

Update on City Planning's
Exhibition Place
Cultural Landscape Assessment

Toronto Preservation Board
February 27, 2019

Purpose

- To provide an update on City Planning's Exhibition Place Cultural Heritage Landscape Assessment, including an overview of the evaluation of the site as a Cultural Heritage Landscape, key findings, and a request for input from the Board

Exhibition Place

Cultural Heritage Landscape Assessment



1857



1889



1948



c1980

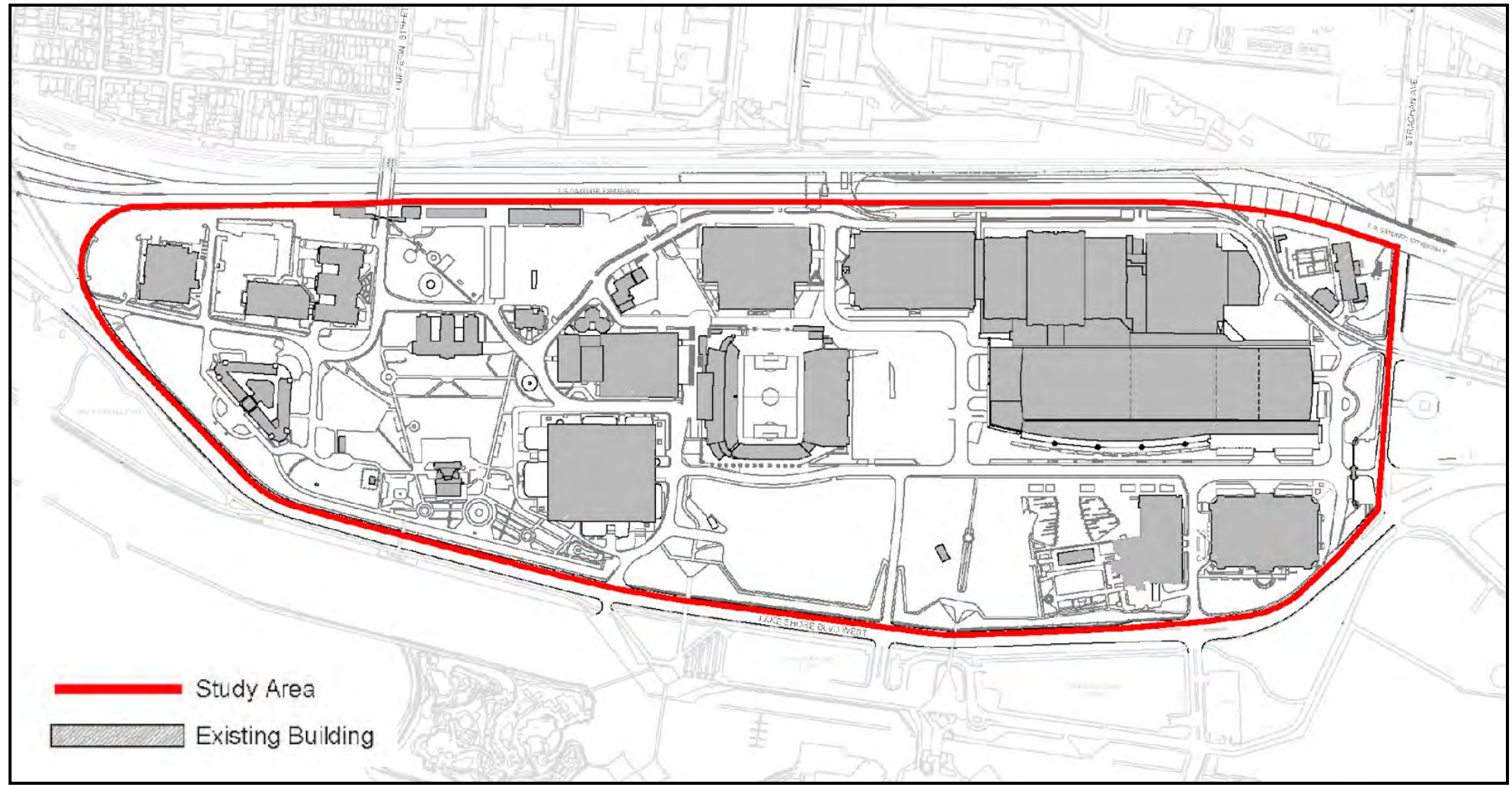


Contextual View





Study Area Boundary Map





Study Purpose



A Cultural Heritage Landscape Assessment (CHLA)

- To determine cultural heritage value and local and provincial significance

A Stage 1 Archaeological Resource Assessment

The CHLA will inform and guide the Master Plan for Exhibition Place



What is a Cultural Heritage Landscape?



- Defined geographical area modified by human activity of cultural heritage value or interest



Designed

Garden at Fulford Place, Brockville



Evolved

Scotsdale Farm, Halton Hills



Associative

Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung, Manitou Mounds, Stratton

Images: Ontario Heritage Trust

Historical Overview



*Evidenced in present site

G.W. Gouinlock, Architect*

G.W. Gouinlock is hired by the City of Toronto to create designs on the exhibition grounds for the twentieth century.

1902

Canadian National Exhibition

The exhibition is renamed the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) to recognize the national role the event played.

1912

Chapman and Oxley Plan*

Chapman and Oxley are hired to redesign the exhibition park.

1920

Coliseum Completed*

The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair finds its permanent home.

1922

End of Military Reserve*
Demolition of military buildings ends,
leaving only one military building standing.

1953

Queen Elizabeth Building Opens*

Beginning of Modernist interpretation
of exhibition buildings and open
spaces.

1957

Reinforcement of the Lake*
Ontario Place opens to the south with
connections between the two sites.

1971

Expansion*

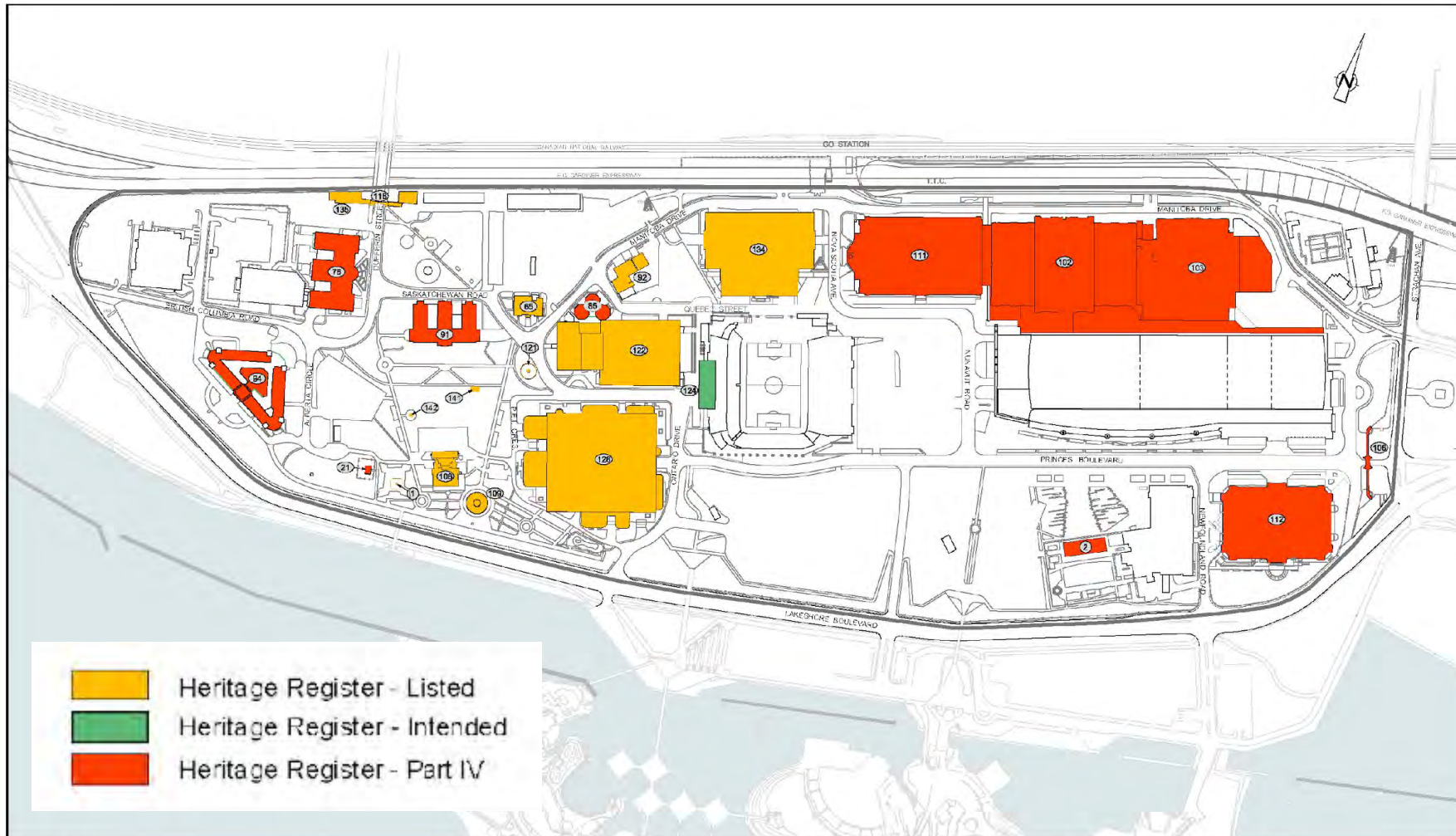
Intensification of trade shows and professional
sport and entertainment beginning with
construction of Enercare Centre.

1997

***Evidenced in present site**

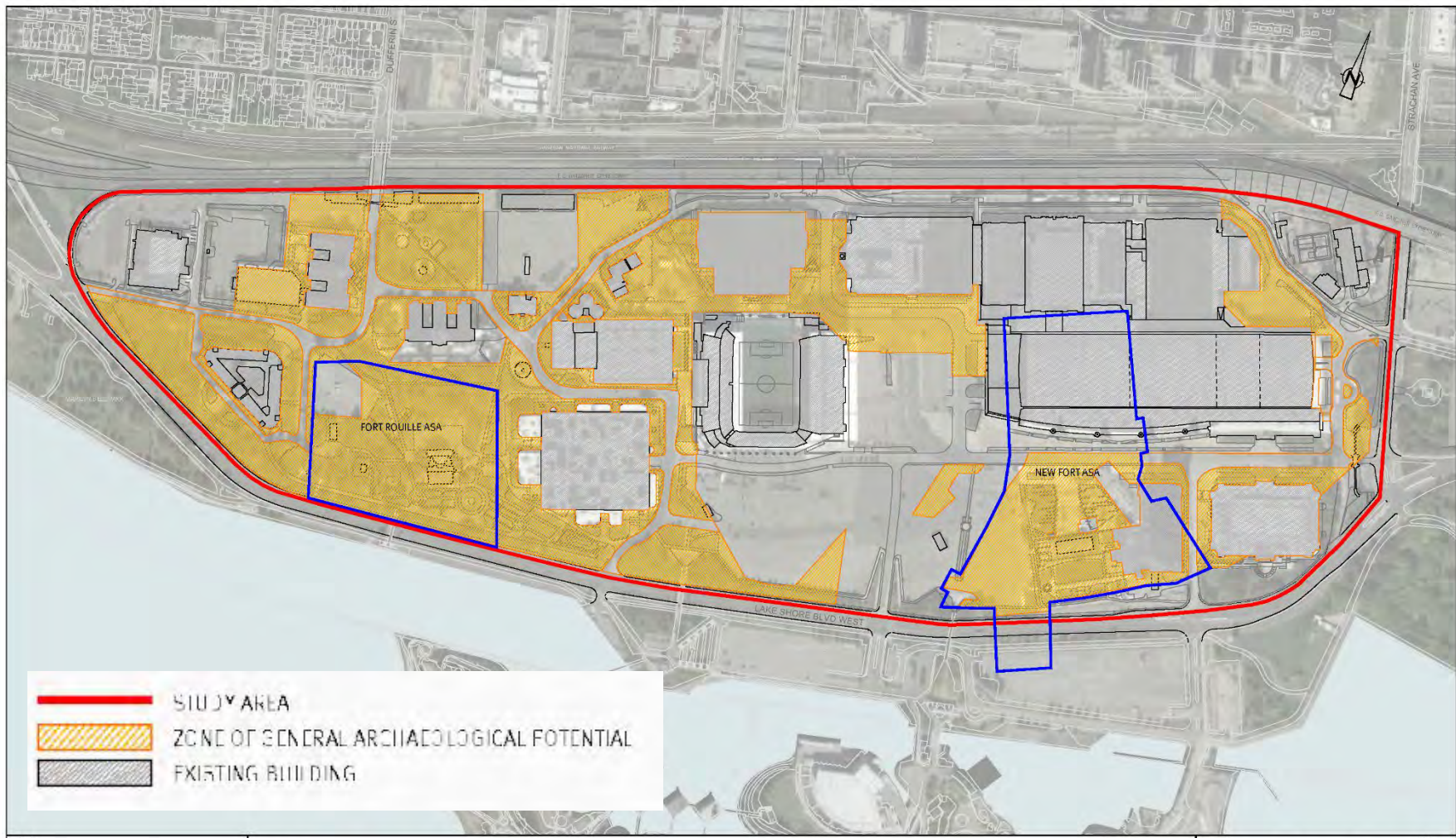


Heritage Register Properties





Archaeological Potential



Pre-1793: Prior to Establishment of Fort York Garrison and New Fort



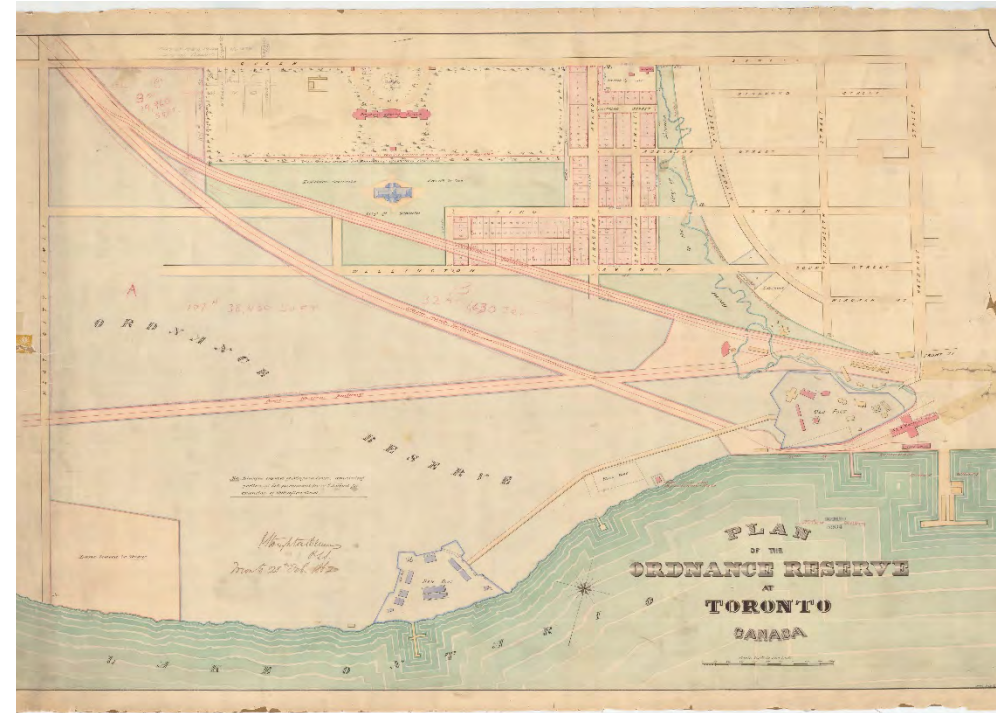
Sketch of the Ground In Advance of and Including York, Upper Canada, November 1813. NMC22819. Library and Archives Canada.



1793-1877: Fort York Garrison and New Fort

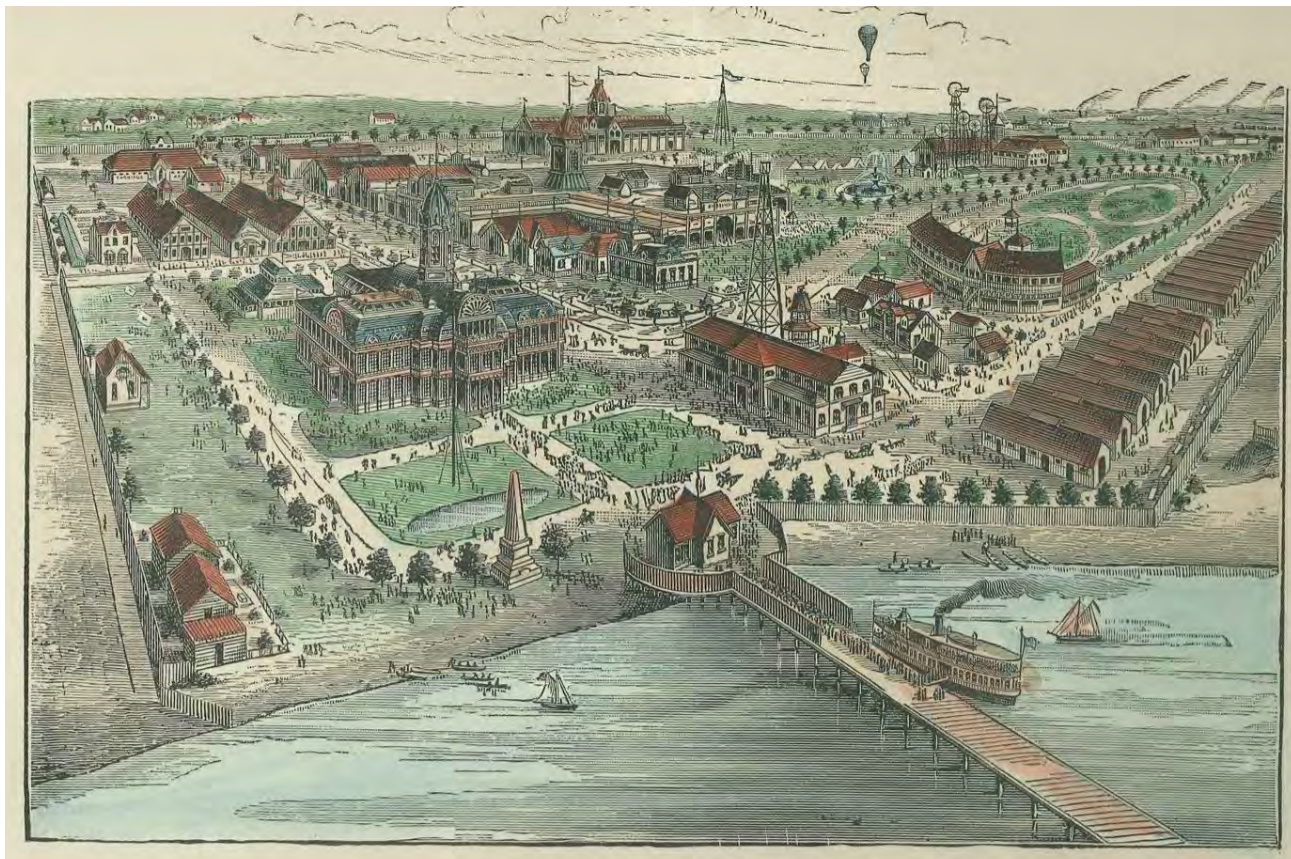


Canada Toronto Verification Plan shewing the Boundaries as marked on the ground of the Military Reserves belonging to the Ordnance in the City of Toronto, County and Township of York, Canada West. NMC11448. Library and Archives Canada.



Plan of the Ordnance Reserve at Toronto Canada [Sgd] J. Stoughton Dennis P.L.S. Toronto 28th Feb. 1862. Owen Jones Del / 62, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Office of the Surveyor General: SR5904 O8-25

1878-1901: Toronto Industrial Exhibition



Exhibition Grounds, 1889. Exhibition Place Archives.



Scene in front of Band Stand, c. 1880.
Toronto Public Library.



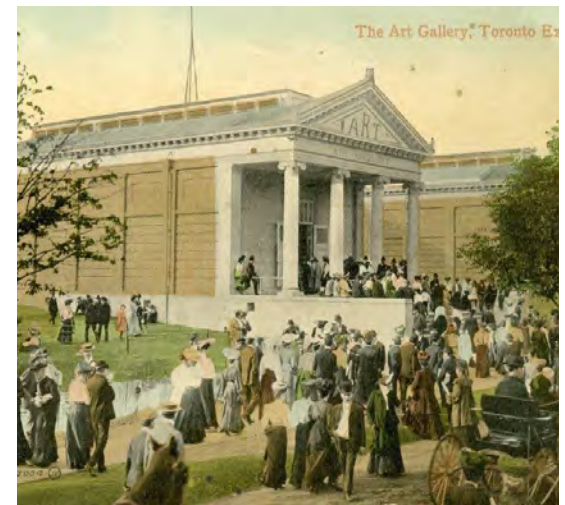
Crystal Palace, 1884. Toronto Public Library.

1902-1919: G.W. Gouinlock's Designs



The Entrance, Toronto Exhibition, Canada

The Entrance, 1910. Toronto Public Library.



The Art Gallery, Toronto Ex

Art Gallery, 1908. CNE Archives.

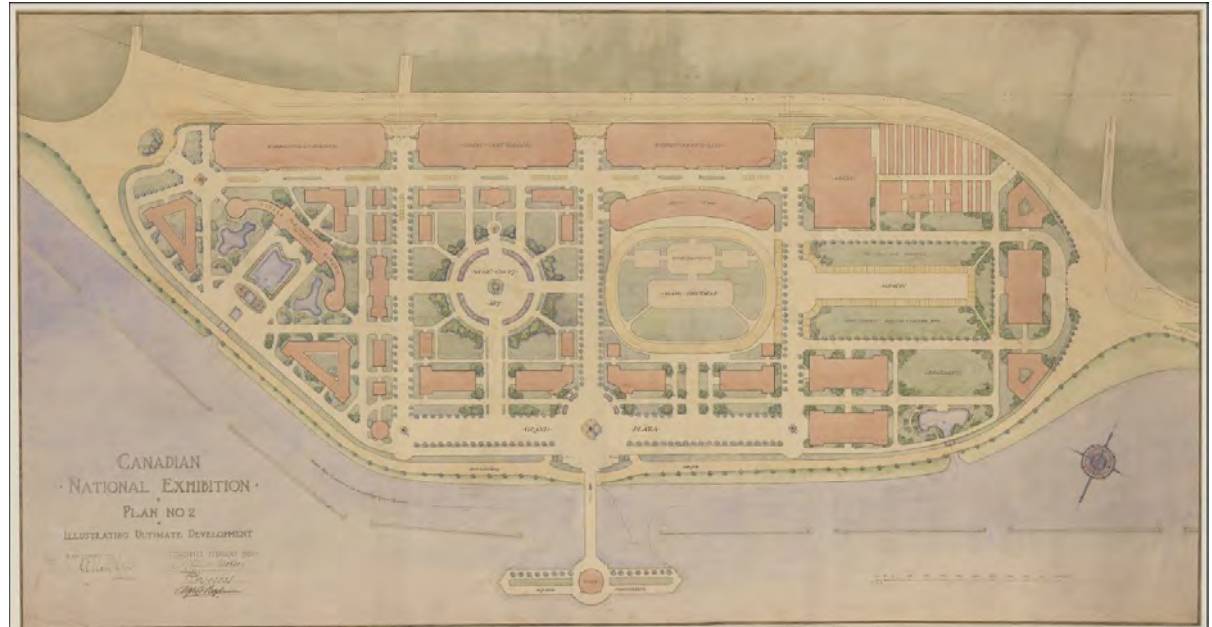


Horticulture Building, 1914. Archives of Ontario.

1920-1952: Chapman and Oxley Plan and The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair



Aerial View, 1947. Toronto Star Archives.



Canadian National Exhibition Plan No. 2 Illustrating Ultimate Development by Chapman and Oxley, February 1921, as planned and partially built (City of Toronto Archives Series 724 Item 280)



February 27, 1919



Exhibition Place CHLA



Left to right:
Coliseum, 1940. CNE Archives;
Bandshell drawing, 1940s. CNE Archives;
Princes' Gates, 1931. CNE Archives.

1953-1970: End of the Military Reserve and Construction of the Gardiner Expressway



Flower Gardens, 1963. Toronto Star Archives.



Coliseum and Midway, 1961. CNE Archives.



1971-1996: Intensification of Year-Round Use



View from Ontario Place, 1972. City of Toronto Archives.



*Bird's Eye View, 1977.
Toronto Public Library.*



*Ticket Gates, 1981.
Toronto Public Library.*



1997-Present: Major Interventions



BMO Field, 2018.



Hotel X from lake, 2018.



Princes' Blvd, 2018.



Key Findings

- Significant Cultural Heritage Landscape as per the Provincial Policy Statement
- Organically-evolved landscape consisting of designed landscapes
- Determined to be of provincial significance under the Ontario Heritage Act
 - Meets Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, which the City of Toronto also applies when evaluating properties for its Heritage Register
 - Meets Ontario Regulation 10/06, the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest of provincial significance



Record-Breaking Attendance, 1948.
Toronto Star Archives.



Exhibition Place



Provincial Significance

- “Its importance as both a former military fort and exhibition grounds is directly expressed in the interrelationship between the structures, spaces and archaeological sites within the site. Exhibition Place has meanings and associations for a variety of groups, including the local, national and international visitors and exhibitors and the major events associated with the site.”

DRAFT Design/Physical Value

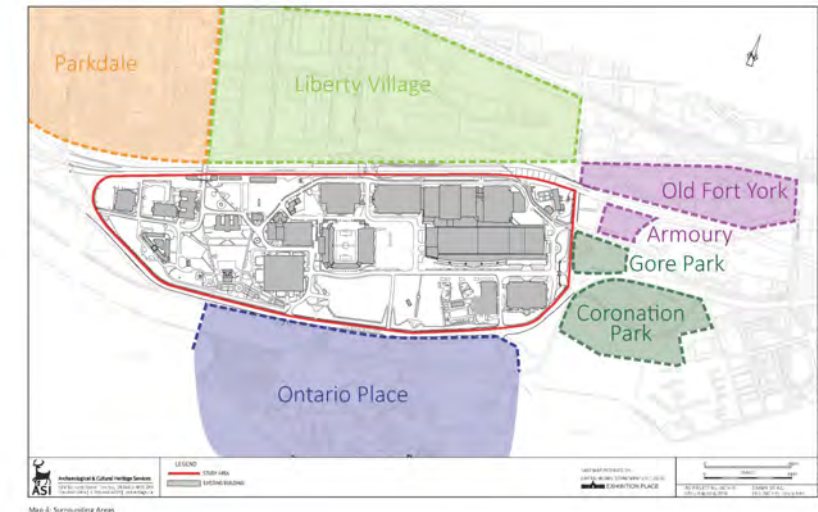
- A rare, surviving and largely intact organically-evolved landscape originally located at the edge of Lake Ontario and comprised of several distinct periods of significance in the development of the site, including the geometry of Beaux-Art style planning that remains an important organizing principle of the site and particularly evident in the grand axis of Princes' Boulevard
- The fine representative examples of numerous architectural styles and technical innovations of construction methods and materials executed with design excellence, including the Gouinlock collection, a National Historic Site
- A site of known heritage resources of archaeological significance and further identified areas of potential archaeological value

DRAFT Historical/Associative Value

- The military history (the earliest documented uses of the site), including a rare example of local French presence at Fort Rouille and followed by its role as a battlefield under British command in the Battle of York
- Establishment as the chosen site of the provincial exhibition grounds
- The vast range and high number of renowned architects, designers, builders and artists involved in the site's design and development
- The site of long-time and continued events of municipal and provincial significance, including the Canadian National Exhibition and Royal Agricultural Winter Fair

DRAFT Contextual Value

- Located at Toronto's waterfront, where it is physically, visually and historically linked to Ontario Place, built out into Lake Ontario on innovative landforms positioned directly south of Exhibition Place
- Supports and defines the historical character of this section of the waterfront as part of a larger collection of civic spaces designed as public entertainment, educational, recreational and/or commemorative sites, from the Old Fort York National Historic Site to the innovative design and aspirational programming of Ontario Place, and where opportunities for exploration and education have established a ritual of visitation for many residents



DRAFT Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

With its nearly 270-year history, the Exhibition Place site contains a rich layering of designed and evolved landscape systems, from the original defensive installations of Fort Rouille and Fort York, to the provincial fairgrounds, the Beaux-Arts style architecture and axial planning that defined the exhibition grounds in the early 20th century, modernist interventions and innovations, and the continued reorganization and development of the site's buildings, structures, landscapes and public art.

Together, this impressive collection comprising various periods of significance in the site's history and executed by numerous significant individuals intertwines and overlaps to provide an overall understanding of the rich architectural, historical and contextual dialogue of formal design languages that makes Exhibition Place the most remarkable Canadian exhibition grounds and a notable, largely intact and active surviving example of this kind of cultural heritage landscape in North America.

Heritage Attributes

- The group of five (5) extant buildings designed by the Toronto-based architect, G.W. Gouinlock, which are recognized together as a National Historic Site
- The twenty-one (21) buildings and structures already recognized on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register, including Designations under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act
- Landscape features, elements, circulation networks, physical connections and visual relationships identified through this study, including parks, pathways, gardens, trees and plantings, landscape remnants and views
- Thirteen (13) commemorative plaques dedicated by the CNE, Ontario Heritage Trust, HSMBC and various community and military groups
- Works of art and sculpture identified through this study representing the artists Ronald Baird, E.B. Cox, Jean Horne, Charles Keck, Frances Loring, Charles McKechnie, Arthur Donald Price and Ron Satok
- Four (4) archaeological resources and sites representing pre-contact Nations as well as French and British military associations

The background features a solid blue color with a large, faint white graphic. This graphic consists of a series of concentric circles on the left side, transitioning into a stylized outline of a city or building on the right side. The word "Questions?" is centered in white, bold, serif font.

Questions?