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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.18 AND
2 STRACHAN AVENUE (COLISEUM COMPLEX)
EXHIBITION PLACE
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

To: The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
c/o Novina Wong, Metropolitan Clerk
Metropolitan Clerk's Department
Metro Hall, 55 John Street
Station 1071
Toronto, Ontario

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

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Toronto, on the 12th and 13th days of February, 1996 decided to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 2 Strachan Avenue (Coliseum Complex), Exhibition Place.

Short Statement of Reasons for the Proposed Designation

The property at 2 Strachan Avenue is identified for architectural and historical reasons. The Coliseum (Arena) and its East and West Annexes were built in 1922 according to the plans of City Architect G. F. W. Price. In 1926, City Architect J. J. Woolnough designed the adjacent Livestock Pavilion. The Coliseum opened as the largest building under a single roof in the world and, with its additions, became the largest building of its type in North America.

The design of the Coliseum (Arena) combines the scale, planning, symmetry, and Classical forms associated with Beaux Arts stylistic principles. Constructed of steel and brick with brick, stone and metal detailing, the Coliseum features a two-storey rectangular plan. The north facade of the Coliseum is organized into a centre block with parapets flanked by flat-roofed pavilions. Significant elements on the Coliseum are the domed towers and the Classical entrance on the north wall, and the flat-headed and thermal-shaped windows. (The original south wall and towers have been removed.) Flanking the Coliseum, the East and West Annexes are two-storey brick pavilions with rectangular plans, brick detailing, openings and parapets patterned on the Coliseum. Located east of the East Annex, the two-storey Cattle Pavilion (now known as the Industry Building) and the single-storey Swine Pavilion (North Extension) complement the materials and detailing introduced on the Coliseum.

Located in the northeast corner of Exhibition Place, the Coliseum with its domed towers visually links the east side of the grounds to the dome-roofed pavilions at the west end.

While the Coliseum complex is most closely identified with the annual Canadian National Exhibition and the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, it is also the largest trade and consumer show location in Canada. The Coliseum and its additions are distinguished by their architectural detailing. The complex reflects the development of the livestock compounds and exhibition functions in this location over a forty-year period and is a microcosm of the continual evolution of the site.

The Toronto Historical Board's Heritage Property Report (Long Statement of Reasons for Designation) respecting the property is available for viewing at the City Clerk's Department, City Hall and the offices of the Toronto Historical Board.

Notice of an objection to the designation may be served on the City Clerk, Second Floor, City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Toronto, M5H 2N2, within thirty days of the 27th day of February, 1996, setting out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts.

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


Barbara G. Caplan
City Clerk