



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act e-Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre électronique, tenu aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18 AND
2 STRACHAN AVENUE
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW

To: Board of Governors
Exhibition Place
c/o Mr. Peter Moore, Chief General Manager

Mr. Daniel Crombie
Metropolitan Toronto Clerk
Metropolitan Toronto Clerk's Department
55 John Street
Toronto, Ontario

 Ontario Heritage Foundation

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto has passed By-law No. 459-93 to designate 2 Strachan Avenue (Exhibition Place - Arts and Crafts Building and mature trees to the west of Alberta Circle) to be of architectural and historical value or interest.

Dated at Toronto this 12th day of October, 1993.


Barbara G. Caplan
City Clerk

No. 459-93. A BY-LAW

To designate the portion of the property at 2 Strachan Avenue (exclusive of Alberta Circle) containing the Government Building (now known as the Arts and Crafts Building) and the mature trees to the west of Alberta Circle as being of architectural and historical value or interest.

(Passed August 30, 1993.)

Whereas by Clause 4 of Neighbourhoods Committee Report No. 10, adopted by Council at its meeting held on August 30, 1993, authority was granted to designate the portion of the property at 2 Strachan Avenue (exclusive of Alberta Circle) containing the Government Building (now known as the Arts and Crafts Building) and the mature trees to the west of Alberta Circle as being of architectural and historical value or interest; and

Whereas the *Ontario Heritage Act* authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic or architectural value or interest; and

Whereas the Council of The Corporation of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the lands and premises known as 2 Strachan Avenue and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks; and

Whereas the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" hereto; and

Whereas no notice of objection to the said proposed designation has been served upon the clerk of the municipality;

Therefore the Council of The Corporation of the City of Toronto enacts as follows:

1. The portion of the property at 2 Strachan Avenue (exclusive of Alberta Circle) containing the Government Building (now known as the Arts and Crafts Building) and the mature trees to the west of Alberta Circle more particularly described and shown on Schedules "A" and "C" attached hereto is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest.
2. The City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the proper land registry office.
3. The City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the aforesaid property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Toronto.

JUNE ROWLANDS,
Mayor.

BARBARA G. CAPLAN
City Clerk.

Council Chamber,
Toronto, August 30, 1993.
(L.S.)

SCHEDULE "A"

In the City of Toronto, in the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and Province of Ontario, being composed of:

FIRSTLY:

Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 and 81, parts of Lots 5, 14, 82, 83, 84 and 85 and parts of Iroquois Street and Fort Rouille Street all according to Plan 613 and part of the original road allowance Dufferin Street, the said Plan 613 being registered in the Land Registry Office for the Metropolitan Toronto Registry Division (No. 64), the said parts of Dufferin Street, Iroquois Street and Fort Rouille Street being closed by City of Toronto By-law 7935 registered in the said Land Registry Office as Instrument 2203W.F., the boundaries of the land being described as follows:

Premising that the bearings hereinafter mentioned are grid and are referred to the Central Meridian 79 degrees and 30 minutes West Longitude through Zone 10 of the Ontario Co-ordinate System, then;

Commencing at a point, the location of which may be arrived at as follows;

Beginning at a point in the westerly limit of Dufferin Street where the same is intersected by the southerly limit of The Frederick G. Gardiner Expressway as dedicated by Metropolitan Toronto By-law 134-73, the said point being also the south-westerly angle of PART 2 on a plan of survey deposited in the said Land Registry Office as 63R-280;

Thence South 15 degrees 35 minutes and 00 seconds East along the said westerly limit of Dufferin Street, a distance of 48.60 metres to the point of commencement;

Thence south-easterly along a curve to the right having a radius of 6.02 metres, a distance of 11.71 metres more or less to the end of the said curve distant 9.95 metres measured on a course of South 62 degrees 54 minutes and 20 seconds East from the beginning of the said curve;

Thence South 17 degrees 29 minutes and 40 seconds East, a distance of 30.91 metres to the beginning of a curve to the right having a radius of 1053.07 metres;

Thence south-easterly along the said curve to the right having a radius of 1053.07 metres, a distance of 67.33 metres more or less to the end of the said curve distant 67.31 metres measured on a course of South 14 degrees 06 minutes and 50 seconds East from the beginning of the said curve;

Thence south-westerly along a curve to the right having a radius of 33.61 metres, a distance of 50.98 metres more or less to the end of the said curve distant 46.23 metres measured on a course of South 27 degrees 52 minutes and 50 seconds West from the beginning of the said curve;

Thence westerly along a curve to the right having a radius of 123.09 metres, a distance of 60.83 metres more or less to the end of the said curve distant 60.21 metres measured on a course of South 89 degrees 19 minutes and 50 seconds West from the beginning of the said curve;

Thence north-westerly along a curve to the right having a radius of 23.77 metres, a distance of 18.78 metres more or less to the end of the said curve distant 18.30 metres measured on a course of North 44 degrees 22 minutes and 30 seconds West from the beginning of the said curve;

Thence North 16 degrees 07 minutes and 10 seconds West, a distance of 100.83 metres to the beginning of a curve to the right having a radius of 6.45 metres;

Thence north-easterly along the said curve to the right having a radius of 6.45 metres, a distance of 12.22 metres more or less to the end of the said curve distant 10.47 metres measured on a course of North 38 degrees 58 minutes and 30 seconds East from the beginning of the said curve;

Thence North 74 degrees 23 minutes and 10 seconds East, a distance of 84.59 metres more or less to the point of commencement.

SECONDLY:

Part of Fort Rouille Street according to Plan 613 registered in the Land Registry Office for the Metropolitan Toronto Registry Division (No. 64), the said part of Fort Rouille Street being closed by City of Toronto By-law 7935 registered in the said Land Registry Office as Instrument 2203W.F., the boundaries of the land being described as follows:

Premising that the bearings hereinafter mentioned are grid and are referred to the Central Meridian 79 degrees and 30 minutes West Longitude through Zone 10 of the Ontario Co-ordinate System, then;

Commencing at a point, the location of which may be arrived at as follows;

Beginning at a point in the westerly limit of Dufferin Street where the same is intersected by the southerly limit of The Frederick G. Gardiner Expressway as dedicated by Metropolitan Toronto By-law 134-73, the said point being also the south-westerly angle of PART 2 on a plan of survey deposited in the said Land Registry Office as 63R-280;

Thence South 48 degrees 18 minutes and 35 seconds West, a distance of 110.55 metres to the point of commencement;

Thence South 16 degrees 07 minutes and 10 seconds East, a distance of 107.71 metres to the beginning of curve to the right having a radius of 9.03 metres;

Thence south-westerly along the said curve to the right having a radius of 9.03 metres, a distance of 11.24 metres more or less to the end of the said curve distant 10.53 metres measured on a course of South 12 degrees 14 minutes and 00 seconds West from the beginning of the said curve;

Thence North 16 degrees 07 minutes and 10 seconds West, a distance of 117.02 metres;

Thence North 74 degrees 23 minutes and 10 seconds East, 5.00 metres to the point of commencement.

The hereinbefore **FIRSTLY** and **SECONDLY** described land being delineated by heavy outline on Plan SYE2706 dated July 8, 1993, as set out in Schedule "C".

SCHEDULE "B"

Heritage Property Report

Basic Building Data:

Address:	2 Strachan Avenue, Exhibition Place (west side of Dufferin Street, directly south of Dufferin Gate)
Ward:	3
Current Name:	Arts and Crafts Building
Historical Name:	Government Building
Construction Date:	1912
Architect:	G. W. Gouinlock

Contractor/Builder: Wickett Brothers, building contractors; Hamilton Bridge Work Company, steel

**Additions/
Alterations:** south elevation, fire doors added; north elevation, window altered with addition of cargo door; interior, including mural, restored; 1979-81: central heating system added for year-round use; steel and glass dome cleaned and reglazed; east facade, brick repointed, stone cleaned; west elevation, courtyards filled in with two additions, two doors replaced by windows in south pavilion; 1984-85, east facade, vestibule added

Original Owner: Governments of the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Ontario

Original Use: public (exhibition hall)

Current Use: public (exhibition hall)

Heritage Category: A

Recording Date: March 1993

Recorder: HPD:ka

Historical Background:1. **Origins of the Canadian National Exhibition:**

The origins of the Canadian National Exhibition date back to 1820 when a local agricultural society held the first "cattle show" in the Town of York. In 1846, the Provincial Agricultural Association of Upper Canada was established to organize fairs promoting agriculture, the basis of the province's economy. During the latter year, the first exhibition was held in Toronto on the grounds of Government House, the Lieutenant-Governor's residence at King and Simcoe Streets. The provincial exhibition, which rotated annually between Toronto, Kingston, Hamilton and London, returned to Toronto in 1852 to a location on the west side of University (then named College) Avenue between present-day Queen and Dundas Streets.

In 1856, the City of Toronto established exhibition grounds on a twenty-acre parcel in the former Garrison Reserve, the 1000-acre tract at the west end of the city which was set aside for the military in 1793. For the 1858 exhibition, a display hall named the "Palace of Industry," but popularly known as the "Crystal Palace," was erected on the site. In the 1870s, City of Toronto officials approached representatives of the Provincial Agricultural Association with an offer to permanently host the annual fair on a new site with larger buildings. In anticipation, the municipality leased nearly 52 acres along the west boundary of Garrison Common, a highly visible location on the shore of Lake Ontario near the Western Gap, which was accessible by water, streetcar and railway. When the provincial agricultural fair resumed in Ottawa in 1878, Toronto City Council supported the establishment of an annual Toronto Industrial Exhibition. Twenty-three structures, including the first enclosed Grandstand, were built on the site prior to the 1879 fair, and the Crystal Palace was relocated to the grounds and expanded. The size and number of events offered at the annual exhibition grew in relation to its new venue. By 1900, the grounds were extended eastward, with a network of roads connecting Strachan Avenue to the main entrance at Dufferin Street. The present street pattern was established at the west end of the site. In 1903, the 25th anniversary of the fair was celebrated as the Dominion Exhibition, sponsored by the federal government. In 1912, in recognition of the role of the event in promoting developments in agriculture, manufacturing, industry and trade, Toronto's annual fair was renamed the Canadian National Exhibition and placed under the direction of the Canadian National Exhibition Association.

2. Development of the West End of Exhibition Place:

In 1902, a major rebuilding campaign was approved for the exhibition grounds to replace the antiquated wooden edifices with permanent, fireproof structures as part of a comprehensive reorganization of the site. The program was accelerated in 1906 when a disastrous fire destroyed most of the existing buildings, including the Crystal Palace and the second Grandstand. During the period proceeding the First World War, the site was virtually rebuilt under the direction of Toronto architect G. W. Gouinlock (Attachment II).

George Wallace Gouinlock (1861-1932) arrived in Toronto in 1886, joining the architectural firm of Kennedy and Holland. Apart from brief partnerships with architects G. W. King and Francis S. Baker, Gouinlock practiced alone. Although little is known of his architectural training, it is believed that he apprenticed in Winnipeg and Hamilton, and possibly worked in Milwaukee and Chicago. The most important commission of his early career in Toronto was the Temple Building (1895), the location of his office and a Bay Street landmark until its demolition in 1970. Around the turn of the 20th century, he designed many of the exceptional factories and warehouses in the King-Spadina industrial district, notably the Toronto Lithographing Company Building (1901, with architect Francis S. Baker) and the Dominion Paper Box Company Building (1903), located side by side at 461-465 and 469 King Street West. Apart from his projects on the exhibition grounds, Gouinlock is best known for the Birbeck Building at Yonge and Adelaide (1908), the Library Wing of the Provincial Parliament Building (added to the 1893 structure in 1913), and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario headquarters on University Avenue (1916).

During the decade from 1902 to 1912, Gouinlock served as the official architect for the Industrial Exhibition Association of Toronto (forerunner to the Canadian National Exhibition Association of 1912). He provided a plan for the orderly development of the grounds and supervised the construction of 16 buildings, 15 according to his own designs. The Toronto exhibition was the first in Canada to be influenced both by the architecture of the international exhibitions of the late 19th century, and by the style and urban design of the innovative "White City" of the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The world's first Crystal Palace, designed by Sir Joseph Paxton for the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London, England, combined the interconnected pavilions of exhibition facilities in late 18th century France, contemporary innovations in the use of fire-resistant iron for dome-roofed buildings, and experiments in the production of glass conservatories. Gouinlock, whose plans for the grounds initially revolved around Toronto's Crystal Palace, incorporated these same elements in many of his designs. More significantly, his compositions relied on the axial planning, strict symmetry and Classical ornament of Beaux Arts Classicism. Beaux Arts styling and individual or multiple domes were used on the Manufacturers' Building (1902, in association with Francis S. Baker), Industrial Building (1906), Horticultural Building (1907), Government Building (1912) and, on a slightly smaller scale, the Railways Building (1908, now known as the Music Building) and Women's Building (c.1908). These exhibition halls, as well as the Art Gallery (1904), Administration Building (1905), third Grandstand (1907), Transportation Building (1909), second Dufferin Gate (1910), Press Building (c.1910), and Firehall (1912), were prominent among the structures that Gouinlock laid out in a landscaped setting. The Horticultural Building, built on the site of the Crystal Palace, replaced the latter edifice as the architectural focal point. Directly east, Gouinlock created a Plaza, marked by Gooderham Fountain (1911), as the principal gathering place on the exhibition grounds. With the installation of underground wiring in 1907, the collection of buildings became the first public complex in North America to be illuminated with electric lights.

In the 1920s, a number of substantial structures were added to the grounds under the direction of Alfred Chapman, who replaced Gouinlock as the architect for the Canadian National Exhibition Association. Apart from the addition of the Ontario Government Building in 1926, which was designed by Chapman and his engineering partner, J. Morrow Oxley, the west end of the site was not affected. The situation changed through the 1950s and 1970s with the destruction by fire of the Manufacturers', Women's, and Transportation Buildings, and the demolition of the Press Building, Industrial Building, Dufferin Gate, and Gooderham Fountain.

3. Government Building (Arts and Crafts Building):

The Government Building (Arts and Crafts Building) was one of the final buildings designed by Gouinlock during his tenure as architect for the exhibition. In 1910 and 1911, officials for the fair approached representatives of both the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Ontario for funding for the construction of a "Government Building" to exhibit the products of various regions of the country. The federal government contributed \$100,000 for the project; \$25,000 was provided by the Province of Ontario. Gouinlock's final plans were approved in March 1912 when the firm of Wickett Brothers was awarded the contract for the construction of the hall.

The building opened in August, 1912 at a final cost of \$117,900. Three halls with 48,000 square feet of floor space contained exhibits from the Dominion and Ontario governments, as well as from the western provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia to emphasize the national stature of the fair. In 1914, the British West India Islands presented the first of a series of displays from British colonies and foreign countries promoting the exhibition as an international event. The Government Building was renamed the Dominion Governments Building to distinguish it from the Ontario Government Building (renamed the Carlsberg Building after the opening of Ontario Place in 1972), which opened immediately to the south in 1926.

In 1929, the interior of the building was highlighted with the installation of a mural around the base of the dome. Eight panels depicting the settlement of Canada were painted at the Ontario College of Art under the supervision of Frederick Stanley Haines (1879-1960), Commissioner of Fine Arts for the Canadian National Exhibition. Haines was principal of the Ontario College of Art, curator of the Art Museum of Toronto (forerunner to the Art Gallery of Ontario), and an established Toronto artist known for his paintings of the Canadian landscape and animals.

During the period prior to the Second World War, various British organizations used the building to highlight the industrial and manufacturing prowess of the British Empire. It was called the Governments Building from 1936 until 1966, excluding the period during World War Two when the structure was used for storage as part of the Canadian War effort. In the late 1960s, the building promoted travel and tourism themes. During this interval, the principal (east) facade was briefly covered with a false front, a practice first introduced on various exhibition buildings during the Depression years of the 1930s. In 1970, it became known as the Arts, Crafts and Hobbies Building (popularly called the Arts and Crafts Building) in recognition of its displays during the annual exhibition. Following the introduction of plans in the 1960s to use the exhibition grounds year-round for trade shows and conventions, the Government Building was extensively renovated and upgraded in the late 1970s and is currently used for various functions.

Architectural Description:

The Government Building displays the axial plan, symmetry and ornament associated with Beaux Arts Classicism, the style favoured for the monumental public architecture of the early 20th century. The design is dominated by a massive dome and twin towers with miniature domes. While the elevations share similar openings and decoration, each one is different, offering a variety of visual experiences depending on the vantage point of the viewer. As an exhibition hall, part of its function was to delight and surprise participants at the fair with both its appearance and contents. Therefore, all sides of the Government Building are architecturally significant.

The structure is built of steel, wood, concrete, brick and glass, faced with red brick, and trimmed with ornamental metalwork and artificial stone. The building rises one extended storey above a partial basement. It was designed with an E-shaped plan, with end pavilions and a rear (west) wing projecting from a central octagonal hall. Following modifications to the structure which enclosed the spaces between the pavilions, the building currently displays a rectangular plan.

The long principal (east) facade on Dufferin Street is organized into three extended bays, reflecting the interior arrangement. The principal entrance is placed in the centre bay beneath a semi-circular pediment with decorated mouldings and a shaped name plate (now blank). On either side, a single round window is ornamented with keystones. Trios of blind round-arch windows display glazed transoms, steel sash, brick mullions, and stone sills, keystones and springing stones. The wall is sheltered by a colonnade and a circular portico supported by paired Doric columns and pilasters. The entablature is decorated with medallions containing quatrefoils. The wall above is defined by a moulded balustrade embellished with console brackets. Modillions with shell motifs and rondelles form the base for a series of flag standards. On either end of the facade, each pavilion features quoins, banded

brickwork and a projecting porch. Three recessed entries are set in segmental openings with stone surrounds, key stones, console brackets, and panels with sculpted garlands. Above the doors, a triangular pediment supported on single Doric columns and piers contains an enriched oculus and terminates in a flag pole. The left (south) pavilion is elevated, while the right (north) pavilion is set at grade, reflecting the topography of the site. A 60-foot high tower is placed at the intersection of the centre bay with each pavilion. The long brick shafts are enlivened with quoins and narrow windows with stone voussoirs. Each tower is crowned by an elaborate lantern with triangular pediments and a diminutive octagonal copper-clad dome.

The rear (west) elevation facing Alberta Circle is similarly organized into three bays by three projecting pavilions which originally created the E-shaped configuration. The elaboration of the pavilions follows those on the end bays of the principal facade. The courtyards between the pavilions are filled in and marked by trios of round-arched openings, similar to those found on all elevations. The south wall facing British Columbia Road features a raised stone base, punctured by openings into the basement. Overhead, the central segmental-arched pediment with the Classical detailing and flanking fenestration is copied from the principal facade. The north elevation is articulated by a row of ten identical round-arched windows.

The structure is covered by an extended gable roof with cross-gables over the end pavilions and rear wing. In the centre of the roof, a monumental glazed dome rises from an octagonal base. The glazed surface is divided by 16 moulded steel ribs which carry the weight of the dome. The ribs terminate in bosses with shell motifs and rosettes containing electric lights. The dome is topped an octagonal lantern with Classical features and a flag pole. In the interior beneath the dome, the octagonal base is decorated by a mural in eight sections. Painted panels illustrate "The Settlement of Canada," with colorful renderings of aboriginal hunters, the arrival of European explorers, and the agricultural endeavors of the first settlers.

The Government Building was altered in 1979 to 1981 with the addition of additional exhibit halls in the courtyards between the rear (west) pavilions. At this time, the east facade with the twin towers was repointed, the colonnade resurfaced, and the dome reglazed.

Context:

The Government Building (Arts and Crafts Building) is located on Dufferin Street at the western edge of Exhibition Place, directly south of the Dufferin Gate. Its placement immediately west of the Horticultural Building reflects the early 20th century reorganization of the grounds. The Government Building was the last of the four large exhibition halls with red brick cladding, Classical stone details and monumental domes placed around two opened landscaped spaces to the north and south of the Horticultural Building (the open area to the south remains intact). The three other structures (Transportation, Industrial, and Manufacturers' Buildings) do not survive.

The Government Building is visible from specific vantage points throughout Exhibition Place. It is a focal point at the entrance to the exhibition grounds from Dufferin Street and terminates the vista at the west end of Saskatchewan Road. The breadth of the east facade is viewed from the Centennial Square on the northeast, and from the open space between the Horticultural Building and Bandshell. The north and south end walls are viewed, respectively, from the Dufferin Gate and the Ontario Government Building. The wide expanse of the rear (west) elevation, which is treated as an important entrance point, is examined from the adjacent roadways, as well as across the open playing fields on the west edge of the grounds.

The Government Building is visible, in part, from the shore of Lake Ontario on the south, the neighbourhood of Parkdale to the north, and the rail and vehicular corridors along the boundaries of the exhibition grounds. Its scale and distinctive towers and domes are intended to draw the observer onto the site. The Government Building is significant in its context as one of the group of five extant early 20th century exhibition buildings placed in a landscaped setting at the west end of Exhibition Place.

Summary:

The Government Building (Arts and Crafts Building) is identified for architectural and historical reasons. It is an important member of the group of complementary exhibition buildings from the early 1900s which dominate the west end of Exhibition Place.

The construction of the Government Building in 1912 represented the completion of the master plan to transform the exhibition grounds into a landscaped park with a cohesive collection of permanent, elaborate and visually prominent exhibition buildings. The realization of Gouinlock's scheme for the west portion of the grounds coincided with the transformation of the provincial fair into a major industrial exhibition with international links, and growth of Toronto from a provincial capital to the industrial centre of Canada.

The Government Building is the largest of the five surviving members of the assemblage of 15 exhibition buildings designed by architect G. W. Gouinlock in the decade from 1901 to 1912. Gouinlock was one of the leading Toronto architects of the period, and the buildings at Exhibition Place are important examples of his practice. Technically, Gouinlock's application of structural steel and artificial stone represent early uses of these materials in Canada. Architecturally, the last of Gouinlock's large-scale exhibition halls reflects the culmination of his stylistic evolution with his adaptation of Beaux Arts Classicism prior to World War I. In his work for the Industrial Exhibition of Toronto, Gouinlock was the first architect in Canada to draw upon the influential World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 and adopt its architectural style and planning principles for a Canadian exhibition.

The Government Building and the four other structures (Administration Building, Horticultural Building, Railways Building, and Firehall) designed by Gouinlock were included on the City of Toronto Inventory in June, 1973 as properties of architectural and historical importance. The Railways Building, now known as the Music Building, was designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act in 1985. In June, 1988, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada determined that "the five extant buildings at Exhibition Place designed by George W. Gouinlock, the only surviving group of early 20th century exhibition buildings in Canada, are of national historic and architectural significance...." The Government Building is important for its architectural merit and as an integral component of this unique collection of extant exhibition buildings.

