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RECEIVED
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CULTURAL PROGRAMS
HERITAGE UNIT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.18 AND
20 STRACHAN AVENUE
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF PASSING OF BY-LAW

To: Canada Lands Company CLC Limited
200 King Street West
Suite 1509
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 3T4
Attn: Mr. Rodger Martin

Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

Inglis Limited
1901 Minnesota Court
Mississauga, Ontario
L5N 3A7
Attn: Jeffrey A. Losch

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto has passed By-law No. 1996-0378 to designate 20 Strachan (Central Prison Chapel) as being of architectural and historical value or interest.

Dated at Toronto this 27th day of August, 1996.



Barbara G. Caplan
City Clerk



No. 1996-0378. A BY-LAW

*To designate the property at 20 Strachan Avenue (Central Prison Chapel) as
being of architectural and historical value or interest.*

(Passed August 12, 1996.)

WHEREAS by Clause 3 of Neighbourhoods Committee Report No. 12, adopted by Council at its meeting held on August 12, 1996, authority was granted to designate the property at 20 Strachan Avenue (Central Prison Chapel) 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 historical 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 land and premises known as No. 20 Strachan Avenue (Central Prison Chapel) and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation Notice of Intention to designate the property and has caused the Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" to this by-law;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the 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 property at 20 Strachan Avenue (Central Prison Chapel), more particularly described and shown on Schedule "A" to this by-law, is being designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest.
2. The City Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedules "A" and "C" to this by-law in the proper Land Registry Office.
3. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owner of the property at 20 Strachan Avenue (Central Prison Chapel) 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 as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

BARBARA HALL,
Mayor.

BARBARA G. CAPLAN
City Clerk.

Council Chamber,
Toronto, August 12, 1996.
(L.S.)

SCHEDULE "A"

In the City of Toronto, in the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and Province of Ontario, being composed of part of the Plan of the Ordnance Reserve (Block 11), known as the Central Prison Property, registered in the Land Registry Office for the Metropolitan Toronto Registry Division (No. 64), 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, NAD 27 (1974 adjustment), then;

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

BEGINNING at the most southerly angle of PART 4 on a plan of survey deposited as 64R-13481;

THENCE north-easterly along a curve to the left having a radius of 106.68 metres, a distance of 6.84 metres to a point distant 6.84 metres measured on a course of North 65 degrees 35 minutes and 20 seconds East from the beginning of the said curve to the point of commencement;

THENCE continuing north-easterly along the said curve to the left having a radius of 106.68 metres, a distance of 2.82 metres more or less to the end of the said curve distant 2.82 metres measured on a course of North 62 degrees 59 minutes and 30 seconds East from the beginning of the said curve;

THENCE North 6 degrees 18 minutes and 15 seconds West, a distance of 12.06 metres;

THENCE North 83 degrees 43 minutes and 10 seconds East, a distance of 19.64 metres;

THENCE South 6 degrees 16 minutes and 50 seconds East, a distance of 7.77 metres;

THENCE South 83 degrees 43 minutes and 10 seconds West, a distance of 5.37 metres;

THENCE South 6 degrees 14 minutes and 00 seconds East, a distance of 17.04 metres;

THENCE South 83 degrees 46 minutes and 00 seconds West, a distance of 16.92 metres;

THENCE North 6 degrees 05 minutes and 00 seconds West, a distance of 11.74 metres more or less to the point of commencement.

The hereinbefore described land being delineated by heavy outline on Plan SYE2821 dated July 11, 1996, as set out in Schedule "C".

SCHEDULE "B"

Heritage Property Report

Basic Building Data:

Address:	20 Strachan Avenue (southwest of corner of Strachan Avenue and East Liberty Street; see map, Attachment IIa)
Ward:	3
Current Name:	not applicable

Historical Name:	Central Prison Chapel
Construction Date:	1877
Architect:	Kivas Tully
Contractor/Builder:	Jacob P. Wagner (attribution)
Additions/Alterations:	some openings altered; brick painted
Original Owner:	Province of Ontario
Original Use:	Institutional (prison)
Current Use*:	Vacant
Heritage Category:	Notable Heritage Property (Category B)
Recording Date:	March 1996
Recorder:	HPD:KA

* this does not refer to permitted use(s) as defined in the Zoning By-law

Historical Background:

When the capital of the British Province of Upper Canada was established at York (Toronto) in 1793, over 1000 acres west of the townsite were set aside for the Garrison Common. Beginning in 1836, portions of the military reserve, known as Ordnance Land, were sold to facilitate the westward expansion of the City of Toronto; by 1856, British military officials transferred the remaining 500 acres to the Province of Canada West. Nearly 20 acres of former Ordnance Land on the west side of Strachan Avenue, south of King Street West, was allocated for the Central Prison for men, with construction commencing in 1871.

Although the Central Prison was not the first penal facility built in Toronto, it was distinguished from earlier institutions by its size and the scope of its activities. Following the founding of the Town of York, a modest York Jail was constructed in Old Town in 1799. It was soon superseded by a second jail, completed in 1827 on Courthouse Square in the block bounded by King, Toronto, Newgate (Adelaide) and Church Streets (the building survived until 1957 as part of York Chambers). Plans for subsequent prisons in the City reflected new social initiatives to reform as well as punish criminals. These ideas were introduced in Britain, further developed in the United States, and reflected in the designs of prisons. In the City of Toronto, a third and more substantial jail was finished in 1838 on the southeast corner of Berkeley and Front Streets, a site previously occupied by the provincial Parliament Buildings. Architect John Howard introduced a panopticon plan with a central pavilion where guards supervised activities in three radiating cell blocks. This facility was vacated in 1865 following the opening of the fourth City (Don) Jail overlooking the Don River on Gerrard Street East, whose design was based on the Pentonville Prison in London, England.

In the late 19th century, the rapid industrialization and urbanization of Toronto brought overcrowding, poverty and increased crime. The Central Prison for men was devised to relieve the congestion in the Don Jail, while enabling the segregation, confinement, supervision and retraining of male inmates in an outlying location that would allow expansion as required. The new complex was designed by Kivas Tully in his capacity as senior architect and engineer of the Ontario Public Works Department. Born in Ireland, Tully (1820-1905) received training in civil engineering before practicing with George Wilkinson, architect for the Irish Poor Law Commissioners. Tully immigrated to Canada in 1844 where he established a private practice and received much publicized commissions for the Toronto headquarters of the Bank of Montreal at Yonge and Front Streets in 1845 (replaced by the current building, dated 1885), the Customs House on the opposite corner, also in 1845 (and demolished for the Dominion Public Building of 1929-1935), and Trinity College on Queen Street West in 1851 (demolished in 1955-1956). The Queen's Wharf Lighthouse, constructed in 1861 at the foot of Bathurst Street,

is one of Tully's two known surviving buildings in Toronto. The latter structure, relocated to the corner of Fleet Street and Lake Shore Boulevard West in 1929, is included on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties. Following his appointment by the Ontario Government, Tully assumed responsibility for the design, construction, alteration and maintenance of public buildings in the province between 1867 and 1896, including additions to the Provincial Lunatic Asylum on Queen Street West (built in 1846 and demolished in 1976).

Constructed according to Tully's designs, the centre block, flanking wings, two workshops and warehouse of the Central Prison were completed in 1872-1873 using prison labour.

The centre block contained administrative facilities, as well as a guard room, dispensary, library, and school rooms for night classes. Inmates occupied the north and south wings where cells were organized in four tiers. By 1877, a two-storey block was attached to the south end of the South Wing. Identified on plans as the Roman Catholic Chapel, the area was the setting each Sunday for Roman Catholic services in the morning, followed by Protestant Sunday School in the afternoon.

A contemporary source reported that working at a trade "keeps the mind of the prisoner employed, where he might be concocting plans of escape; it prepares him for a life of work after his release; and it is the source of considerable revenue by which to maintain the convicts" (The Saturday Globe, 24 October 1896). By the 1890s, the grounds included a woollen mill, tailor shop, shoe shop, machine shop, blacksmith shop, twine factory, broom shop, and novelty works for the making of woodenware. In these facilities, prisoners made clothing and footwear, bedding, iron beds, corn brooms, and wood items ranging from croquet sets and baseball bats to washboards and wagons. At the west end of the grounds of the Central Prison, a conservatory and greenhouses produced a variety of plant species which decorated the Parliament Buildings at Queen's Park. Surplus products were sold to other institutions, including the Provincial Lunatic Asylum in Toronto, the Mimico Asylum in Etobicoke, and Auburn State Prison in New York. The kitchen and bake shop also supplied the neighbouring Andrew Mercer Ontario Reformatory for Females, opened in 1878 near the southeast corner of King and Dufferin Streets by the provincial government as the first women's reformatory in Canada.

With the presence of the Don Jail, Central Prison, Mercer Reformatory and four industrial schools, Toronto was dubbed the correctional capital of Canada by the end of the 19th century (Strange, *Imposing Goodness*, 22). Designed to house from 200 to a maximum 600 prisoners, by the early 1900s the Central Prison was filled to capacity. With the opening of new correctional facilities in Guelph and the Langstaff Jail Farm in Richmond Hill, the Central Prison closed in 1915. The complex was occupied by the Canadian Army as a barracks and training ground for the duration of World War I. Located near the waterfront, the facility was used to process immigrants after the war. By 1920, the buildings were sold and the centre block and wings demolished. Portions of the acreage were acquired by the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway as right-of-ways for tracks. Subsequent owners of the remaining property included Hobbs, Dr. Ballard's and, most recently, John Inglis and Sons. In 1985, the Central Prison Chapel was included on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties as the remaining intact portion of the complex.

Architectural Description:

The Central Prison Chapel is designed with Classical features associated with the Renaissance Revival, a style popularized during the mid to late 19th century and favoured by architect Kivas Tully in his previous projects. The building was designed to complement the adjoining centre block and wings of the prison complex, now demolished (see Attachment III).

Constructed of brick with stone detailing, the two-storey building has a rectangular plan covered by a hipped roof. The angle of the roof is modified at the north end where it abuts the party wall that connected the Chapel to the South Wing of the Central Prison (the latter section is demolished). The extended eaves of the roof have paired brackets. The front (east), south and west walls of the Chapel are decorated with brick quoins, and the round-headed window openings have stone surrounds with keystones and corbels. Some openings are altered, reflecting the conversion of the building from institutional to industrial use.

Context:

The Central Prison Chapel is located on property identified as 20 Strachan Avenue. For the purposes of designation, the boundaries of the property are established by the existing road allowance on the west side and

by a limit of 3.0 metres in front of the north, east, and south exterior walls of the Central Prison Chapel.

Located west of Strachan Avenue and south of East Liberty Street, the building stands behind (west of) the complex of industrial buildings most recently occupied by Inglis (see Attachment IIa). The Chapel is situated within the angle formed by the intersection of East Liberty Street and Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) right-of-way.

Summary:

The property at 20 Strachan Avenue is identified for architectural and historical reasons. The Central Prison Chapel was constructed in 1877 as part of the Central Prison, a facility that operated from 1873 to 1915 for the confinement and retraining of male convicts. It is one of only two known extant buildings in Toronto designed by Kivas Tully, an architect of provincial significance, in his capacity as senior architect and engineer for the Ontario Public Works Department. Its rectangular plan, hip roof with brackets, brick surfaces, round-headed window openings, and stone and brick details complemented the Classical features of the centre block and wings of the Central Prison (now demolished). Located west of Strachan Avenue in Garrison Common, the former military reserve, the Chapel is significant as the only surviving member of the group of buildings forming the Central Prison complex.

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