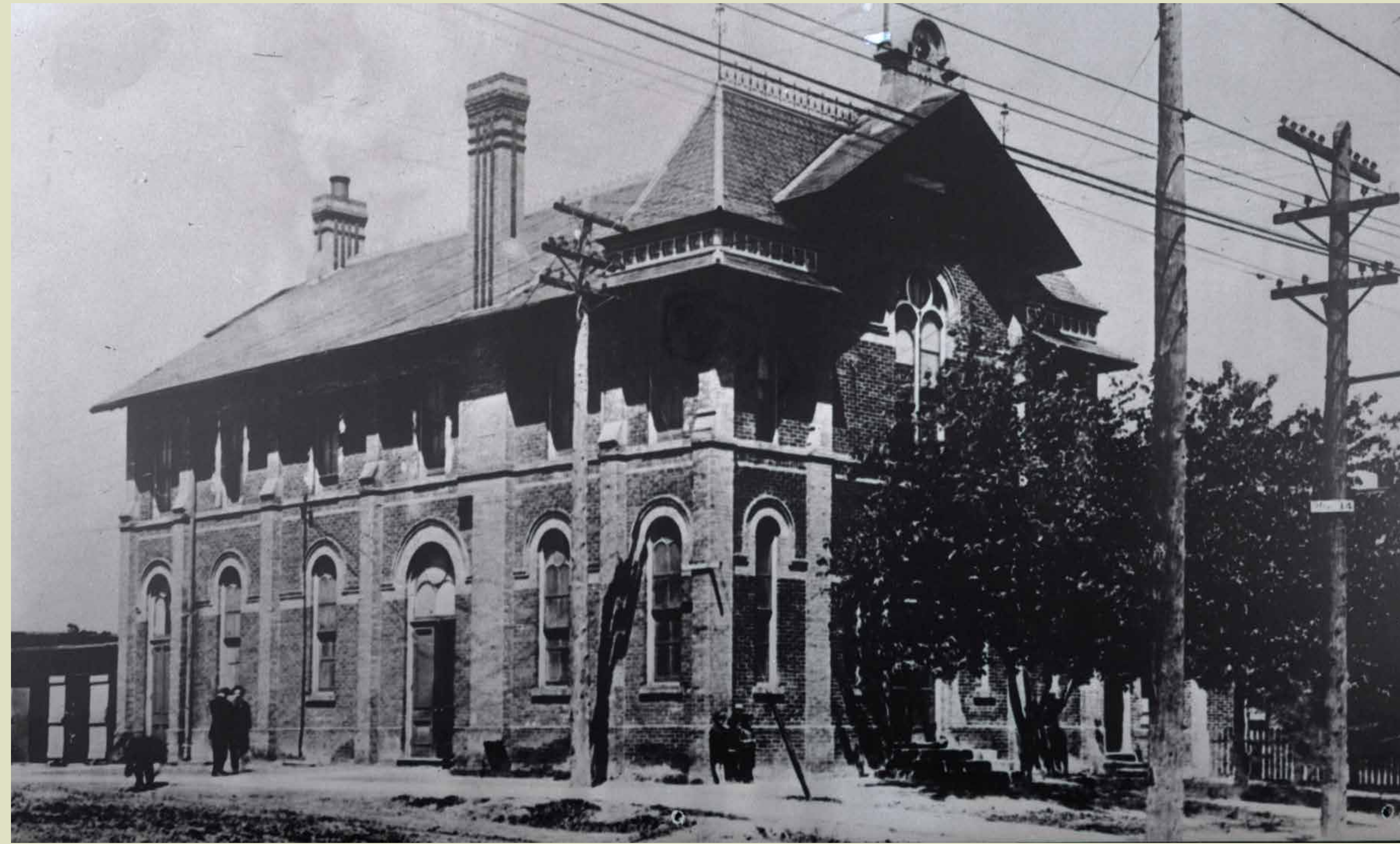


LIBRARY SERVICE IN NORTH TORONTO

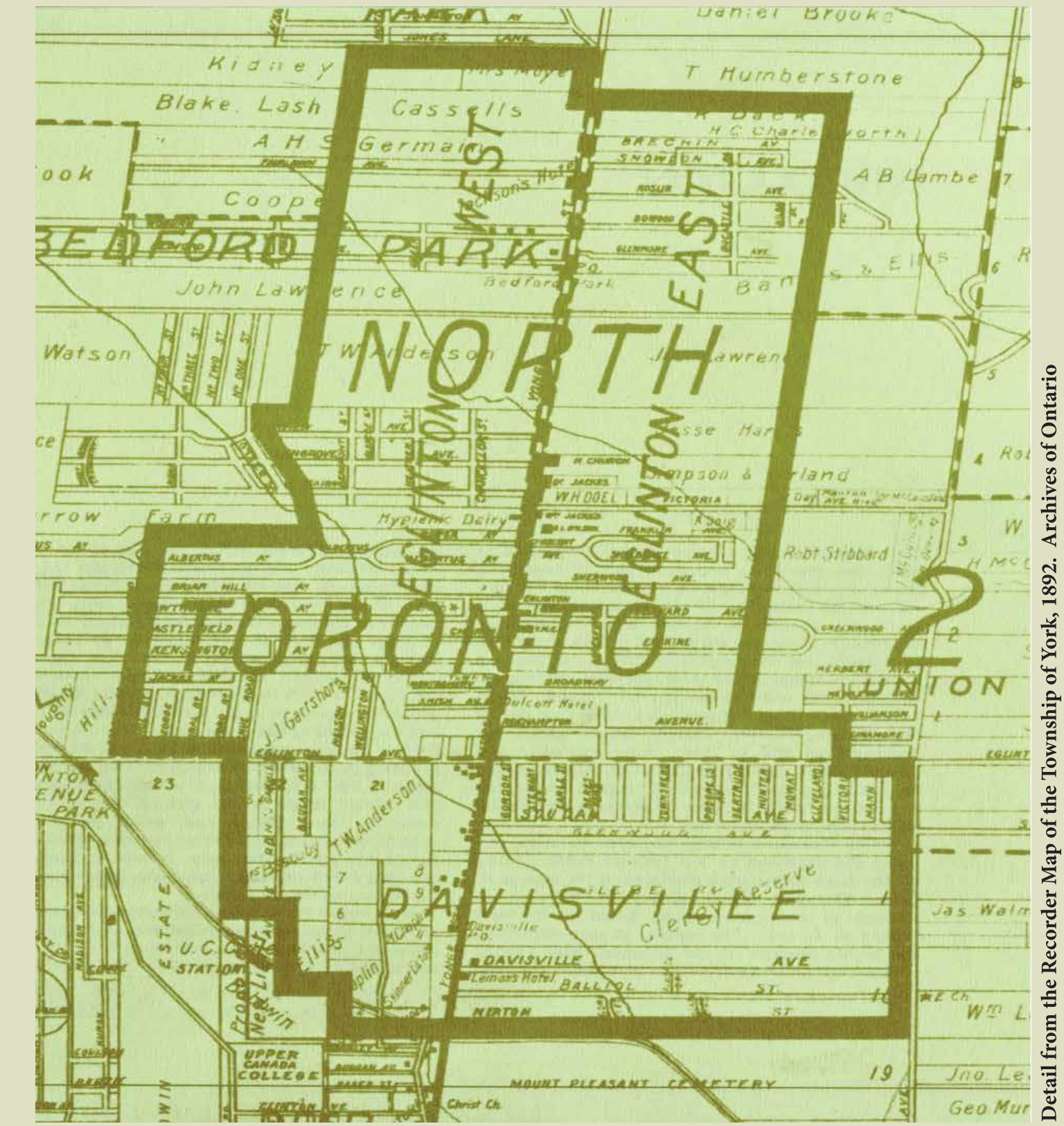
North Toronto Public Library Board, 1909 - 1912

North Toronto Public Library, North Toronto Town Hall, Yonge Street, northwest corner of Montgomery Avenue, about 1911

A public library association was incorporated at North Toronto in 1909, becoming a free public library in 1910. The Town of North Toronto provided operating funds and supplied a room for the library on the second floor of its town hall (Langley, Langley & Burke, 1882). North Toronto Public Library remained at this location until the end of 1911, when it was relocated to a rented storefront further north on Yonge Street. The Town of North Toronto was annexed to the City of Toronto on December 15, 1912, and its library became part of the Toronto Public Library.



William James Toronto Public Library TRU 974.4.6

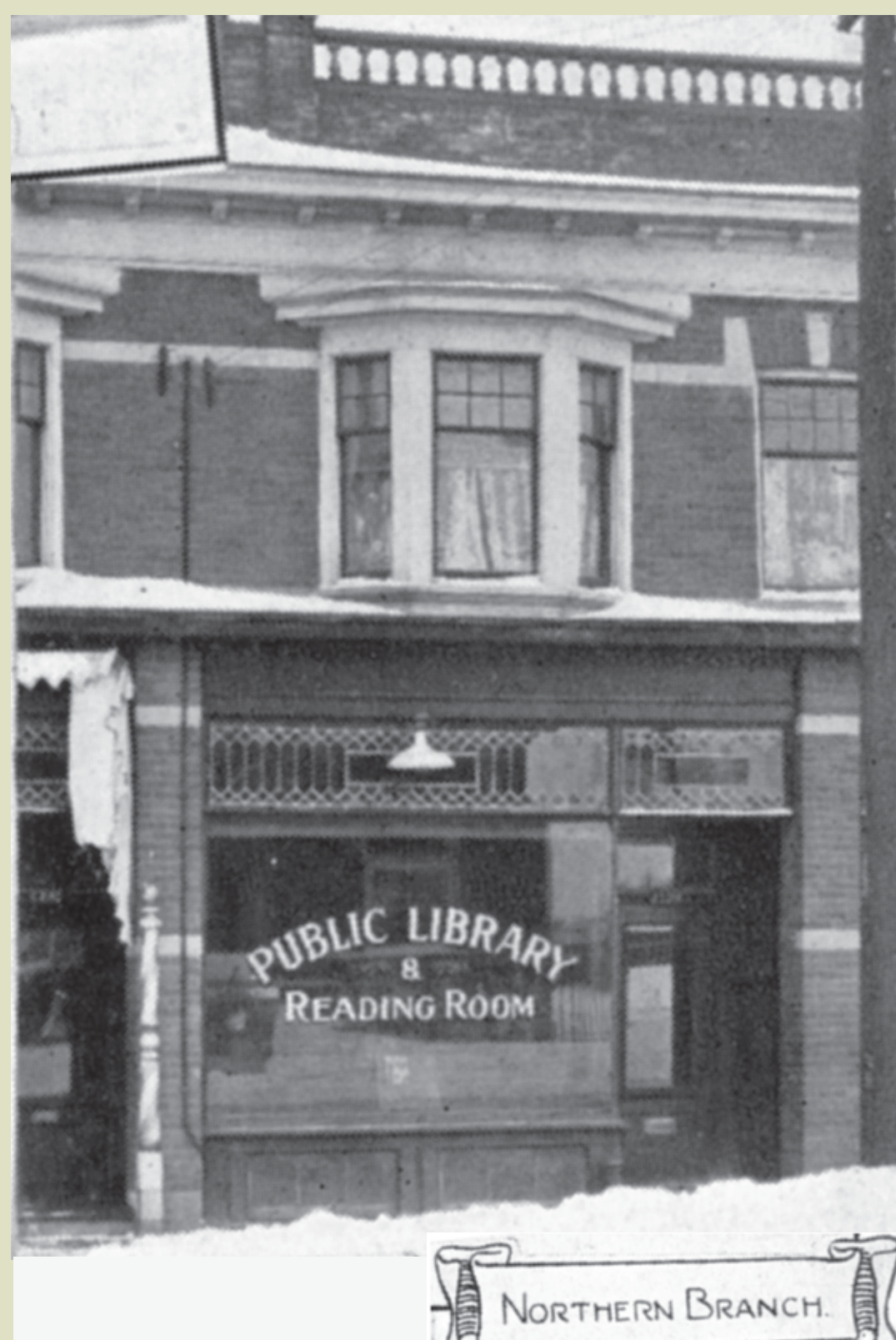


Detail from the Recorder Map of the Township of York, 1892. Archives of Ontario

Town of North Toronto, 1892

Toronto Public Library Board, 1913 - present

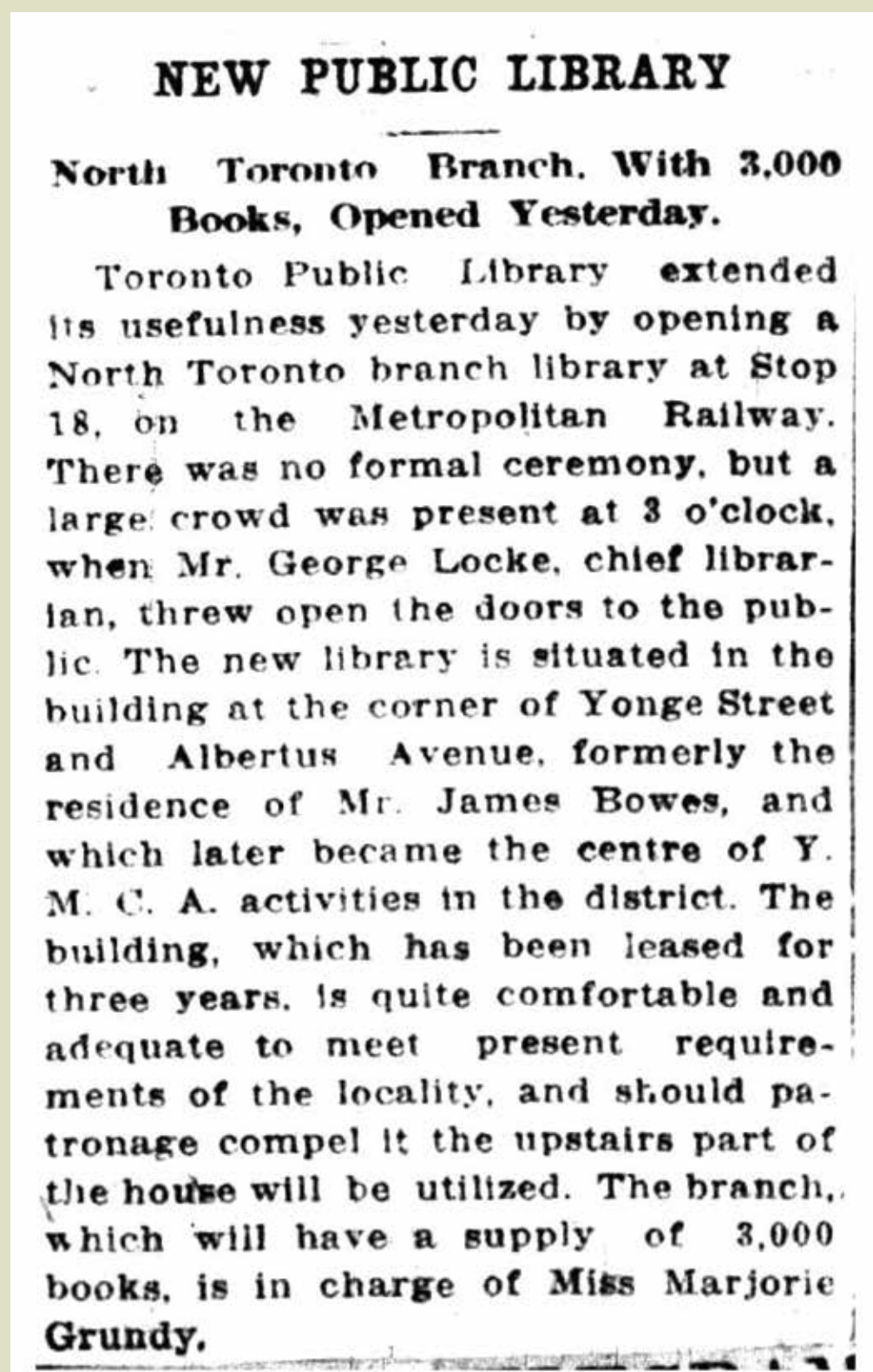
Northern Branch. Renamed St. Clements Branch in 1954. Operated 1913-1975



Toronto Public Library, Annual Report, 1914.

Northern Branch, Yonge Street, east side, between Broadway and Erskine avenues, 1914

This storefront library was opened by the North Toronto Public Library Board in 1912, and, after annexation, it continued to operate the library for several months. Toronto Public Library took over the library on May 1, 1913, and reopened it as its Northern Branch in June 1913. Service was initially provided two days a week. With street renumbering, the address changed from 2239 to 2435 Yonge Street. The library remained here until December 16, 1916.



Toronto Public Library, Toronto Public Library Scrapbooks.

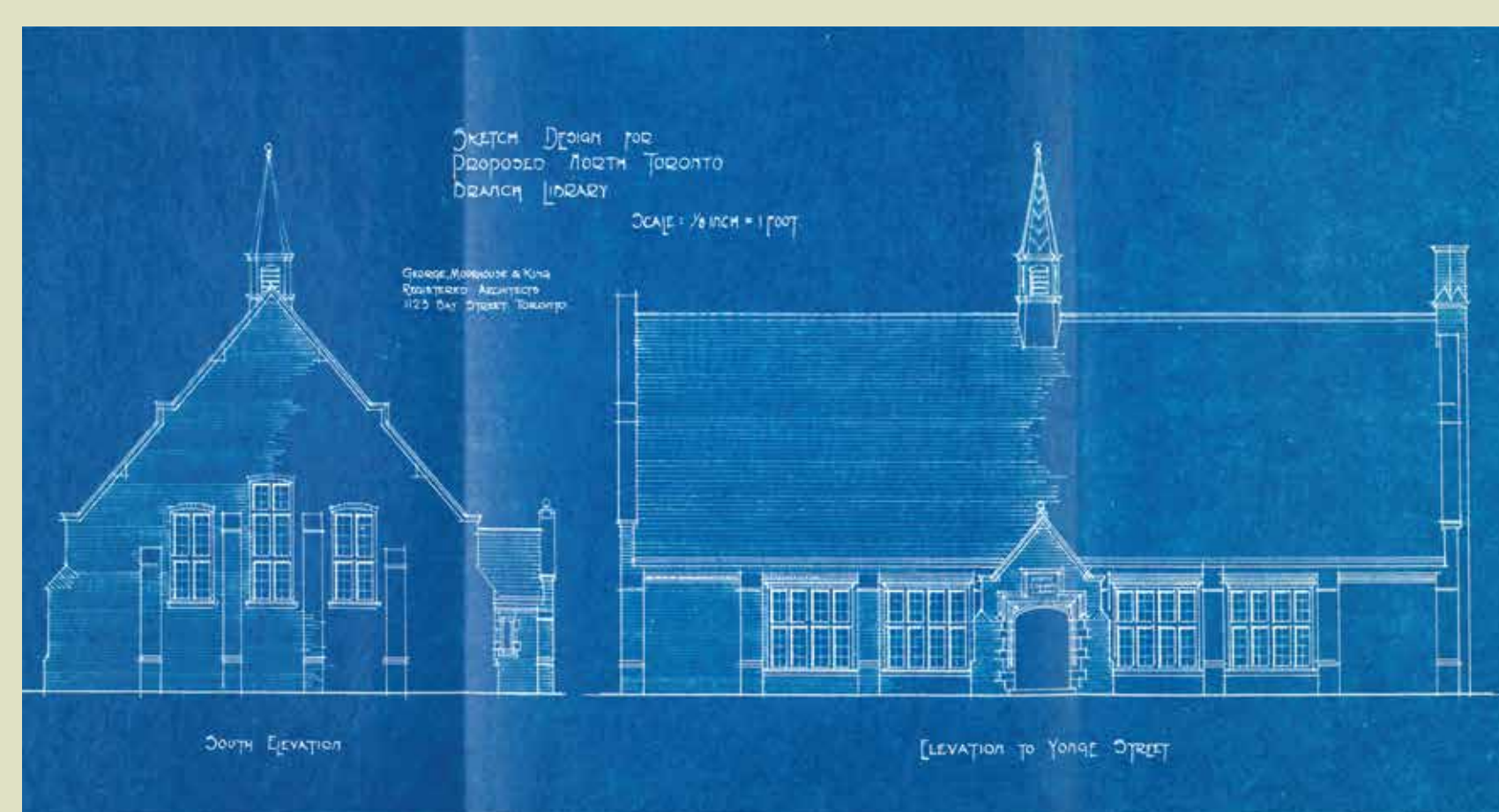
Northern Branch relocates to 2 Albertus Avenue, northwest corner of Yonge Street. *Toronto Mail and Empire*, January 13, 1917
Northern Branch provided service at this location for five years, from January 12, 1917 to December 16, 1922.



Pringle & Booth/Toronto Public Library TRU X.71.62

Northern Branch interior, 14 St. Clements Avenue, northwest corner of Yonge Street, 1923

In 1922, the Toronto Public Library Board paid \$33,000 to the Eglinton Presbyterian Church for its church, built by the congregation in 1908-9. The sale was completed on November 15, 1922 and, once the old church was renovated for library purposes, Northern Branch opened there on January 15, 1923. Visible are the Boys and Girls Room (left) decorated with pictures depicting scenes from Canadian history, and the High School Reference Room (right).



Toronto Public Library Archives

Plan for Northern Branch renovation, about 1929. George, Moorhouse & King

Northern quickly became Toronto Public Library's second busiest branch after the Central Library. On February 8, 1929, the Toronto Public Library Board recommended that "a new building for adults be erected immediately in front of the present building and the present building be devoted entirely to work with boys and girls 1) of the Elementary School grade 2) of the High School grade." The Toronto Board of Control did not provide \$20,000 for the extension, although at that time it funded Runnymede and Danforth (now Pape/Danforth) branches, the latter also designed by George, Moorhouse & King.



Toronto Public Library TRU 2007-4.1

Watercolor of St. Clements Branch, about 1963. Lucy Glenys Thornton.

Northern Branch was renamed St. Clements Branch on June 9, 1954, acknowledging that, since the opening of George H. Locke Memorial Branch in 1949, it no longer was Toronto Public Library's most northern branch. The community rallied to keep the branch open when it was threatened with closure in March 1963.



Bill Brooks/Toronto Public Library Archives

"We are moving," St. Clements Branch, November 15, 1975

St. Clements Branch was closed on November 29, 1975, and its staff and collections were transferred to the new Northern District Library. The old building, listed on the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1973, was turned over to the City of Toronto. Initially it was used for an arts and crafts centre, later becoming a day care facility. The land facing Yonge Street had been a city parkette on and off since 1948.

George H. Locke Memorial Branch Opened January 5, 1949



Toronto Public Library Archives

George H. Locke Memorial Branch, 3083 Yonge Street, southeast corner of Lawrence Avenue, 1949

This was the Toronto Public Library Board first new branch since the Great Depression, and was named in honour of George H. Locke (1870-1937), chief librarian from 1908 to 1937. The stone building, designed by Beck & Eadie, was constructed on a portion of Lawrence Park that the City decided to the Library Board in 1944. Locke Branch was listed on the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1973.

Northern District Branch Opened December 15, 1975



From Spalding Smith/Toronto Public Library Archives

Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Boulevard, 1981

Northern District was planned by Pentland & Baker Architects as Toronto Public Library's first district branch. A 12½-storey apartment addition, designed by Tsow/Pollard Architects, was built above the library in 1983-4.

Mount Pleasant Branch Opened January 2, 1992



Toronto Public Library

Mount Pleasant Branch, 599 Mt. Pleasant Road, east side, between Manor Road East and Belize Drive, 2009

Returning to the storefront model used in North Toronto 80 years earlier and responding to long-time requests from residents for a local library, Mount Pleasant Branch was designed by Nightingale, Quigley, Mackrimachalos Cugini, Architects.