

Attachment-3 Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and Provincial Significance

The following description is from the Province's Strategic Conservation Plan.

Description of Property

The Guelph Correctional Centre (Guelph Reformatory) consists of approximately 90 hectares of property located within the city limits of Guelph and includes a set of buildings constructed in the 1910s and 20s for operations, detention, industrial activities and farming. The property combines ornamental and working landscapes.

The historic buildings consist of a set of interconnected structures comprised of two residences, a two-and-a-half-storey administration building in the Beaux-Arts tradition, two three-storey cell blocks, two three-storey dormitories, a tower and corridor, a kitchen, and two dining halls; a large three-storey industrial workshop constructed of concrete and stone; and a greenhouse complex.

The ornamental landscape fronts York Road and extends from the road to the front of the Administration Building and the detention complex. It is located on gently sloping ground rising up to the centre of the property. The ornamental landscape features man-made ponds and watercourses, parklike grounds, lawns, mature trees, gardens, stone fences, remnants of gates along York Road, and the main road to the Administration Building. The working landscape includes field patterns to the northeast of the main building complex and the eastern drive extending from York Road.

Cultural Heritage Value

The Guelph Correctional Centre is one of Canada's largest and most intact examples of a correctional facility designed specifically to address late-19th- and early-20th century ideas concerning the use of incarceration to reform rather than punish criminal behaviour. It is also a good example of the work of John M. Lyle, one of Canada's best-known architects and an accomplished practitioner noted for his Beaux-Arts designs. The landscape expresses its purposeful use to support and rehabilitate the prison population. The result of prison activity was a well-organized site with a rich collection of rustic landscape features which added significantly to the function and scenic value of the property.

The Guelph Correctional Centre was designed to fulfill the requirements of a reform program to be used by the province to reduce recidivism among youthful offenders. The program required extensive facilities for prison work, as well as a series of specialized interior spaces for segregation and programming. The reform ideas were not only expressed in the functional organization of the facility and in its industrial and farming facilities, but also in the architectural treatment of the main buildings by John M. Lyle, who chose to use a simple Beaux-Arts approach to the exterior treatment. The greenhouse complex (B13465) illustrates most clearly the industrial-scale farming operation that characterized the institution for almost 60

years. The landscape setting of the Guelph Correctional Centre also expresses the reform program of the institution in the organization of its spaces and in the elements constructed by prison labour.

The Guelph Correctional Centre was recognized as a Provincial Heritage Property of Provincial Significance under Part III.1 of the Ontario Heritage Act in June 2008.