

Authority: Toronto Community Council Report No. 6, Clause No. 18, as adopted by City of Toronto Council on April 11, 12 and 13, 2000; and Toronto Community Council Report No. 11, Clause No. 53, as adopted by City of Toronto Council on July 4, 5 and 6, 2000  
Enacted by Council: July 6, 2000

**CITY OF TORONTO**

**BY-LAW No. 411-2000**

**To designate the property at 558 Gerrard Street East (Governor's House, Don Jail)  
as being of architectural and historical value or interest.**

WHEREAS authority was granted by Council to designate the property at No. 558 Gerrard Street East (Governor's House, Don Jail) 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 City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the land and premises known as 558 Gerrard Street East 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 as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

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

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation was served upon the Clerk of the municipality;

The Council of the City of Toronto HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. The property at No. 558 Gerrard Street East, more particularly described in Schedule "B" and shown on Schedule "C" attached to this by-law, is 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 Schedule "B" 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 owners of the property at No. 558 Gerrard Street East 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*.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 6th day of July, A.D. 2000.

CASE OOTES,  
Deputy Mayor

NOVINA WONG,  
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

**SCHEDULE “A”****HERITAGE TORONTO****HERITAGE PROPERTY REPORT****558 Gerrard Street East: Governor’s House, Don Jail**

This report is the “Long Statement of Reasons for Designation” for the designation of the property at 558 Gerrard Street East (Governor’s House, Don Jail) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. It contains Basic Building Data, as well as sections on the Historical Development, Architectural Description and Context of the property. Sources, the “Short Statement of Reasons for Designation” (intended for publication), Map and Photographs are attached.

**Basic Building Data:**

Address:	558 Gerrard Street East (north side of Gerrard Street East, between Don Jail Roadway and Broadview Avenue)
Ward:	25 (Don River)
Current Name:	not applicable
Historical Name:	Governor’s House, Don Jail
Construction Date:	1888
Architect:	Charles Mancel Willmot
Contractor/Builder:	none found
Additions/Alterations:	dates unknown: south verandah replaced; dormer window added on south slope of roof; some window and door openings altered; fire escapes added; 1978, 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor door added, Marcel Millcrest, architect
Original Owner:	City of Toronto
Original Use:	residential (single family dwelling)
Current Use*:	not applicable; * this does not refer to permitted use(s) as defined in the Zoning By-law
Heritage Category:	Category B
Recording Date/Recorder:	February 2000/KA

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:****Riverdale:**

After the founding of Toronto as the Town of York in 1793, Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe directed the division of portions of land around the townsite into a series of Park Lots and farm lots that were distributed to government and military officials. Lot 15 in Concession 1 from the Bay was awarded to John Scadding (c.1754-1824), the manager of Simcoe's Woford Estate in Devonshire. During Simcoe's tenure in North America from 1791 to 1796, Scadding accompanied him as his secretary. The Don River and present-day Queen Street East, Broadview Avenue and Danforth Avenue delineate Scadding's allotment. In 1798, he erected a log cabin near Queen Street that was later relocated to Exhibition Place. The oldest known surviving building in Toronto, Scadding Cabin is listed on the *City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties*. Scadding returned to Canada in 1821, selling the south half of his farm lot and building a second house on the property now occupied by the Don Jail.

In 1856, the heirs of the Scadding property sold nearly 120 acres north of present-day Gerrard Street East to the City of Toronto as the future location of an "Industrial Farm, House of Refuge, and Jail for City and County". A commission for the city's fourth prison was awarded in 1857, and a House of Industry and Refuge "for the less criminal portion of the disorderly population" opened on the property north of the jail site by 1860. The House of Industry was converted into an isolation hospital for smallpox victims prior to its demolition in 1894. It was the forerunner of present-day Riverdale Hospital.

When the House of Industry and the fourth Toronto Jail (Don Jail) opened, their location was outside the city boundaries. With the second Toronto General Hospital (1855) on the west bank of the Don River, the area was reserved for institutional uses and parkland. The City opened Riverdale Park on either side of the Don Valley in 1880. With the construction and improvement of bridges across the lower Don River, residential development began east of the valley. In 1884, the City of Toronto annexed Riverdale.

**Governor's House and Gatekeeper's House, Don Jail:**

In 1857, Toronto City Council awarded the commission to design the new prison to the Toronto architectural firm of William Thomas and Sons. Following a series of delays, the Don Jail opened in 1864. The central administration block included an apartment for the Governor, or "Head Gaoler". The following year, a gatekeeper's house was constructed near the entrance to the prison grounds. Housing for prison guards, or "turnkeys", was provided on the property, with additional accommodation on the adjacent streets.

In the late 1880s, Toronto architect Charles Mancel Willmot oversaw alterations to the interior of the Don Jail and designed a laundry (now known as the Don Jail Annex) on the west side of the complex. Willmot prepared the plans for a separate residence for the Governor of the Don Jail in 1888. Located on the east side of the driveway leading to the main entrance of the prison, the Governor's House faced south onto Gerrard Street East.

Charles Mancel Willmot (1855-1936) was born in the Village of Yorkville. Following an apprenticeship with the noted Toronto architect, William G. Storm (1826-1892) from 1874 to 1875, Willmot spent the early 1880s in Winnipeg. In Toronto, he designed the Cottingham Street School (1877) and an addition to the Yorkville Fire Hall (1889). After a series of residential commissions, in the 1920s Willmot assisted the architectural partnership of Forsey Page and Stanford Warrington by supervising the construction of St. Clement's Anglican Church in North Toronto.

From 1888 to 1974, a series of Governors of the Don Jail occupied the residence. Of particular note was Walter Rayfield (1883-1949), who served from 1934 until his death in 1949. Rayfield was awarded the Victoria Cross during World War I, receiving the nickname "Canada's Sergeant York" for his heroism. Rayfield refused to capitalize on his wartime exploits, and turned down offers of Hollywood movies to work with disabled veterans. In 1921, he ran unsuccessfully as a candidate in the federal riding of East Toronto. The provincial government chose Rayfield to serve as "Sergeant-at-Arms" during ceremonial occasions at the Ontario Legislature. This honour was followed by Rayfield's appointment as Deputy-Governor, then Governor of the Don Jail. Gerald Whitehead, the last Governor of the Don Jail, occupied the residence from 1965 to 1974. The Governor's House was subsequently used as a halfway house for prisoners who had completed their sentences.

In 1909, the City of Toronto conveyed the property on the east side of the Governor's House to the Toronto Public Library Board. The Riverdale Branch opened in 1910. Designed by City Architect Robert McCallum, it is the last of the three libraries in Toronto funded by the Carnegie Foundation, and one of only six corner Carnegie libraries in Ontario. The library covered the former gardens of the Governor's House. Under special arrangements with the Don Jail, prisoners tended the library grounds.

#### Architectural Description:

The Governor's House displays elements drawn from the architectural styles popular for residential design in the later part of the 19th century. The asymmetrical plan and decorative brickwork are associated with the Gothic Revival style, while the tall chimneys reflect Italianate styling.

Above a raised stone basement, the Governor's House is constructed, clad and decorated with buff brick. Stone is applied for the window sills, lintels and band courses. Featuring an ell-shaped plan, the building rises 2½ stories under a hipped gable roof. Chimneys with brick detailing extend up the west, rear (north) and east walls of the house and rise high above the roof.

The principal (south) façade is organized into three sections. The right (east) bay projects to create an "ell" beneath the gable end of the roof. A two-storey bay window has flat-headed window openings with stone sills, stone lintels above the first-storey windows and brick voussoirs over the second-floor openings. The roof of the bay window has extended eaves with brick crenelets beneath. Above the bay window, the attic has a segmental-headed window opening set in a brick surround and flanked by decorative brickwork. The centre bay projects slightly. The principal entrance is placed in the lower floor. Brick piers with capitals flank a single-leaf door with narrow ¾-length sidelights. The entry is sheltered by an open porch with brick supports and a shed roof. In the second storey, a balcony with a wood railing provides access from the second-storey doorway with its brick surround. On the left end of the south façade, pairs of flat-headed window openings are placed in the two floors. The lower storey is protected by a verandah with a bellcast roof and a wood apron

(the verandah has been altered). Decorative brickwork surmounts the second-floor window openings.

The pattern of flat-headed window and door openings with brick and stone detailing continues on the side (east and west) walls. The rear (north) elevation has a single-storey projection with brick crenels. Some of the openings have been altered.

At the southwest corner of the property, the Gatekeeper's House is constructed of buff brick on a stone foundation. The two-storey ell-shaped plan is organized in two parts, with a flat roof on the east section and a mansard roof with dormers on the west façade. Flat- and segmental-headed window openings have brick voussoirs and wood sills. An unusual lancet opening (now bricked in) is found at the south end of the west wall. While openings have been altered and added, the building is an important surviving component of the Don Jail complex.

#### CONTEXT:

The Governor's House is located on the north side of Gerrard Street East between the Don Jail Roadway and Broadview Avenue. Set back from the surrounding streets, the Governor's House shares the property at 558 Gerrard Street East with the Gatekeeper's House to the southwest. On the adjoining property to the east, the Riverdale Branch of the Toronto Public Library anchors the northwest corner of Gerrard Street East and Broadview Avenue.

The Governor's House and Gatekeeper's House are situated directly south of the Don Jail in the landscaped grounds in front of the prison. To the west, the setting is extended by the open space created by Riverdale Park and the lawns of St. Matthew's Lawn Bowling Club.

The Governor's House and the Gatekeeper's House are part of a significant institutional enclave on the north side of Gerrard Street East between Broadview Avenue and the Don Valley. The Don Jail, the lawn bowling clubhouse and the Riverdale Library are identified on the *City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties*.

#### SUMMARY:

The property at 558 Gerrard Street East is identified for architectural and historical reasons. The Governor's House of the Don Jail was constructed in 1888 according to the designs of Toronto architect Charles Mancel Willmot. The adjoining Gatekeeper's House was completed in 1865 near the main entrance to the prison grounds.

The Governor's House is an excellent example of late-19th century period design, highlighted by its brick detailing and chimneys. The Gatekeeper's House, while altered, is important in context with the Governor's House and the Don Jail.

The Governor's House and the Gatekeeper's House are important surviving components of the Don Jail property. With the Don Jail, the lawn bowling club to the west and the Riverdale Library on the east, the buildings are integral components of an institutional enclave on Gerrard Street East between Broadview Avenue and the Don Valley. With their placement in the landscaped open space in front (south) of the Don Jail, the Governor's House and the Gatekeeper's House assist in identifying the breadth of the grounds when the prison was developed in the 19th century.

Sources:

Ameline, Jane, and Barbara Myrvold. "A Brief History of the Riverdale Branch Library". Toronto: Toronto Public Library Board, 1993.

Architects' Cards, Toronto Historical Board.

Arthur, Eric. Toronto: No Mean City. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Rev. and ed. by Stephen A. Otto. Toronto: University of Toronto, 1986.

Blumenson, John. Ontario Architecture. Toronto: Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 1990.

Goad's Fire Insurance Atlases, City of Toronto, 1884 ff..

Hutchinson, Stephanie. Yorkville in Pictures. Local History Handbook No. 2. Toronto: Toronto Public Library Board, 1978.

Jones, Donald. "World War I hero the pride of Don Jail". Toronto Star (18 Mar 1989) M4.

Lundell, Liz. The Estates of Old Toronto. Erin, Ont.: Boston Mills Press, 1997.

McHugh, Patricia. Toronto Architecture: A City Guide. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1989.

Sauriol, Charles. Remembering the Don. Scarborough, Ont.: Consolidated Amethyst Communications, 1981.

Scadding, Henry. Toronto of Old (1873). Reprint. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1966.

Stevens Burgess Architects. "Heritage Significance Study. The Old Don Jail, 550 Gerrard Street East, Toronto". November 30, 1995.

Strange, Carolyn. Imposing Goodness: Crime and Justice in "Toronto the Good" 1793-1953. Toronto: Archives/Heritage Centre of the Law Society of Upper Canada with the Market Gallery of the City of Toronto Archives, 1991.

## Attachment I:

## Short Statement of Reasons for Designation

Governor's House, Don Jail  
558 Gerrard Street East

The property at 558 Gerrard Street East is designated for architectural and historical reasons. The Governor's House at the Don Jail was constructed in 1888 according to the designs of the Toronto architect Charles Mancel Willmot. The property includes an earlier building, constructed as the Gatekeeper's House for the Don Jail in 1865.

The Governor's House is an excellent example of late 19th century period design, highlighted by brick detailing. The building is constructed of brick on a stone foundation and trimmed with brick and stone. Rising 2½ stories, the ell-shaped plan is covered by a hipped gable roof. Tall chimneys with brick detailing extend up the east, west and rear (north) walls of the building and high above the roof. On the principal (south) façade, significant features are the main entrance with a single-leaf door, sidelights and piers, and a two-storey bay window with brick crenellations. There are flat- and segmental-headed window and door openings with brick and stone detailing on all the walls.

Located on the north side of Gerrard Street East between the Don Jail Roadway and Broadview Avenue, the Governor's House is set back from the street in a landscaped setting. The Governor's House and the adjoining Gatekeeper's House are important surviving components of the Don Jail complex. The buildings complement the Don Jail and are part of an important institutional enclave that includes the prison complex, St. Matthew's Lawn Bowling Club and Riverdale Park to the west, and the Riverdale Library on the east.



**SCHEDULE "B"**

Subject: By-law Designation of premises 558 Gerrard Street East (Governor's House, Don Jail) under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act File: G4-H15

In the City of Toronto and Province of Ontario, being composed of part of Lot 15 in Concession 1 from the Bay in the Geographic Township of York, the boundaries of the land being described as follows:

PREMISING that the bearings hereinafter mentioned are astronomic and are referred to the northerly limit of Gerrard Street East as widened by City of Toronto By-law No. 9242 (Instrument 88254P) having a bearing of North 68 degrees, 54 minutes East as shown on Plan RD-136 deposited in the Land Registry Office for the Metropolitan Toronto Registry Division (No. 64) and relating all bearings herein, thereto;

COMMENCING at a point in the said northerly limit of Gerrard Street East as widened, distant 41.16 metres measured South 68 degrees, 54 minutes West along the said northerly limit of Gerrard Street East as widened, from its intersection with the westerly limit of Broadview Avenue;

THENCE South 68 degrees, 54 minutes West along the said northerly limit of Gerrard Street East, 52.76 metres;

THENCE north-westerly on a curve to the right having a radius of 5.18 metres, an arc distance of 8.78 metres, the chord equivalent being 7.77 metres measured North 62 degrees, 33 minutes, 30 seconds West to the easterly limit of the Don Jail Roadway;

THENCE northerly along the easterly limit of the said Don Jail Roadway, on a curve to the right, having a radius of 17.07 metres an arc distance of 8.36 metres the chord equivalent being 8.28 metres measured North 0 degrees, 0 minutes, 30 seconds East;

THENCE North 14 degrees, 02 minutes East continuing along the said easterly limit of Don Jail Roadway 26.05 metres;

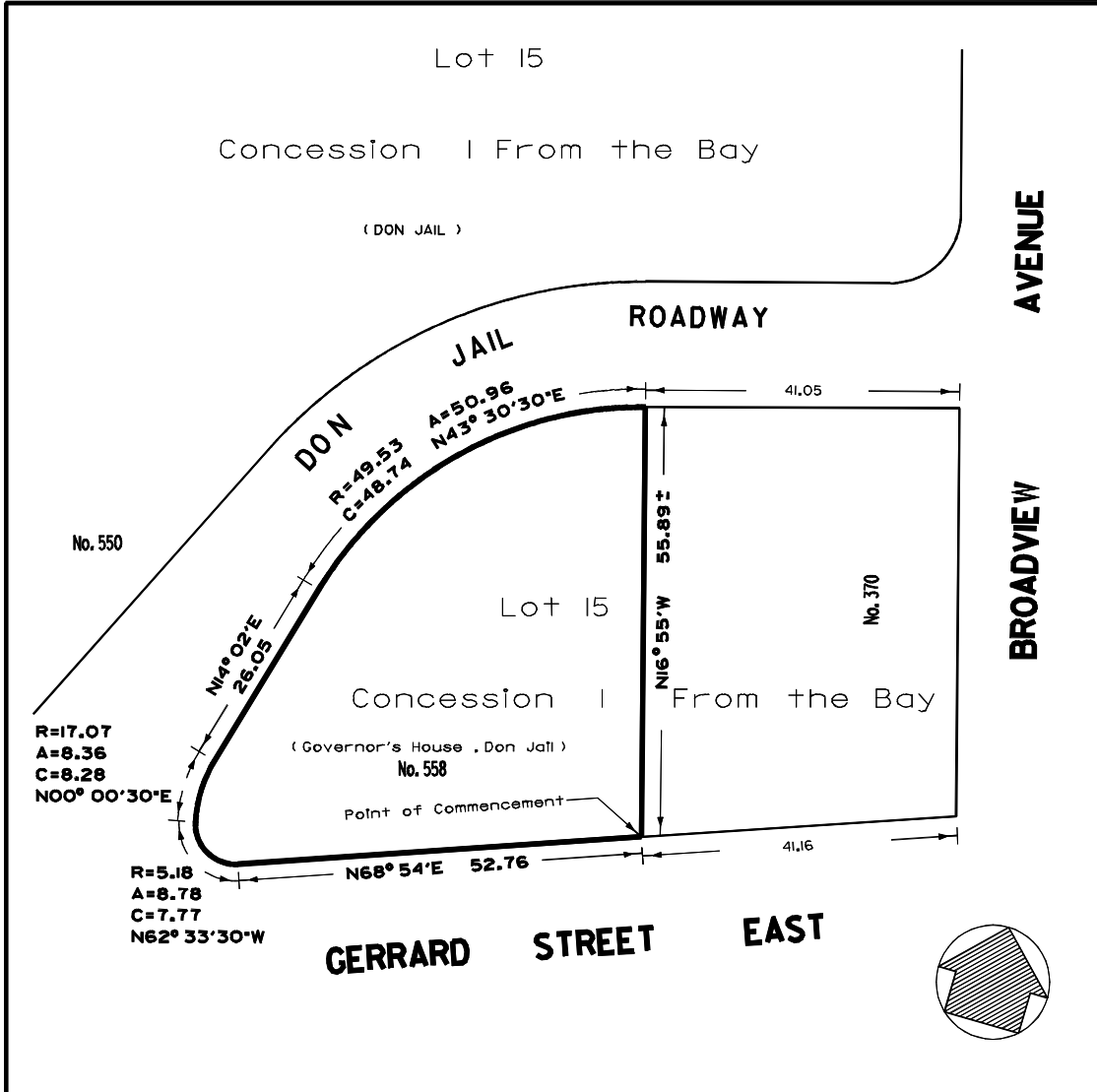
THENCE north-easterly along the south easterly limit of Don Jail Roadway on a curve to the right having a radius of 49.53 metres, an arc distance of 50.96 metres, the chord equivalent being 48.74 metres measured North 43 degrees, 30 minutes, 30 seconds East to a point distant 41.05 metres measured South 72 degrees, 59 minutes West along the said south-easterly limit of Don Jail Roadway from its intersection with the said westerly limit of Broadview Avenue;


THENCE South 16 degrees, 55 minutes East a distance of 55.89 metres more or less to the point of commencement;

The said land being most recently described in Instrument 134605 ER (SECONDLY).

The hereinbefore land being delineated by heavy outline on Plan SYE2947 dated June 15, 2000 as set out in Schedule "C".

Schedule "C"

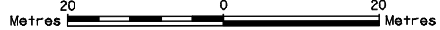


 Premises No. 558 Gerrard Street East

NOTE:  
 THIS SKETCH IS NOT A PLAN OF SURVEY  
 AND HAS BEEN COMPILED FROM SURVEY  
 NOTES AND OFFICE RECORDS, IT SHALL  
 NOT BE USED EXCEPT FOR THE PURPOSE  
 INDICATED IN THE TITLE BLOCK.

**TORONTO**  
 WORKS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

SKETCH TO ILLUSTRATE  
**LAND DESIGNATED AS  
 BEING OF ARCHITECTURAL AND  
 HISTORICAL VALUE OR INTEREST**

RATIO 1:750  
 Metres  Metres

Drawn ME  
 Checked W.J.M.  
 Date: JUNE 15, 2000

W.Kowalenko-City Surveyor

FILE  
 G4-H15

**PLAN SYE2947**

SYE2947