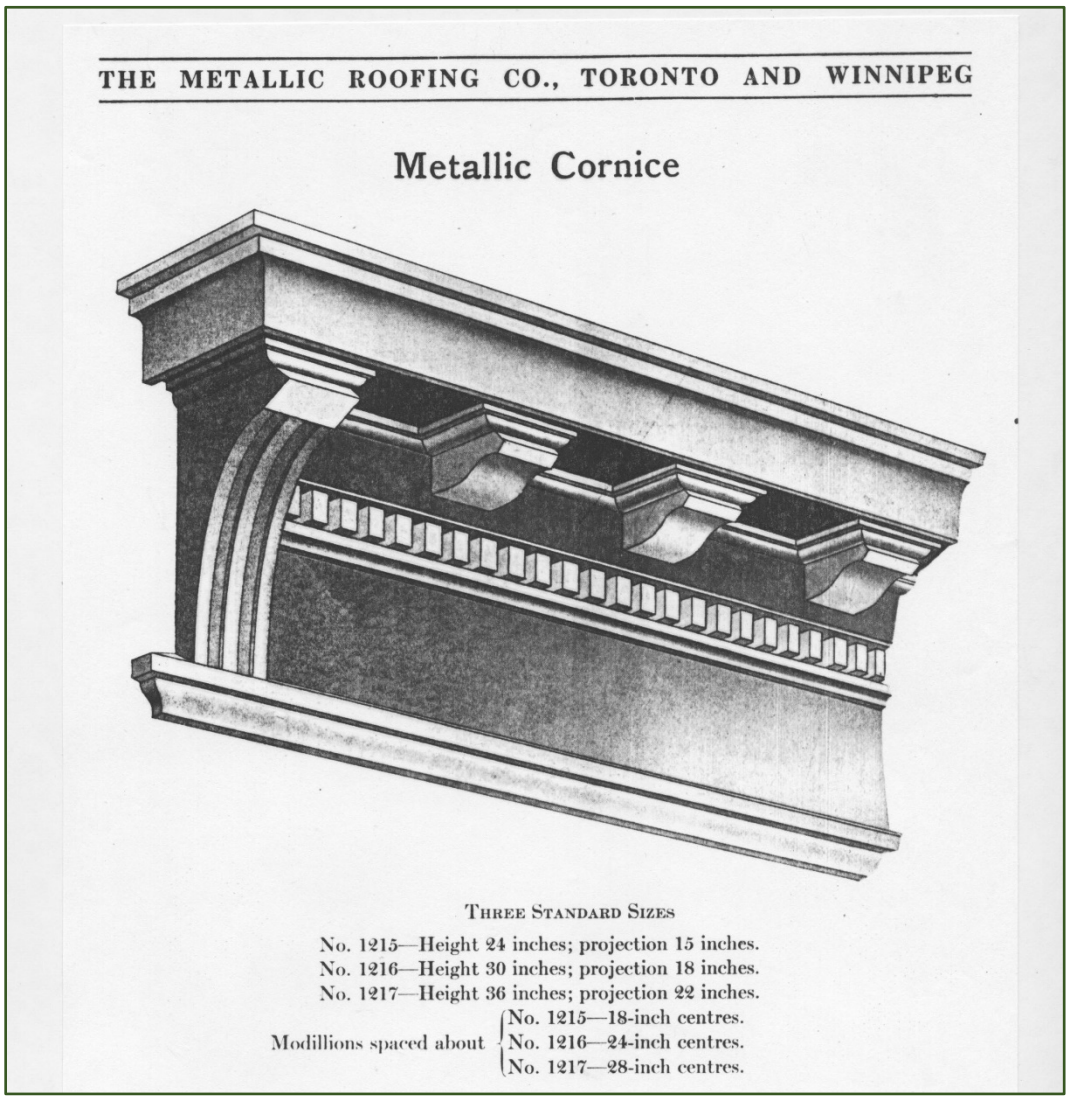
Page from the Pedlar People's *Catalogue no. 10* (1902); Public Archives of Canada.

Canadian Businesses Engaged in Architectural Sheet-Metalwork

Prior to 1890, decorative sheet-metal building components made in Canada were all supplied by small, diversified businesses engaged in tinsmithing. After 1890, they were also supplied by large companies which specialized in the manufacture and mail-order marketing of sheet-metal building products.

As coined for my thesis, the manufacturing facilities associated respectively with the small enterprise and the large company are referred to as the *tin shop* (short for tinsmith's shop) and the *stamping plant*. The early period from 1870 to 1890 was characterized by the small enterprise and the *tin-shop* method of fabricating and erecting sheet-metal components. The *tin-shop* method is described in detail in my M.A. thesis, which provides a description of all the steps involved in fabricating and erecting a galvanized-iron cornice: its component parts, shop drawings and pattern layout, cutting and bending the sheet metal, joining the parts, and finally mounting the assembled cornice onto the building façade(s). In addition to a variety of hand tools, such as "tin snips", two manually-operated machines were essential for cornice work: the straight-edge cutting of large sheets of galvanized iron was done using foot-operated squaring shears; once cut to the required size, the sheets were then folded for seams or bent into rectangular or curved shapes using a hand-operated "cornice brake."[3]

[3] M.A. thesis section 3 (pp. 47-60).



End section of a very simple cornice design featuring a crown moulding, end brackets, modillions (the smaller brackets with a greater depth than height), and a dentil course comprising a single row of small box-like ornaments. This cornice was offered by the Metallic Roofing Co. as a catalogue-ordered product but it could easily have been fabricated in a local tin-shop equipped with the machines described above.

Metallic Roofing Co., Catalogue "Z" (n.d.: circa 1900-1905); Public Archives of Canada.

The later period, from 1890 to 1930, was distinguished by the emergence of large Canadian companies specializing in sheet-metal building products and characterized by mass-production, prefabrication, and mail-order marketing methods. There were four large companies based in Ontario: the Metallic Roofing Co. of Canada, the Pedlar Metal Roofing Co. (later the Pedlar People) in Oshawa, the Galt Art Metal Company in Galt and the Preston Metal Shingle and Siding Co. in Preston.[4] However, the two technological phases overlapped during the later period and the small enterprises continued to play an important role in supplying custom-made exterior components, regardless of the proximity of a large company.

[4] Gillespie, M.A. thesis, section 4.2 (pp. 82-85).

Hamilton's Small Enterprises

As in other parts of the country, the production of decorative sheet-metal building components originated in small, diversified businesses which typically combined the fabrication of tin, galvanized sheet-iron and copper ware, with the sale of stoves and hardware, and such building work as roofing, plumbing and steam and gas-fitting. These small enterprises catered mainly to local customers, advertising their products in local newspapers and city or county directories. Business was conducted on a personal basis and most building work was done under a contract arrangement whereby the components were both supplied and erected by the same firm. The small enterprises located in Hamilton ranged in size from the smallest one-man operation, such as Miller's Tin Shop, to businesses employing 10 or more employees, notably, John E. Riddell.

Back in the early 1980s, Miller's Tin Shop was the last remaining traditional tinsmithing operation in Hamilton, which, at that time, was mainly producing custom-made furnace fittings, stove pipe elbows, downspout pipes and eavestroughing. Miller's Tin Shop remained in business until 2009 or longer but was then run by his son Pat.

Miller's Tin Shop, 453 Wentworth Street North, showing its storefront with downspouts propped up against the fascia board. Photos taken by the author of this report for her M.A. thesis in the early 1980s.

A somewhat larger-scale operation was the Hamilton Galvanized Iron Works of Thos. Irwin & Son, in business during the 1880s. In addition to manufacturing all kinds of galvanized-iron, tin and copper ware, this firm fabricated and installed iron, tin and gravel roofing, conductor pipe, eavestrough, as well as decorative cornices and window caps.[5]

[5] Advertisement in the *County of Wentworth Gazeteer and Directory, 1883* (Hamilton: W. H. Irwin & Co.), p. 128.

An even larger-scale business was John E. Riddell, established in 1877. This company supplied copper and galvanized-iron roofing as well as such decorative exterior components as cornices and window caps. It continued to grow and prosper into the early 1900s, employing from 30 to 50 men and expanding its products/ services to include metal skylights, fire doors and the installation of catalogue-ordered pressed-metal ceilings for architect-designed buildings.[6] By continually adapting its product line to changing demand, this company, incorporated as Riddell Sheet Metal & Roofing Ltd., survived until the first decade of this century.

3. Osler Block/ Dundas Masonic Hall

The commercial block on Main Street near the intersection of King Street was built for B.B. Osler in 1874-5. No architect has been identified but as originally completed this 2½ storey brick masonry building was a distinguished example of the Second Empire style, which featured a Mansard roof with a central cupola, originally both covered with slate. Its façade featured ornamental galvanized-iron window hoods on all of the windows and two single doorways as well as three cornices: one dividing the first and second stories, the one with paired brackets which appears to support the slate roof, and two respectively crowning the top of the Mansard and cupola roofs. The entire first storey has been significantly altered and the cupola is missing its original triple round-arched window (see current photo at the beginning of this report).

MASONIC BUILDING,
A. F. & A. M.
3 Main Street

Façade as it originally appeared. The polychromatic slate roof featured a central cupola with a triple-arched Palladian window surmounted by two small circular windows and crowned with a bracketed cornice. Decorative iron cresting embellished the cornices of the main and and cupola roofs.

Photo published in *Picturesque Dundas* (Alex. F. Pirie, Dundas: 1896); scan of page from the 1972 limited edition (Dundas Museum & Archives)

[6] *Hamilton, Canada: A Carnival Souvenir* (August 1903), p. 31 (Hamilton Public Library: Local History & Archives). A brief history of this company is provided in my M.A. thesis: pp. 87-88.

Close-up-view of four of the upper storey galvanized-iron window hoods, bracketed cornice and the deteriorated state of the dormer windows with the exposed woodwork of the window frame. The installation of ribbed aluminum sheathing to the fascia panels at the top of the cupola and main roofs and the bracketed cornice was an adverse alteration made since 1996 (likely as a weather-proofing measure and to replace deteriorated metalwork). Photo by the author, August 2022

Close-up view of one of the first-storey brackets supporting the metal cornice separating the first and second storeys, which shows the acanthus leaf ornamentation. While machine-stamped ornaments could have been ordered from the catalogue of a large American company by the 1870s, these ornaments most likely hand-crafted by hammering sheet zinc (softer than sheet iron) over a wood mould.

Photo by the author, September 2022.

4. Comparative Examples of Exterior Architectural Sheet-Metalwork in the Hamilton and Guelph Areas, 1870 to 1890

Like the Osler Block, the following examples were all built in the early phase of Canadian sheet-metalworking technology between 1870 to 1890. Comparative examples, with one notable exception, the Petrie Building in Guelph, are drawn from the business cores of the pre-amalgamated City of Hamilton and the former Town of Dundas. Despite the urban renewal of the 1960s and 70s, downtown Hamilton still possesses an abundance of buildings featuring exterior architectural sheet-metalwork, including one building with an entire façade fabricated of galvanized iron. While architectural sheet-metalwork came to be regarded by architectural critics as a "hollow sham", this did not deter some of Hamilton's most prominent architects from experimenting with sheet metal to produce exuberant ornamentation at a relatively low cost.

It is not known who supplied the sheet-metalwork for any of the examples from Hamilton or Dundas but two possibilities have been identified: the Galvanized Iron Works of Thos. Irwin & Son and John E. Riddell, described in the previous section. The following comparative examples are presented in chronological order.

<u>54-60 James Street North, Hamilton</u>

The earliest documented example in downtown Hamilton is the commercial block at 56-60 James Street North (corner of Rebecca Street), built in 1873 for Joseph Lister. The upper storey windows on the two street facades are embellished with sculptural hoods designed in a Renaissance Revival style and fabricated of galvanized iron. It would originally have had a much more elaborate cornice, similar to the one on the adjacent building facing Rebecca Street but since replaced by a metal cornice with a simple moulded profile. According to the James Street North Panorama, the adjacent four-storey building was erected in 1912 for Joseph Lister.[7] Its bracketed sheet-metal cornice is still intact. Interestingly, the window hoods are identical to the ones on the much earlier corner block. The four-storey section at #54 still retains its original galvanized-iron (or steel) cornice, with end brackets featuring acanthus leaf embellishments.

[7] Building dates and owners derived from the *James Street North Panorama with Building Histories*, prepared by Nina Chapple, City of Hamilton Architectural Historian with student assistance for the Local Conservation Advisory Committee between 1983 and 1984.

This photo and the following one were taken by the author for a presentation “Illusions of Grandeur: Hamilton’s Heritage of Victorian Architectural Sheet-Metalwork”, made in 2009 at the HIStory + HERitage Gallery on James Street North.

Detail of the sheet-metal cornice and window hoods 54 King Street North, showing one of the acanthus leaf ornaments embellishing the cornice brackets, which is similar to the ones on the Osler Block.

Treble Hall, 6-12 John Street North, Hamilton

On John Street North, close to Gore Park, is one of Hamilton's finest examples of a Renaissance Revival commercial block, known as Treble Hall. Designed by the noted Hamilton architect, James Balfour, it was erected in 1879 for Henry J. Larkin and originally known as Larkin Hall.[8] This prominent building originally had four stores at street level, offices on the second floor and a 400-seat assembly hall on the third floor for concerts, public meetings and theatre. Its impressive facade features four cast-iron storefronts, a prominent cornice displaying the name and date of the building (1870) and robust window surrounds, all made of galvanized iron. In 2010, the property was purchased by Jeff Feswick, Principal, Historia Restoration Inc. His company spent five years restoring the façade, gutting the second and third floors and renovating the ground floor for commercial use. Most of the façade work involved cleaning the brick masonry and sheet-metalwork, the latter of which needed to be repainted with some minor repairs to the sheet-metal components of the cornice.[9]

In 2016, the property was sold to Anthony Quattrociocchi, owner of Yoke Group, which resumed interior renovations, converting the upper floors to loft apartments (still a work-in-progress in 2019).[10] In 1998, Treble Hall was identified as one of 32 landmark buildings in Hamilton's downtown core[11] and was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 2021 (By-law 21-034).

[8] Entry from the *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada (1800 to 1950)* under the Hamilton buildings designed by James Balfour (1854 to 1917): LARKIN HALL, John Street North near King Street, a block of stores and theatre for J.Henry Larkin, 1878-79 (Spectator [Hamilton] 23 Nov. 1878, 4): https://dictionaryofarchitectsincanada.org/node/1022

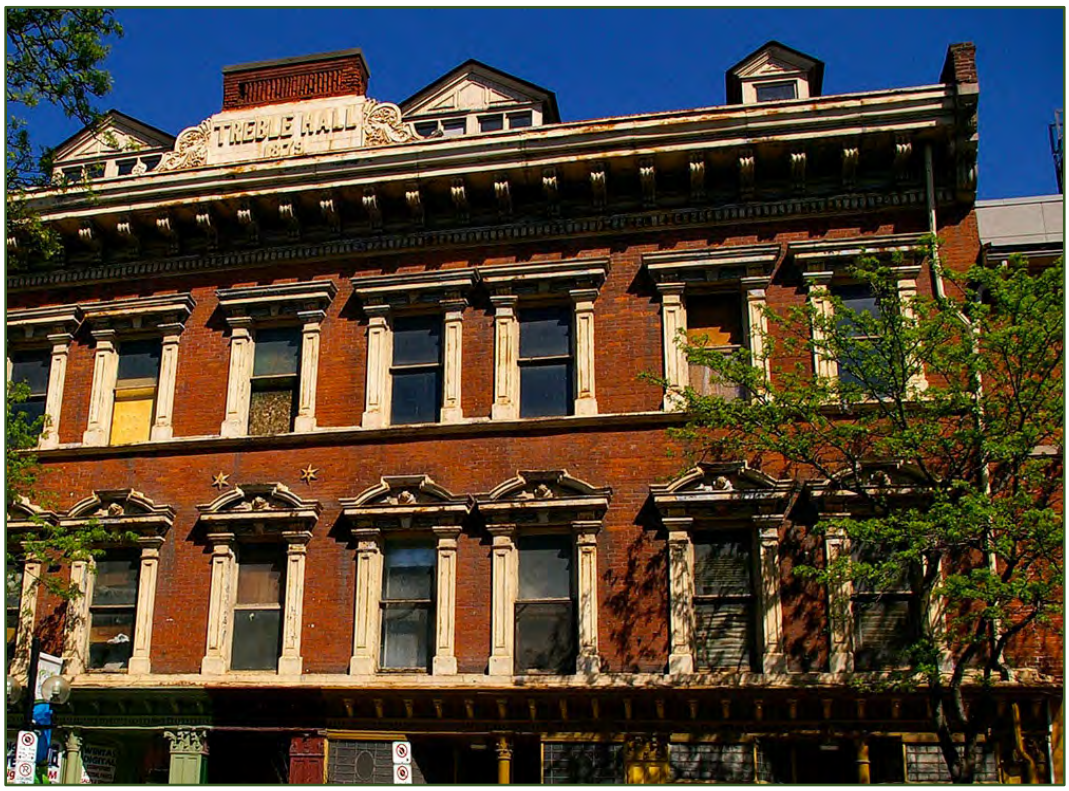
[9] Email correspondence with Jeff Feswick, September 2022.

[10] Carmela Fragomini, SOLD: Hamilton's historic Treble Hall building downtown", *The Hamilton Spectator*, 25 August 2015; Kathy Renwald, "Downtown Hamilton: Another chapter in the story of Treble Hall", *The Hamilton Spectator*, 3 January 2019.

[11] Section 3.0 "Landmark Buildings in Hamilton's Downtown Core (L.A.C.A.C.): List, Map and Photographs, Hamilton Heritage Handbook 1998 (City of Hamilton, Planning and Development Department: September 1998).

The façade as it appeared prior to restoration. This photo and the following two were taken by the author in 2009.

Close-up view of one of the four cast-iron storefronts featuring round freestanding columns and pilasters with Corinthian columns. The attenuated columns separating the glass panes of the windows could only have been fabricated of cast iron due to its tensile strength.



Closer view of the galvanized-ironwork showing exposed metal where the paint has worn off.

Upper façade after its restoration by *Historia Building Restoration Inc.* circa 2011-12. Work included masonry repointing, minor repairs, and repainting of the sheet-metalwork. Photo by Jeff Feswick.

Laing Block, 13-17 King Street West, Dundas

This three-storey commercial block, also known as the Laing Apartments, was erected in 1881-82 for Peter and Robert Laing, immediately after a devastating fire in September 1881, which destroyed all of the buildings between Cross Street and the Collins Hotel. The Laing Block was designed by Hamilton architect Peter Brass, who is known to have designed four other buildings in Dundas in the early 1880s, but none so architecturally distinguished as this one.[12] It may be speculated that the fire provided considerable incentive to adopt a more fire-resistant form of construction. Apart from the Masonic Hall, it is the only other surviving building in Dundas to feature exterior sheet-metalwork of an ornamental nature. In 1991, the three-bay block comprising 13, 15 (Laing Apartments) and 17 King Street West was designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act but the Reasons for Designation make no mention of the use of galvanized iron to fabricate the window surrounds and cornices.[13] Between September and November 2013, *Historia Building Restoration Inc.* completed restoration work on the designated three-bay façade of 13 to 17 King Street West, including the original cast-iron storefronts, and the ornate, sculptural window surrounds and cornice, all fabricated of galvanized iron.[14]

Restored façade of 11-13 King Street West. Photo by the author, September 2021.

[12] Entry from the *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada (1800 to 1950)* under the buildings outside Hamilton designed by Peter Brass ( ): DUNDAS, ONT. The Laing Block, King Street West, a 3-storey commercial block for Robert Laing and Peter Laing, 1882.

[13] Corporation of the Town of Dundas By-law No. 3961-91.

[14] Email correspondence with Jeff Feswick, September 2022.

Close-up of the cornice and window surrounds of #11. Photo by the author, September 2021.

Victoria Hall, 68 King Street East, Hamilton

The outstanding example of exterior architectural sheet-metalwork in Hamilton is without a doubt Victoria Hall, on the south side of Gore Park. Designed by another prominent Hamilton architect, William Stewart, and built in 1887−8 for barrister Alexander Bruce, this narrow, 3½ storey commercial building features a flamboyant Italianate façade with three closely spaced, round-arched window bays (creating an arcade effect) and a deeply projecting bracketed cornice, all fabricated of galvanized iron. While some of the forms, such as the piers framing the façade and the three keystones, were imitative of cut and carved stone masonry, the four attenuated columns were derived from the forms of structural columns fabricated of cast iron. The intricacy of the hand-crafted façade construction suggests that the architect was both playfully testing the stylistic versatility of sheet metal and the skills of the tinsmiths who completed the work. Victoria Hall was designated municipally under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1984 (By-law No. 84-249).

The upper façade was “restored” in 2009, when the second and third floors were converted to condominiums and the ground floor was rehabilitated for use as a café, with a new wood and glass façade. The entire façade was then painted white, a poor choice which does not highlight the features of the exceptional upper façade. Most of the repair work was apparently done with autobody filler, which is not a recommended conservation practice. In the late 1980s, *Riddell Sheet Metal Roofing*

agreed to examine the façade but the company was not prepared to give a firm estimate for the cost of repairs, using authentic sheet-metalworking techniques.[15]

To put Victoria Hall into a national context, it is a very rare surviving example in Canada of a sheet-metal façade dating from the pre-1890 era; only two other sheet-metal facades were known to exist at the time of my thesis research: the Petrie Building in Guelph and the Maison Jean Docile-Brosseau in Quebec City, built respectively in 1882 and 1884. There is no evidence that the Quebec building is still extant. The rarity of the upper façade of Victoria Hall led to its formal recognition in 1995 as a National Historic Site.[16]

The façade just prior to restoration work on the upper façade in 2008. Photos by Meghan House, Cultural Heritage Planner, City of Hamilton.

[15] Ann Gillespie, "Hamilton's Victoria Hall", *LACAC News*, Spring/ Summer 1989, pp. 3-4.

[16] Canada's Historic Places: www.historicplaces.ca/en/rep-reg/place-lieu.aspx?id=2210.

After restoration with a new wood and glass storefront. Photos by Robin McKee, January 2009.

Petrie Building, 15 Wyndham Street, Guelph

The Petrie Building in Guelph, erected about six years before Victoria Hall, provides a decisive contrast in terms of the sheet-metalworking techniques employed in its façade construction. It was designed by Guelph architect John Day and erected in 1882 for one of the town's most prominent chemists and druggists, Alexander Bain Petrie. Its upper façade features four window bays separated by attenuated columns which closely resemble cast-iron columns and is distinguished by a bold cornice with a broken pediment framing a large mortar and pestle, a reminder of the building's original function as a pharmacy. According to one of Petrie's grandsons, the sheet-metal components were supplied by Bakewell & Mullins of Salem, Ohio (Sheet Metal Statuary & Cornicework), which accounts for the use of stamped ornaments, such as lion heads, leaves, rosettes, festoons and capitals.[17] It is known that Bakewell & Mullins specialized in architectural ornamentation, evidence of which is provided by an 1887 catalogue, *Victorian Architectural Sheet-Metal Ornaments*.[18] While such ornaments would have been available from such American companies by the 1880s, their use in this country appears to have been exceptional until they were offered by several large Canadian companies in the 1890s.

[17] Gillespie, M.A. Thesis (1985), p. 62.

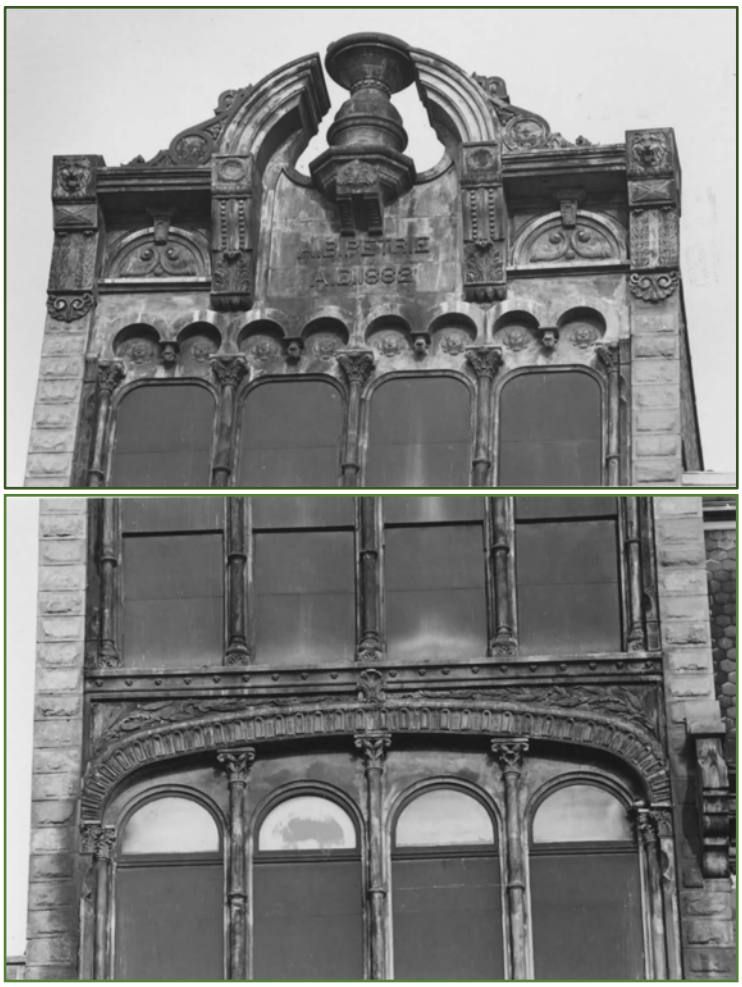
[18] Reprinted as a Kindle Edition in 2014 by Dover Publications.

In 2014, the National Trust for Canada included the Petrie Building as one of Top 10 Endangered Places in the country and was identified as one of only three documented buildings in the country erected prior to 1890 with full sheet-metal façades.[19]

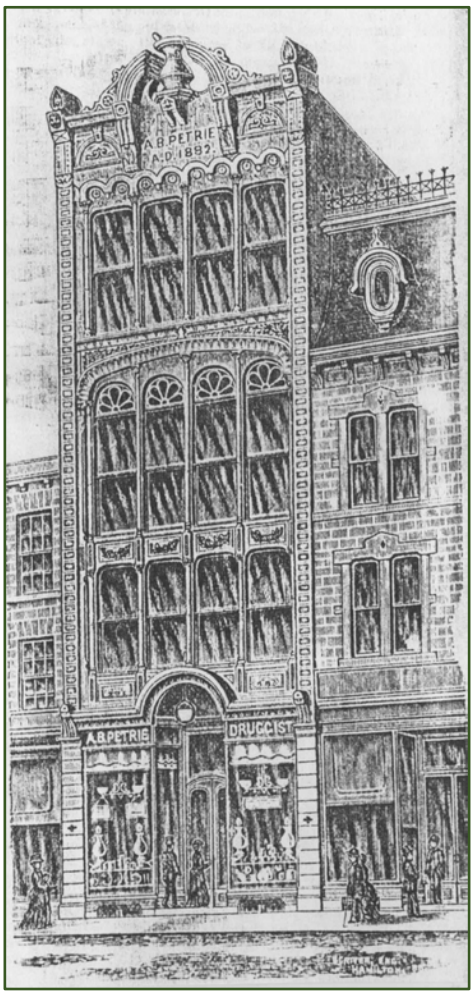
In March 2015, *Tyrcathlen Partners*, a group of Guelph developers with a focus on heritage restoration and adaptive reuse, announced an agreement to purchase the Petrie Building with the goal of rehabilitating both the sheet-metal facade and the interior spaces. The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (Guelph and Wellington branch) raised over $23,000 for the careful restoration of the Petrie Building's façade through the National Trust's THIS PLACE MATTERS crowdfunding competition. Work was completed over the next two years and revealed in January 2018, as described in this Global News article: "Petrie Building stands tall again in downtown Guelph following restoration"[20]. Whereas the upper façade of Victoria Hall appears to have been entirely hand-crafted by a local enterprise, that of the Petrie Building embraced a more advanced level of sheet-metalworking technology, which was not widely adopted in Canada until after 1890.

[19] https://nationaltrustcanada.ca/nt-endangered-places/petrie-building

[20] https://globalnews.ca/news/3970856/petrie-building-stands-tall-again-in-downtown-guelph-following-restoration



Upper façade as it appeared in the early 1980s. Photos taken for the author's M.A. thesis.



Rendering published in *Industries of Canada. Historical and Commercial Sketches ...Guelph...* (Toronto: 1886), p.101.

Upper façade after restoration. Photos by Stewart Patch, October 2021.

In summary, during the period 1870-90, almost all of the decorative sheet-metal components which appeared on Canadian buildings were fabricated and installed by small local businesses employing skilled tinsmiths, for both work in the shop and on the building site. It is conjectured that this was the case for all of the illustrated examples in this report with the exception of the Petrie Building in Guelph. Further research would be needed to possibly identify the names of the specific businesses which supplied the galvanized-iron components for the examples of buildings in downtown Dundas and Hamilton. Based on this survey, the circa 1875 Osler Block in Dundas is the earliest surviving example in Dundas of the use of galvanized iron for decorative exterior elements in this period, followed by the 1882 Laing Block. Moreover, it was built only two years after the 1873 commercial block on James Street North and predates Treble Hall on John Street South by several years. This survey establishes the significance of the architectural sheet-metalwork of the Osler Block within a regional context. The design value of the Osler Block would be further enhanced by the restoration of at least some of the missing components of the original façade, notably, the first storey galvanized-iron window caps, the slate roof of the cupola and its dormer windows, and the galvanized-ironwork of the two Mansard roof dormers.

Jerome Markson in Hamilton

Preliminary research – residential and institutional works

November 28th, 2022

Dr. Sarah Sheehan

Presented to: Inventory and Research Working Group

Architect Jerome Markson

Jerome Markson (b. 1929) is an important Canadian architect whose early residential commissions brought him to Hamilton.

The Royal Architecture Institute of Canada (RAIC) awarded him the **2022 Gold Medal**.

Markson's work reveals his lifelong commitment to humanism, inclusivity and generosity, teaching us valuable lessons about urban housing and its critical relationship to city building.

— *RAIC jury, 2022*

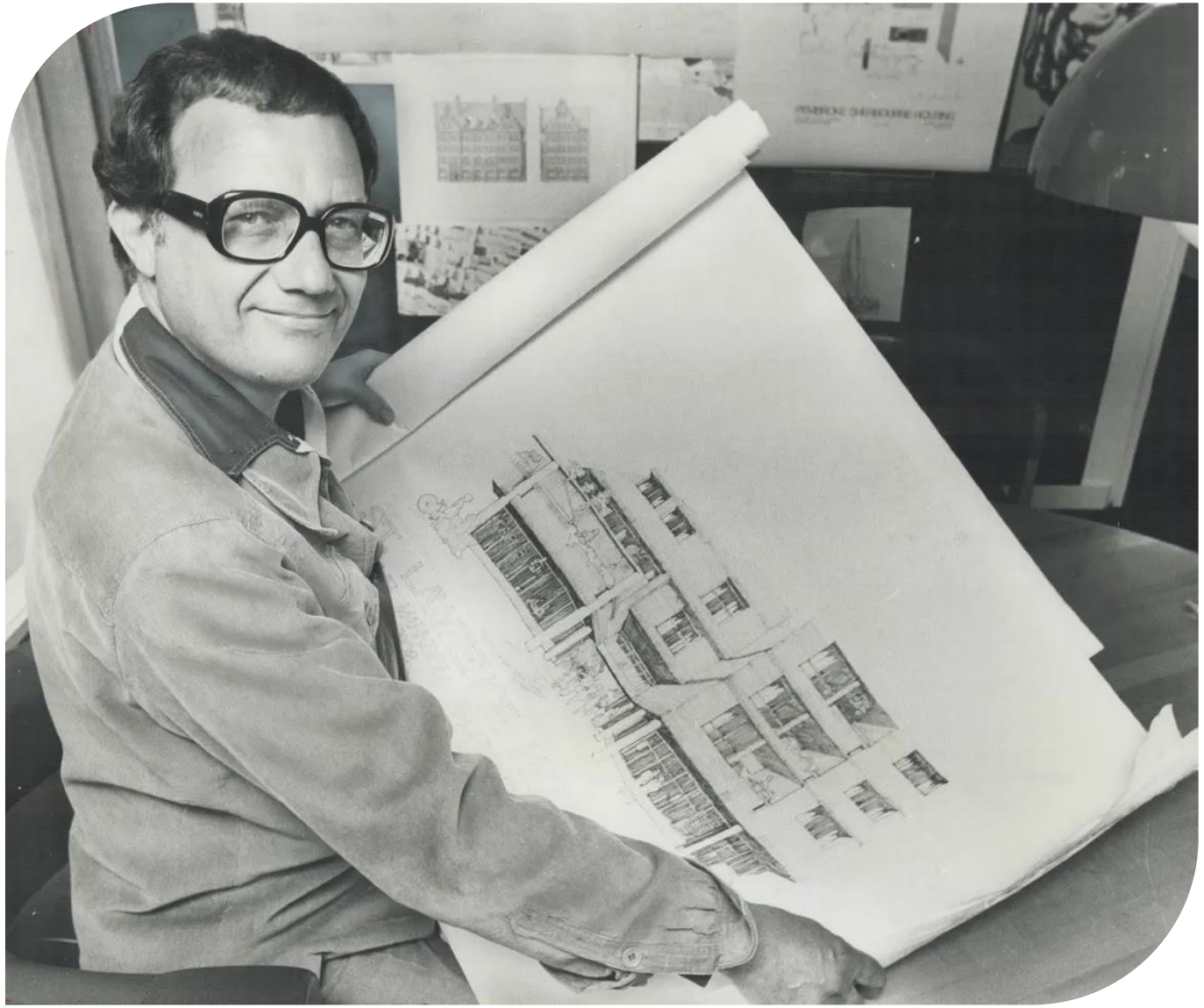


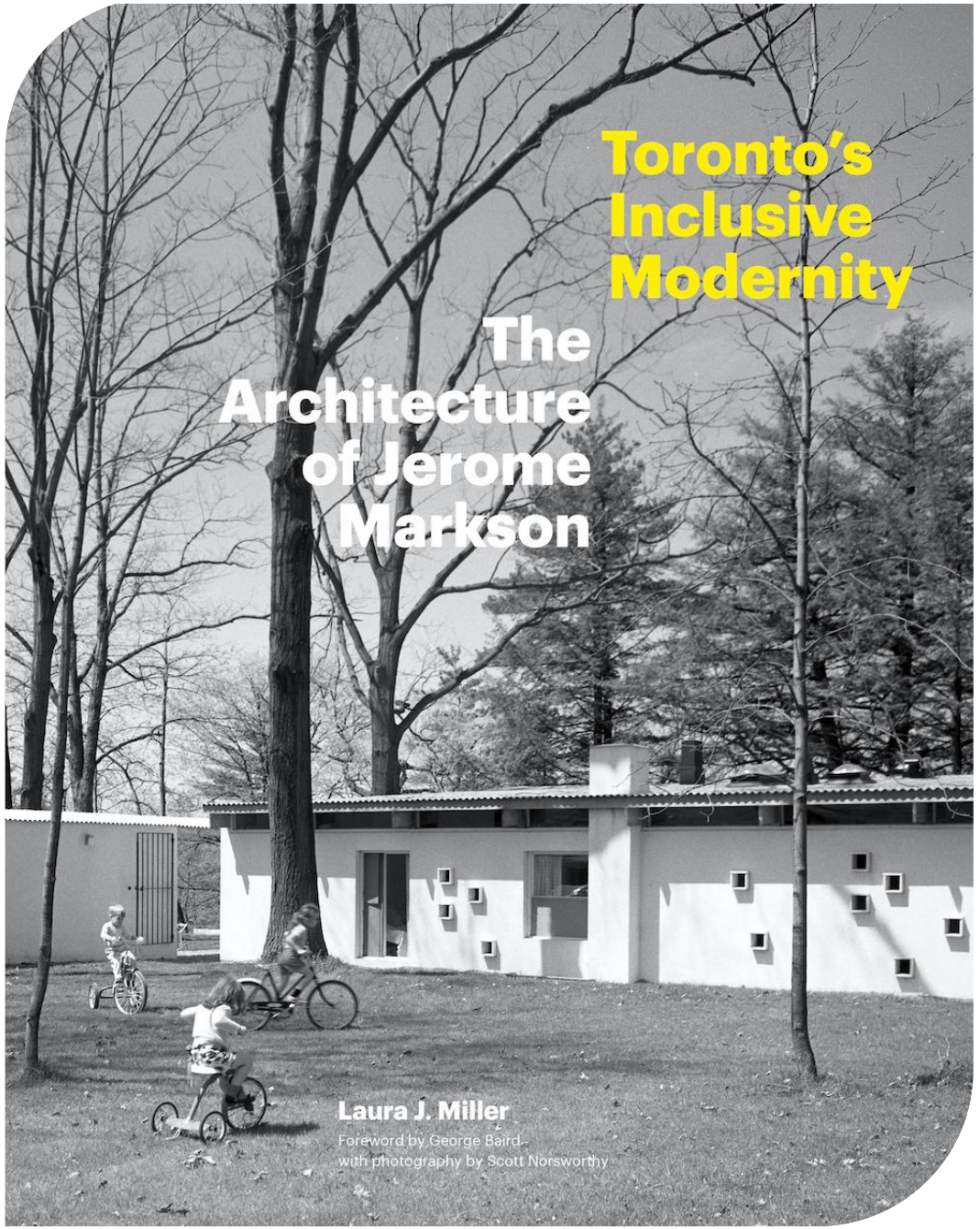
Photo: Toronto Public Library.

Jerome Markson Architect: exhibit and book

In 2020, Prof. Laura J. Miller (Daniels, Univ. of Toronto) curated a gallery exhibit and published a book-length study of the work of Jerome Markson.

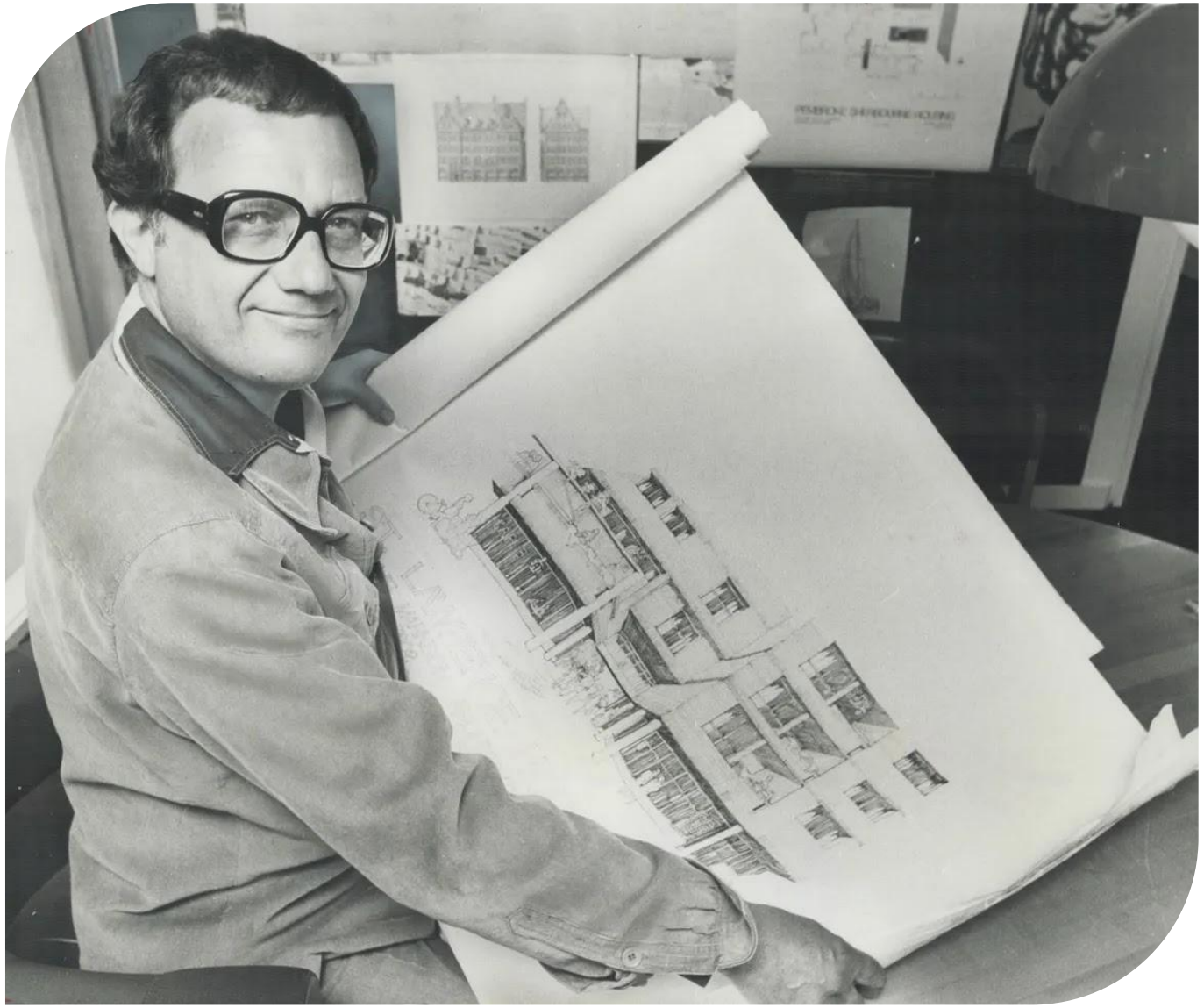
Exhibit:
A Quite Individual Course: Jerome Markson Architect, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, 2020

Study:
Laura J. Miller, *Toronto's Inclusive Modernity: The Architecture of Jerome Markson* (Vancouver: Figure 1 Publishing, 2020)



Jerome Markson in Hamilton

Markson was part of a new generation of Jewish-Canadian architects educated at the University of Toronto after the Second World War,* and many of his Hamilton clients were members of the city's Jewish community.



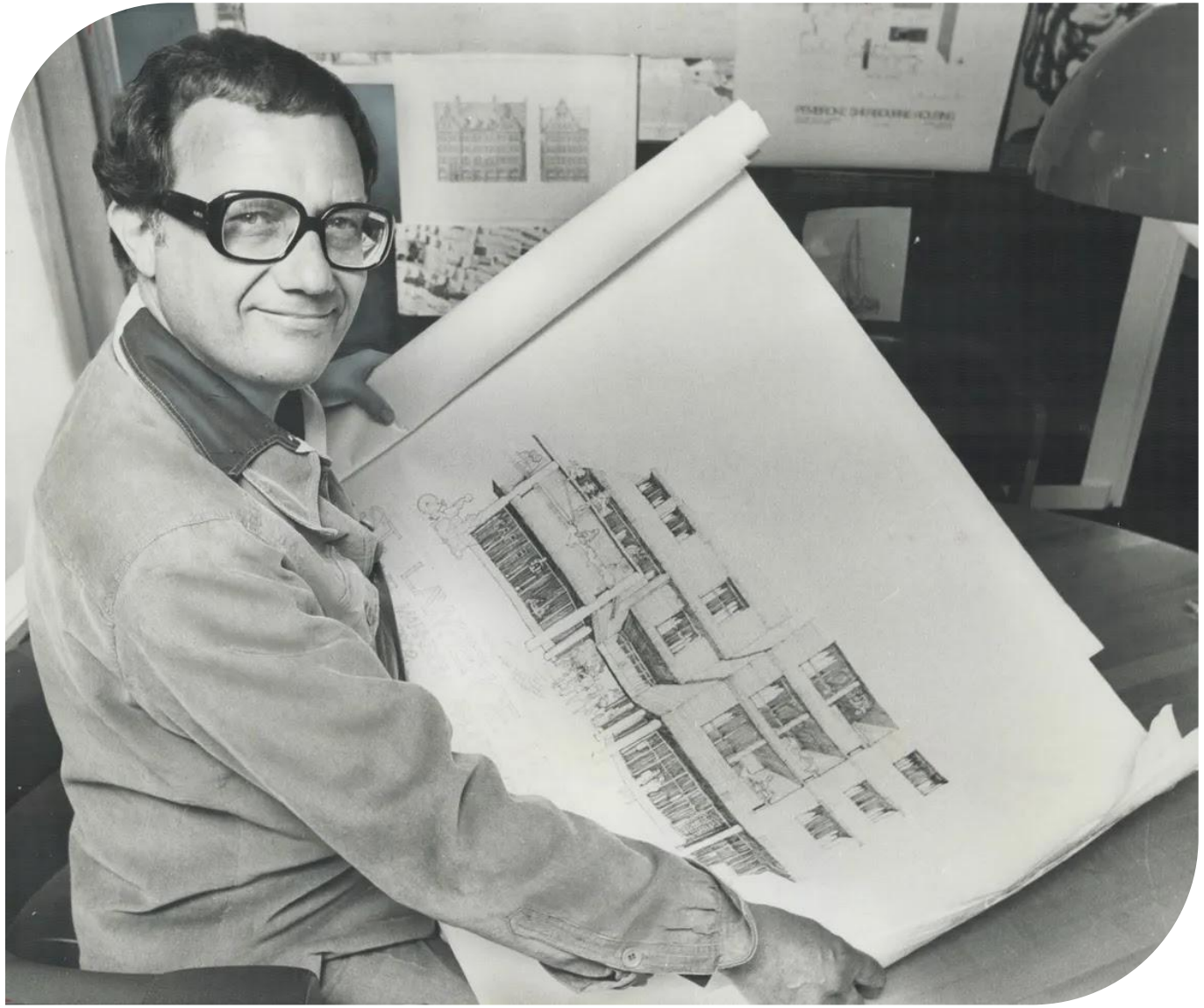
* Source: John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design website. As Miller notes, the Ritualarium is a ritual Orthodox Jewish bathhouse (see plan in Miller, p. 77).

Jerome Markson: Selected works in Hamilton

In her book, Miller highlights 10 Hamilton commissions (* indicates book discussion):

- G. Goldblatt Residence (1955)*
- M. Goldblatt Residence (1957)*
- Netkin Residence (1958)
- Moses Residence (1959)*
- Minden Residence (1959)*
- Levy Residence (1959)
- Ritualarium Bathhouse (1959)
- Urban Courtyard Housing (project for Stelco, 1965)*
- Enkin Residence (1967)*
- Cambridge Clothes head office & showroom (1977)

(Also: *Sherman Staff Lodge for Dofasco, Lake Temagami*, 1967*)

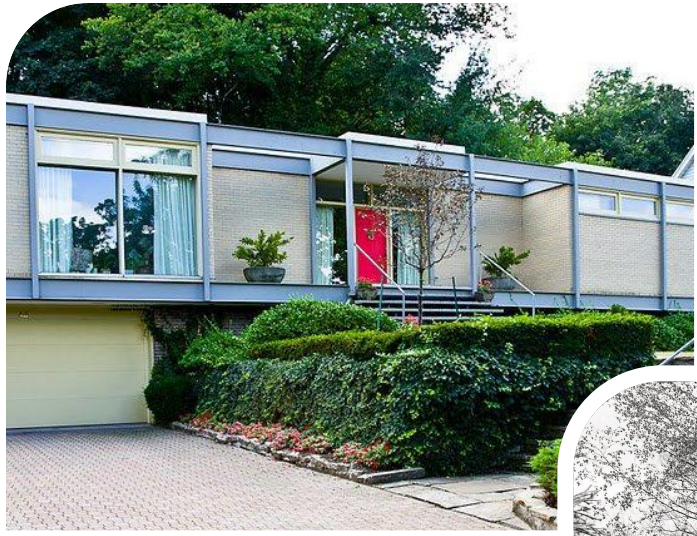


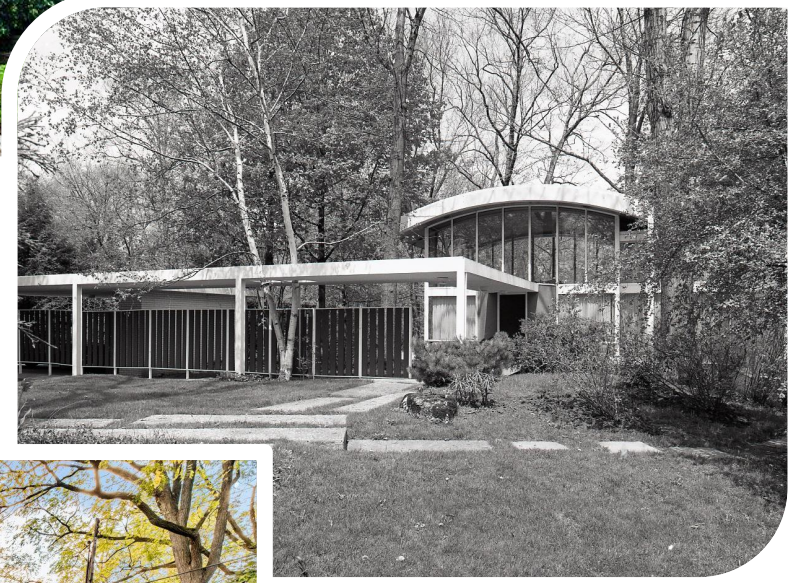
Five residential commissions

Context: early-career, experimental single-family residences

“Markson saw his Amelia Street houses as a set of related problems that presented the **opportunity for ‘pure discovery.’”***

“The Moses and G. Goldblatt Residences were **the only exposed-steel structures Markson built**, appropriately both in ‘Steeltown.’”



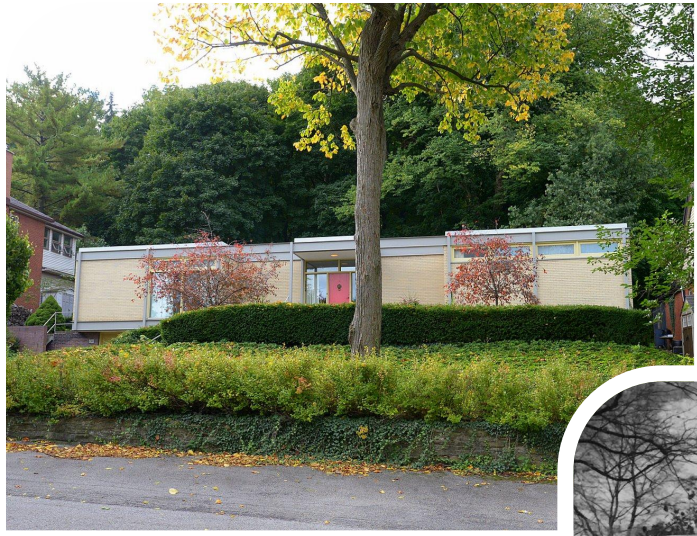


These photos show the G. Goldblatt and Moses residences, and Minden House on Amelia Street.

Photos: Jeff Tessier, Morley Markson, Realtor.ca.
*Miller interview 2017, Miller, p. 73; p. 152.

Markson House (1955)

- **a.k.a. G. Goldblatt Residence**
- **45 Amelia St. (Kirkendall)**
- Clients: George & Jessie Goldblatt (Markson's aunt & uncle)
- George Goldblatt was Treasurer at International Iron & Metal, later Intermetco
- 1976-2020 Chick & Gabby Holton: Chick Pres. National Paper Goods
- Art by Leonard Oesterle (rear terrace), Don Wallace (bedroom)
- Added to the Register in 2019
- Used as a filming location



Photos: Realtor.ca, Ontario Homes & Living, Elevation Pictures.
Miller, pp. 140-41.

M. Goldblatt Residence (1957)

- **79 Amelia St.**
- Clients: Malcolm & Sondy Goldblatt
- The Goldblatts were in the steel industry: International Iron & Metal, later Intermetco
- Of Markson's 3 Amelia St. residences, no. 79 "most actively mirrors the topography of its site"
- Raised central courtyard
- Plan reproduced in Miller (p. 73)
- Design accommodates underground creek & existing mature trees
- Landscaping by landscape architect George Tanaka

Photos: Miller, Jane's Walk / Twitter. Miller, pp. 72-3, 146-49.

Moses Residence (1959)

- **8 Mayfair Pl. (Westdale)**
- Formal ravine house
- Clients: James & Deborah Moses (Markson's cousin and her family)
- Mr. Moses was GM, Int'l Machinery
- Currently home to the Hamilton Centre for Psychoanalysis
- Plans reproduced in Miller
- "the first house designed by Markson to achieve a high profile in the architectural press" (Miller p. 74)
- 25 Years Award, 1993 (OAA + *Canadian House and Home* magazine)

Photos: Morley Markson. Miller, pp. 74-75, 152-55.

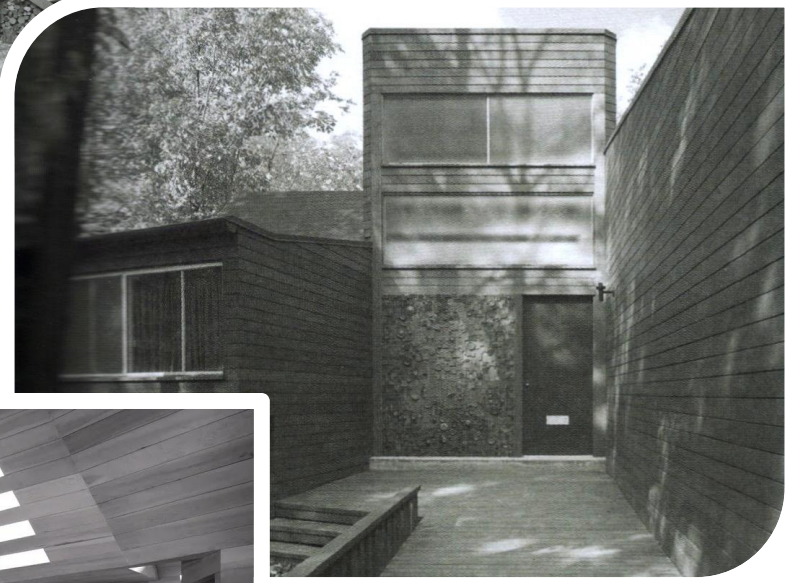
Minden Residence (1959)

- **125 Amelia St.**
- Clients: Joseph & Anne Minden
- Dr. Joseph H. Minden (1913-2008) was a surgeon (practice: 452 Main St. E.)
- Key work for the local gallery exhibit *SLEEK: Hamilton's Modernist Residential Architecture* (2010-11) curated by architect Anthony Butler
- "perhaps the most important Modernist residence in Hamilton" – Dave LeBlanc, *The Globe and Mail*

Photos: Woolcott / Realtor.ca. Miller, pp. 156-59.

Enkin Residence (1967)

- **538 Scenic Dr. (Ward 14)**
- Wooded site on the Mountain
- Clients: Lawrence & Sharon Enkin
- Lawrence H. Enkin (1928-2022), Coppley VP, president, chair emeritus; brother of Dr. Murray Enkin
- Art by Mayta Markson (by front door)
- Photos at Ryerson archive by Roger Jowett, 1971
- University of Calgary archive refers to “The Stream,” built for Mr. & Mrs. L. Enkin



Photos: Roger Jowett. Miller, pp. 206-9.

Modernism and the risk of alterations

When left undesignated, the original architect's design can be subject to alterations without community input.

Examples:

- 125 Amelia St. — horizontal siding & open car port (see photos)
- 79 Amelia St. — stuccoed
- 538 Scenic Dr. — roofline altered but subsequently restored*

* See last slide.

Addendum I: three more Markson works

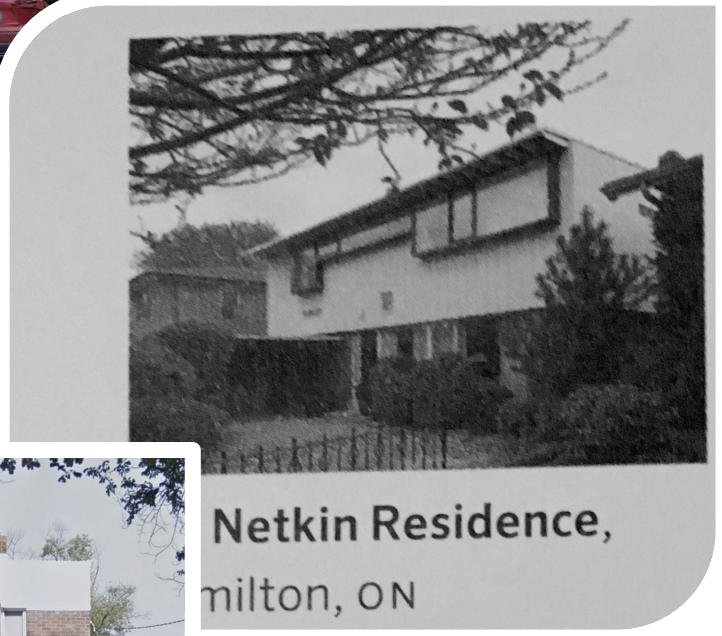
1. Netkin Residence (1958)

- **89 Winston Ave. (Ainsley Wood)**
- Clients: Melvyn & Ferne Netkin (née Minden)
- Melvyn “Sonny” Netkin (1934-2019), associated with S. Netkin & Sons, local fruit wholesale business

2. Levy Residence (1959)

- **90 Winston Ave.**
- Clients: Irving & Sadie Levy
- Dr. Irving Levy (1916-1997) was a surgeon (practice: 1390 Main St. E.)
- The shiva for Sadie Levy (1913-2013) was held here

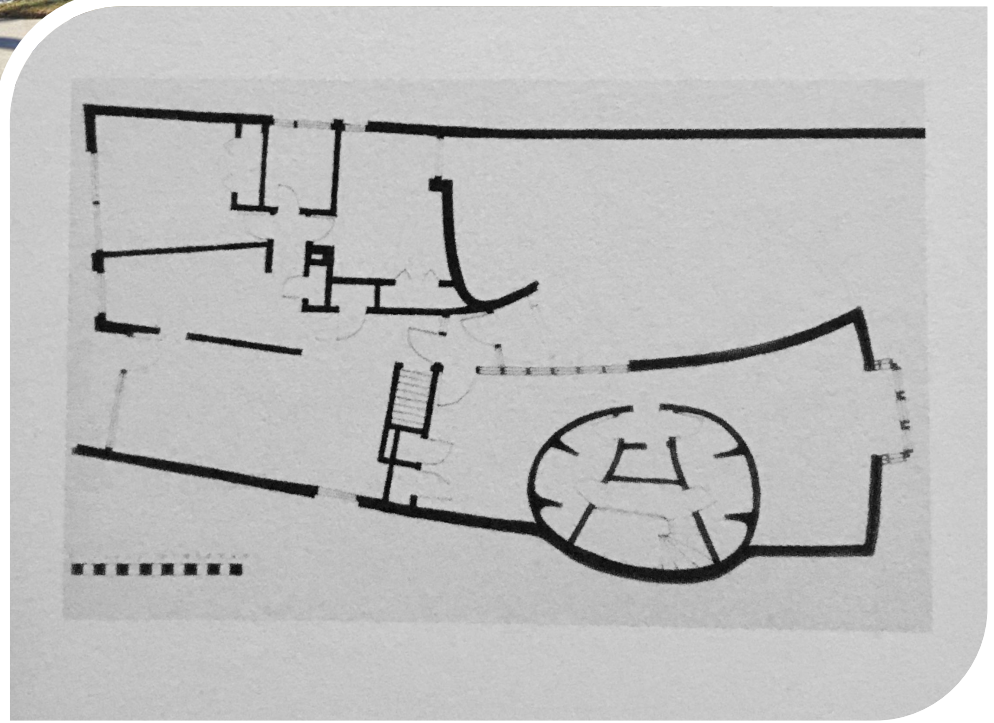
Photos: Google, Miller, p. 286.



Addendum I: three more Markson works (cont'd)

3. Ritualarium Bathhouse, Hamilton Mikvah (1959)

- **128 Cline Ave. S.**
- Orthodox Jewish ritual bathhouse (mikvah)
- Across from Adas Israel Synagogue (125 Cline Ave. S., completed 1961)
- Customary modest exterior
- Several synagogue commissions in the GTA; Hamilton Mikvah his only local work associated with Judaism
- Plans to demolish have been rumoured

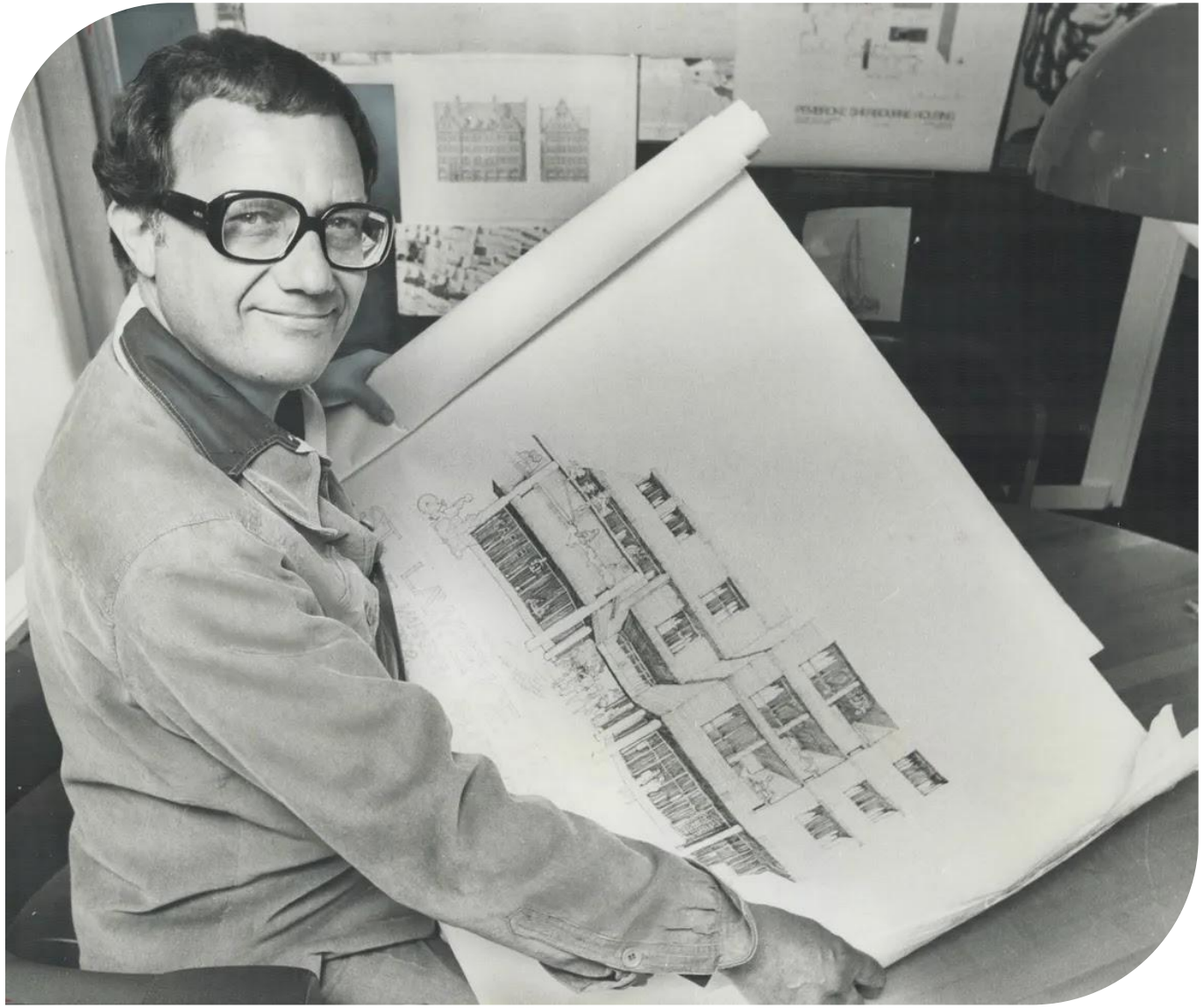


Photos: Google, Miller, p. 77. NB: Materials re: Adas Israel Synagogue are housed at the Ontario Jewish Archives.

Addendum II: Summary

This survey identified 8 Hamilton works by Jerome Markson:

1. **G. Goldblatt Residence**, 45 Amelia St. (1955)
2. **M. Goldblatt Residence**, 79 Amelia St. (1957)
3. **Netkin Residence**, 89 Winston Ave. (1958)
4. **Moses Residence**, 8 Mayfair Pl. (1959)
5. **Minden Residence**, 125 Amelia St. (1959)
6. **Levy Residence**, 90 Winston Ave. (1959)
7. **Ritualarium Bathhouse (Hamilton Mikvah)**, 128 Cline Ave. S. (1959)
8. **Enkin Residence**, 538 Scenic Dr. (1967)



Thank you.