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

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

To: Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
c/o Mr. D. Crombie, Metropolitan Toronto Clerk
Metropolitan Toronto Clerk's Department
7th Floor
55 John Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5V 3C6

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

JUN 09 1993

Board of Governors of Exhibition Place
c/o Mr. P. Moore, Chief General Manager
Exhibition Place
Toronto, Ontario

HERITAGE POLICY BRANCH

✓ Ontario Heritage Foundation

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto, on the 3rd and 4th days of May, 1993 decided to designate the lands and buildings known as 2 Strachan Avenue, Exhibition Place (Government Building, now known as the Arts & Crafts Building and the mature trees to the west of Alberta Circle).

Short Statement of Reasons for the Proposed Designation

Government Building
(Arts and Crafts Building)
2 Strachan Avenue
Exhibition Place

The portions of the property at 2 Strachan Avenue that contain the Government Building (now known as the Arts and Crafts Building) and the mature trees to the west (exclusive of Alberta Circle) are recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. The Government Building was constructed in 1912 to exhibit products of the Dominion of Canada and its provinces during the annual Canadian National Exhibition. The building was designed by the important Toronto designer G. W. Gouinlock in his capacity as architect for the exhibition.

The Government Building displays the axial planning, symmetrical composition, and Classical ornament of Beaux Arts Classicism, the style favoured for the monumental public architecture of the early 20th century. The building, constructed of steel, wood, concrete, brick and glass, with metal and artificial stone trim, features a single-storey E-shaped plan (now modified to form a rectangular plan). Important exterior features on the principal (east) facade are the central entrance with its semi-circular pediment and colonnaded portico, twin towers topped with lanterns and domes, and end pavilions with triangular pediments. The round-headed windows, segmentally-arched doors and Classical detailing introduced on the east facade are repeated on the side wall and rear (west) elevation. The building is covered by an extensive gable roof with cross-gables and a monumental octagonal dome. On the interior, the base of the dome is highlighted by an eight-part painted mural with the theme "The Settlement of Canada," executed under the supervision of Toronto artist, Frederick S. Haines.

The Government Building is located at the west end of Exhibition Place. Two areas are to be designated. The first, containing the building, is delineated by the west side of Dufferin Street, the west and north sides of British Columbia Road, and the east and south sides of Alberta Circle. The second portion is a rectangle, about 5 metres wide, on the west side of Alberta Circle and bounded by it on the east, extending from British Columbia Road northward to the westerly projection of the south side of Alberta Circle, north of the building.

Stylistically, the Government Building is an important example of Beaux Arts Classicism in Canada. Technically, it represents an early application of structural steel and artificial stone. The Government Building is the largest and last of only five extant exhibition halls on the grounds designed by Gouinlock, whose plans for 15 structures were executed between 1902 and 1912. The Government Building is an integral component of the only surviving group of early 20th century exhibition buildings in Canada which has been recognized as a site of national architectural and historical importance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

The Toronto Historical Board's Heritage Property Report respecting the property is available for viewing at the City Clerk's Department at City Hall and the offices of the Toronto Historical Board.

Notice of the objection to the designation may be served on the Clerk within thirty days of the 8th day of June, 1993, setting out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 8th day of June, 1993.


Barbara G. Caplan
City Clerk