

HISTORIC STREETS OF TORONTO

MARTA O'BRIEN'S RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Below is a list of books and web sites dealing with City history and architectural heritage. The list is long because I hope to cover the wide variety of interests.

Armstrong, Frederick H.. A City in the Making: Progress, People & Perils in Victorian Toronto. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1988.

- examines key events & people; very good regarding early urban development & the great fires

Arthur, Eric. Toronto: No Mean City. Rev. by Stephen A. Otto. Toronto: U. of Toronto, 1986, 2003.

- architectural history of Toronto to 1900; includes appendix on the origin of street names

Careless, J. M. S. Toronto to 1918. Toronto: James Lorimer & Co., 1984. **and**

Lemon, James. Toronto Since 1918. Toronto: James Lorimer & Co., 1985.

- illustrated books providing a clear and complete history of the city, with some on built form

Citywalks (citywalks.ca)

- my own business offering walking tours of distinctive Toronto neighbourhoods & districts
- web site also lists my upcoming courses & public talks on architecture

City of Toronto (toronto.ca)

- on the City's homepage, search "11,000-year" to get the link for extensive illustrated information on Toronto's history

Cruikshank, Tom. Old Toronto Houses. Toronto: Firefly Books, 2003.

- fairly thorough study with beautiful photographs; houses sorted by style and by neighbourhood

Dendy, William. Lost Toronto: Images of the City's Past. 2nd ed. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1993. (has additions to the 1978 edition, published by Oxford University Press)

- eminent architectural historian's detailed illustrated review of over 150 Toronto buildings which no longer exist

Dendy, William and William Kilbourn. Toronto Observed. Toronto: Oxford U. Press, 1986.

- review of major historical periods in Toronto along with facts and photographs for over 80 significant existing buildings

Donegan, Rosemary. Spadina Avenue. Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1985.

- thorough illustrated history of the street

Greenberg, Ken. Toronto Reborn: Design Successes and Challenges. Toronto: Dundurn, 2019.

- optimistic and comprehensive examination of past & needed urban development by internationally-known urban planner & city advocate who was involved in many of them

Hayes, Derek. Historical Atlas of Toronto. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 2008.

- outstanding exploration of Toronto through maps

Heritage Preservation Services (toronto.ca/heritage-preservation/index.htm)

- branch of Toronto government "plays an important role in preserving Toronto's heritage by advising City Council on matters relating to the Ontario Heritage Act and acting as a professional resource for the community and property owners on the conservation of the City's historic resources."
- explore this site to learn about preservation policies in Toronto

Heritage Toronto (heritagetoronto.org)

- HT is an arms-length City agency and charity that celebrates, interprets, and provides education on our City's cultural, architectural, archaeological and natural heritage
- web site provides information on heritage issues and events

Kluckner, M. Toronto: The Way It Was. Toronto: Whitecap Books, 1988.

- well-researched illustrated look at Toronto neighbourhoods and remarkable places and people

Lundell, Liz. The Estates of Old Toronto. Erin, ON: Boston Mills Press, 1997.

- well-written & illustrated study of primarily pre-1900 houses on estates of the affluent

Martyn, Lucy Booth. Toronto 100 Years of Grandeur: The Inside Stories of Toronto's Great Homes and the People who Lived There. Toronto: Pagurian Press, 1978.

- profile of many elegant homes with black & white (mainly exterior) photographs

Martyn, Lucy Booth. Aristocratic Toronto: 19th Century Grandeur: More Stories of the Fascinating Homes and Elegant People of Early Toronto. Toronto: Gage Publishing, 1980.

- homes not included in previous book Toronto 100 Years of Grandeur

McHugh, Patricia and Alex Bozikovic. Toronto Architecture: A City Guide. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2017.

- updated classic with maps & brief descriptions for buildings

Micallef, Shawn. Stroll: Psychogeographic Walking Tours of Toronto. Toronto: Coach House Books, 2010.

- fresh perspective on familiar – as well as often overlooked – areas of Toronto, including the larger post-amalgamation city

Old Toronto (search "Old Toronto" + "sidewalk labs")

- select "Explore Toronto through historical photos" for interactive map you can use to find old photographs by location

Osbaldeston, Mark. Unbuilt Toronto: A History of the City That Might Have Been Toronto: Dundurn, 2008. same author: Unbuilt Toronto 2

- excellent research into projects that were not realized; some mentioned in this course

Sewell, John. The Shape of the City. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993.

- excellent illustrated history and critique of planning in and around Toronto

Spacing Toronto (spacing.ca/toronto/)

- lots of digital content on urban issues & public space; also an excellent hardcopy magazine

Thompson, Austin Seaton. Jarvis Street: A Story of Triumph and Tragedy. Toronto: Personal Library Publishers, 1980.

- a thorough illustrated history of the street

TOBuilt (acotoronto.ca/tobuilt_new.php)

- architecture enthusiast Bob Krawczyk developed this data base & compiled 10,000 entries with contemporary photographs and basic information about buildings
- it's searchable and has been expanded through the Architectural Conservancy of Toronto

Toronto Historical Association. A Glimpse of Toronto's History: Opportunities for the Commemoration of Lost Historic Sites. Toronto: City Planning Division, Urban Development Services, City of Toronto, 2001.

- detailed information and history for 250 lost heritage sites, including many buildings

Toronto in Time (citiesintime.ca/toronto/)

- illustrated stories tied to locations & organized by theme, city area, & "trails" (self-guided tours)

Toronto Public Library Digital Archive (torontopubliclibrary.ca/digital-archive/)

- includes a digital library of primary and secondary source materials from the Library's collections, as well as links to other Toronto-based information resources
- materials include 19th-century atlases and maps, full text and images of books published by the library about local history and neighbourhoods, and old photographs

Urban Toronto (urbantoronto.ca/)

- pro-development; covers condos, architecture, urban planning, & real estate
- varying points of view are expressed in the Forums

Wise, Leonard & Allan Gould. Toronto Street Names: An Illustrated Guide To Their Origins.
Richmond Hill, Ont.: Firefly Books, 2011.

- alphabetical guide with historical photographs and sketches accompanying text

ARCHIVES

The archives are free and have knowledgeable staff to guide your research efforts.

The City of Toronto Archives (search "Toronto Archives")

255 Spadina Rd. (½ block north of Dupont subway station; free parking)

The web site describes many of the materials that you can access at the Archives free of charge. Some materials are available online, including maps and photographs.

The Archives of Ontario (archives.gov.on.ca/en/index.aspx)

134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., York University (very near the York U subway stop)

The architecture collection includes original architectural drawings, specifications, and correspondence associated with many of Toronto's architects and buildings. Click on "Accessing our Collection" and scroll down to "Visual Database" to search photographs.