

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION SUMMARY: 58 ATLANTIC AVENUE

Ontario Wind Engine and Pump Company Building (1901): showing the principal (north) elevation on Liberty Street (Heritage Preservation Services, 2015)

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

Key Date	Historical Event
1887 June	The Province of Ontario transfers land in the Ordnance Reserve to the Land Security Company
1887 Nov	Plan 765 is registered in the area outlined by King Street West, Dufferin Street and two railway lines
1890	Goad's Atlas shows the partial subdivision under Plan 765 with the street layout
1894 Sept	The Ontario Wind Engine and Pump Company (OWEPC) is incorporated
1894	The update to Goad's illustrates the first buildings (residential and industrial) in the King Dufferin industrial area
1897 Sept	The OWEPC purchases six lots along the south side of Liberty Street between present-day Atlantic and Jefferson avenues
1897	The city directory records Liberty Street as "not built on"
B. 1898 Feb	The OWEPC is issued building permit #197 for two-storey machine shops and an office building on the southwest corner of Atlantic and Liberty ¹
1898 June	According to the tax assessment rolls, buildings valued at \$4500 are in place on the OWEPC's property
1899	The update to Goad's Atlas does not show any changes to the subject property (Image 4)
1899 Jan	The city directory records the OWEPC on the south side of Liberty Street, with "vacant lots" separating the buildings from Atlantic Avenue
1899 Apr	Part of Plan 765 south of Liberty Street is further subdivided under Plan 1110

¹ These include the two-storey gabled roofed buildings, which are extant in altered form at 35 Liberty Street

	(Image 5)
1899 July	The value of the OWEPC's buildings rises to \$6000 on the tax assessment rolls
1899 Sept	The OWEPC's complex is illustrated on the company's stationery (Image 6)
C. 1901 Feb	Building permit #74 is issued for a two-storey factory and a single-storey brick galvanizing shop for the OWEPC, with G. M. Miller and Company named as the architects
D. 1901 Mar	The same architects are identified on building permit #115 for the three-storey brick factory on "Atlantic Avenue - WS" (present-day 25 Liberty Street) (Image 7)
1901 Sept	The assessed value of the company's buildings rises to \$15,000
1903	The OWEPC is illustrated for the first time on the update to Goad's atlas (Image 4)
E. 1906 Jan	Building permit #2797 is issued to the OWEPC for a "3 storey and basement" factory at the corner of Liberty and Jefferson, designed by the same architects as the earlier buildings ²
1906 Sept	The addition to the complex is reflected in the increased value of the buildings to \$22,000, according to the tax assessment rolls
F. 1910 Oct	Building permit #23793 is issued for additional structures at the southwest end of the site
1912	The next update to Goad's Atlas shows the latter addition, with the company's buildings filling the south side of Liberty Street between Atlantic and Jefferson
1934	The OWEPC is recorded for the last time at this location according to the City Directory for 1935 (with information dating to the previous year)
1937	Trustees for the OWEPC sell the property to the Poppy Fund of Toronto Limited, which retains the site until 1960 and rents it to a variety of tenants

The property at 58 Atlantic Avenue is located in the neighbourhood now known as Liberty Village, which is bounded by King Street West (north), Dufferin Street (west), Strachan Avenue (east) and the railway corridor (south), with Liberty Street as the main east/west street. The origins of the area date to 1793 when the Town of York was founded and the land west of the townsite was set aside for military uses (Image 2). The rapid growth of the community resulted in the encroachment of the town into the Military Reserve and, when the City of Toronto was incorporated in 1834, Dufferin Street marked the west boundary of the Liberties (the area designated by the municipality for future development). As the 19th century progressed, large tracts of the Military Reserve were devoted to institutional uses, including the Central Prison for Men and the Andrew Mercer Reformatory for Women on Strachan Avenue and King Street West, respectively.³

The future character of the neighbourhood was forecast in the mid 19th century when the first steam railways ran their tracks across the Military Reserve and opened the area to industry (Image 3). The completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway's King Street West

² Extant in altered form, the building is now identified as 65 Jefferson Avenue

³ The chapel associated with the Central Prison is designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, while part of another prison building and a residence associated with the Mercer Reformatory are recognized on the City's heritage register

A. 1 storey shack (data?)

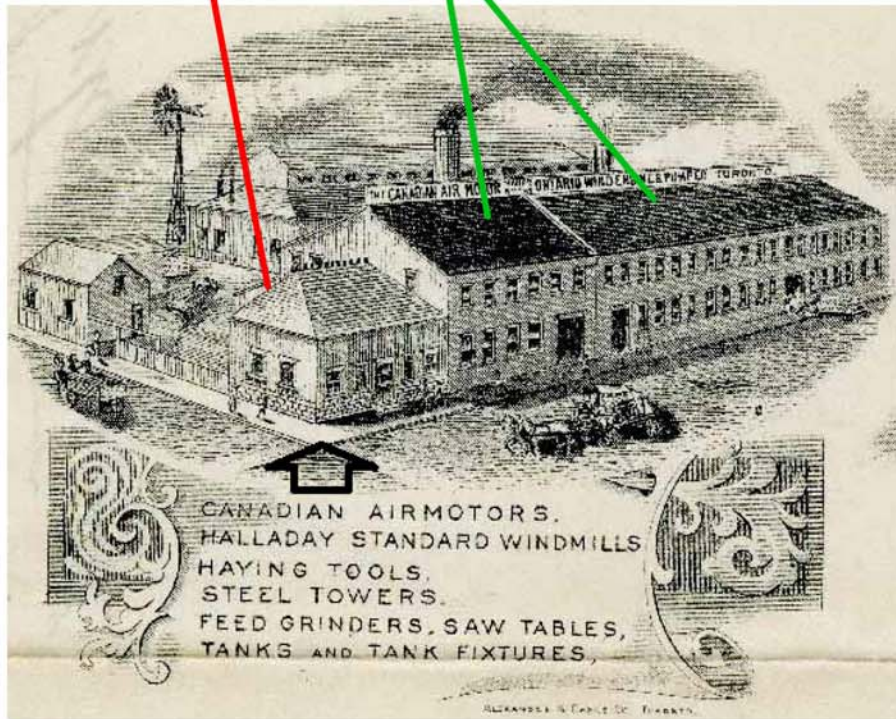
B. 1898 permit#197 two-storey machine shop (compare 1898 letterhead for exact building as existing 35 Liberty w/ 6 upper windows and 4 lower windows and entrance per repetition)

C. 1901 permit#74 two-storey factory (unknown)

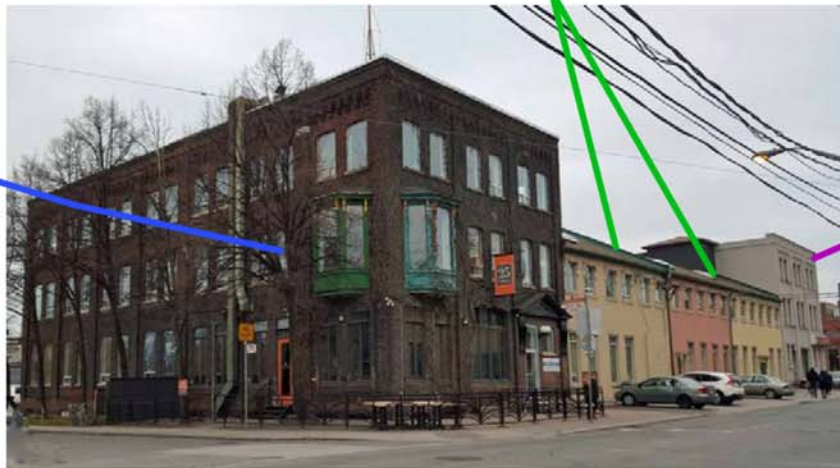
D. 1901 permit#115 3 storey brick factory on Atlantic present-day 25 Libert St.

D. 1906 permit#2797 (existing 65 Jefferson)

E. 1910 permit#23793 (existing 61 Jefferson Ave)



6. Illustration, Ontario Wind Engine and Power Company Complex, 1898: showing the first part of the complex in place (Toronto Public Library, Ephemera Collection).



View west on Liberty Street.