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**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND
550 GERRARD STREET EAST
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

**RECEIVED
MAY 4 - 2000
CONSERVATION REVIEW
BOARD**

Mr. William Gerrard
Ontario Realty Corporation
Property Development Branch
77 Wellesley Street West
11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N3

Ontario Heritage Foundation

Take notice that the Council of the City of Toronto, on the 11th, 12th and 13th of April, 2000, decided to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 550 Gerrard Street East (Don Jail) (Don River).

Short Statement of Reasons for Designation

The property at 550 Gerrard Street East is designated for architectural and historical reasons. The Don Jail was constructed in 1859-1864 according to the designs of the early Toronto architect William Thomas. The Don Jail embodied progressive ideas of prison reform in the 19th century and attempted to provide an appropriate setting for the reform of offenders.

The Don Jail is an excellent example of Renaissance Revival styling, highlighted by the craftsmanship of the stone detailing. The building is constructed of brick, faced with stone and brick, and trimmed with stone, wood and iron. The plan features a four-storey centre block flanked by a 3 ½-storey side wings (east and west). A hip roof with gables and a half-octagonal skylight covers the centre block, and gabled roofs protect the wings (the slate cladding and ventilation towers were removed). On the principal (south) façade, the entrance is placed in an arched stone surround with banded columns, entablature, keystone, and vermiculated voussoirs and tympanum. Double wood panelled doors retain the original hardware. The south façade has rusticated piers, a moulded belt course, and a cornice with modillion blocks and brackets. All of the walls display segmental-headed openings with stone sills and surrounds, and wood windows with iron bars.

The first-floor entrance hall, Governor's Room and service room, the three-storey Rotunda with clerestory windows and cast iron balconies, and the adjoining cellblocks with ironwork grilles, cell doors and staircases are significant interior areas. A rare structural floor system is composed of stone slabs on cast iron joints for the main floor, attic floor and cells. The interior elements are described in detail in the Heritage Property Report (Long Statement of Reasons for Designation).

Located on the north side of Gerrard Street East between the Don Valley and Broadview Avenue, the Don Jail retains its landscaped setting with parkland to the south and west. Used for over a century, the Don Jail is an integral part of the history and development of the City of Toronto and of Canada's penal system. It is a rare example of period design in Canada, where most jails were integrated into courthouse complexes. One of the most important mid-19th century public buildings constructed in Toronto, the Don Jail is a conspicuous landmark in the Riverdale neighbourhood and in the city.

Notice of an objection to the designation may be served on the City Clerk, c/o Frances Pritchard, Committee Administrator, Toronto Community Council, 4th Floor, West Tower, City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto M5H 2N2 within thirty days of the 26th of April, 2000, setting out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 26th day of April, 2000.



Novina Wong
City Clerk


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