

Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Workshop #3

Phase 1 Study Recommendations

Presentation: Stephen Robinson

Heritage Guelph - January 23, 2023



Image: Ontario Reformatory c.1930
(Courtesy of Guelph Museums, 1977.33.1)

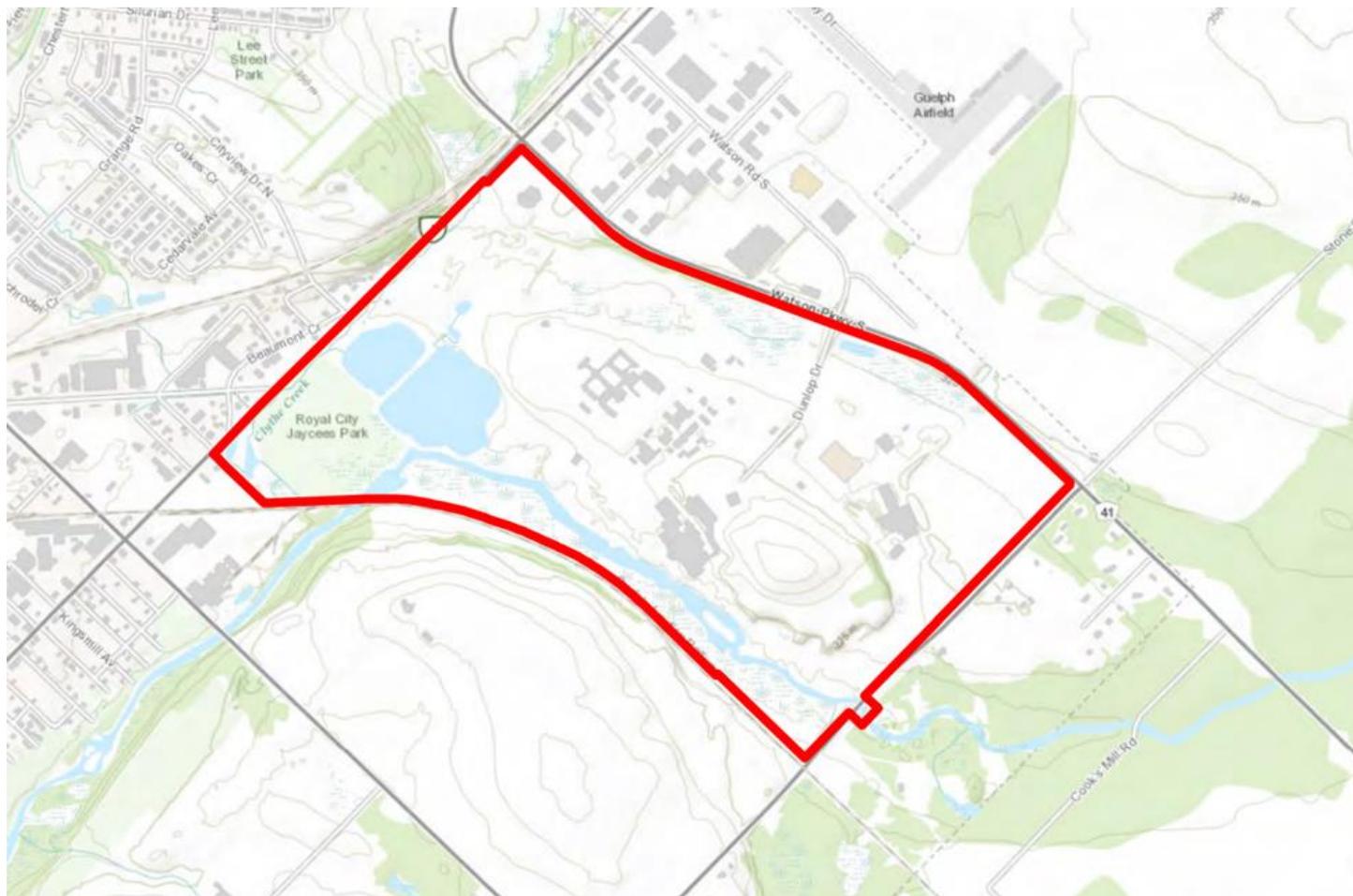
Introduction

- This presentation provides a summary of key recommendations contained within the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Study (Phase 1).

Purpose of the HCD Study

- The purpose of the HCD Study as Phase 1 of the HCD designation process is to determine if the Ontario Reformatory HCD Study Area merits designation as a heritage conservation district (HCD) in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, provincial guidelines, and municipal policies.
- The Study has included a process to engage the community in order to understand the unique character of the area, and to inform a proposed HCD boundary.

Ontario Reformatory HCD Study Area



Consultant's Recommendations

The Phase 1 HCD Study has recommended

- a boundary for the Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District; and
- Phase 2 of the designation process be initiated in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act to produce a Heritage Conservation District Plan and Guidelines for the area identified as the recommended Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District boundary.

Recommended Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District Boundary



Description of Recommended Boundary

- Beginning in the west corner of 785 York Rd to the western portion of 919 York Rd;
- southeast from the Guelph Legion property following the property line of 785 York Road and the north side of Dunlop Drive then following the property line around the Cargill plant;
- coming inland from the river to follow a buffer established along the top of the quarry faces;
- following the west side of the existing southern access road at 80 Dunlop Drive, continuing southwest in front of properties on Stone Road East to include the McQuillan's bowstring bridge;
- turning northwest along the east side of the Guelph Junction Railway right of way, then crossing the Eramosa River and rejoining the property boundary of 785 York Road.

Key Facts

- The Ontario Reformatory property (785 York Road) is designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act by by-law (2021)-20631. The bylaw was passed in October 2021.
- The municipal heritage designation of the property (785 York Road) under Part IV and as part of an Ontario Reformatory HCD area designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act have no effect while the lands are owned by the Province.

Key Facts

- During the Study, the project team consulted with Heritage Guelph, First Nations, community groups, landowners within the HCD Study area and the public to ensure the project team understood how the community interacts with the Study Area and to identify key considerations and priorities for determining the proposed HCD boundary.

Ontario Regulation 569/22

- As of January 7, 2023 Ontario Regulation 9/06 was replaced by the new O. Reg. 569/22 Criteria Regulation for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
- What is new with O. Reg. 569/22 is that an area of a municipality may be designated through a by-law as a heritage conservation district under subsection 41 (1) Part V of the Act if at least 25 per cent of the properties within the defined area satisfy two or more of the nine criteria prescribed by the new regulation.

Assessment of Cultural Heritage Value

- Three of the four of the properties within the proposed Ontario Reformatory HCD boundary contain heritage attributes that meet at least two of the prescribed criteria under O. Reg. 569/22.
- WSP will include an assessment of the cultural heritage value of the recommended HCD area based on the criteria prescribed by the new regulation.

Heritage Attributes within Character Areas

- WSP conducted a character area analysis and created a property information database of heritage attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the Ontario Reformatory.
- These heritage attributes have now been indicated by number within the six identified Character Areas presented at Heritage Guelph's second workshop on the Ontario Reformatory HCD Study.

Recommended Heritage Attributes

- As the Ontario Reformatory property at 785 York Road has already been designated under section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act and is recognized as containing a Provincially significant cultural heritage landscape, some heritage attributes have been adapted from Statements of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest outlined in previous designation documents.

Recommended Heritage Attributes

- Heritage attributes that have been recommended as supporting the cultural heritage value or interest of the Ontario Reformatory HCD include the following list as well as the more detailed inventory and description of heritage attributes provided in a table from the HCD Study Property Information Database which have been identified by unique numbers on the Heritage Character Area mapping in the HCD Study report.

Recommended Heritage Attributes of the Ontario Reformatory HCD

- Organization of the area as a whole into a hierarchy of spaces and functional uses;
- Location of the main Reformatory complex at the top of a hill with open areas and clear sight lines;
- Clustered thematic uses;
- Interconnected historic buildings;
- Functional qualities of the HCD area that are associated with the prison use including the placement of the Administration Building and an internal loop system of basement level and above-ground passages between buildings providing alternative access and observation points for staff;

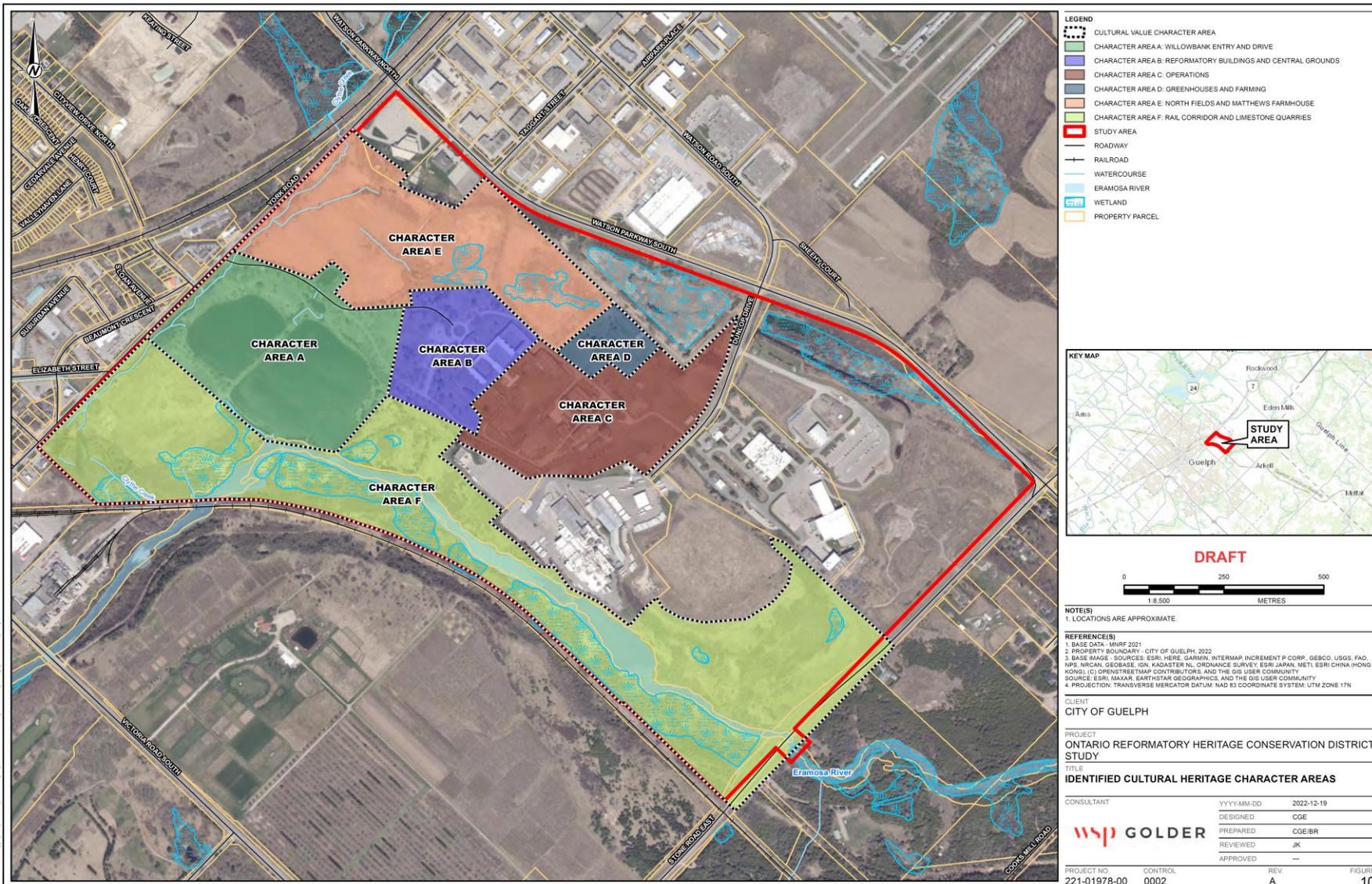
Recommended Heritage Attributes of the Ontario Reformatory HCD

- Quadrangle arrangement of the main structures resembling an educational institution;
- Beaux-Arts design attributed to architect John M. Lyle and the City Beautiful movement;
- Residential appearance of Willowbank Hall (formerly the Engineer's Residence) and the Superintendent's Residence;
- Public and internal road and trail patterns within the HCD boundary;
- Ornamental landscape features including the stone walls, fences, stairs, gates, terraced gardens, gate posts, and bridges;
- Mature tree plantings;
- Ponds and watercourses;

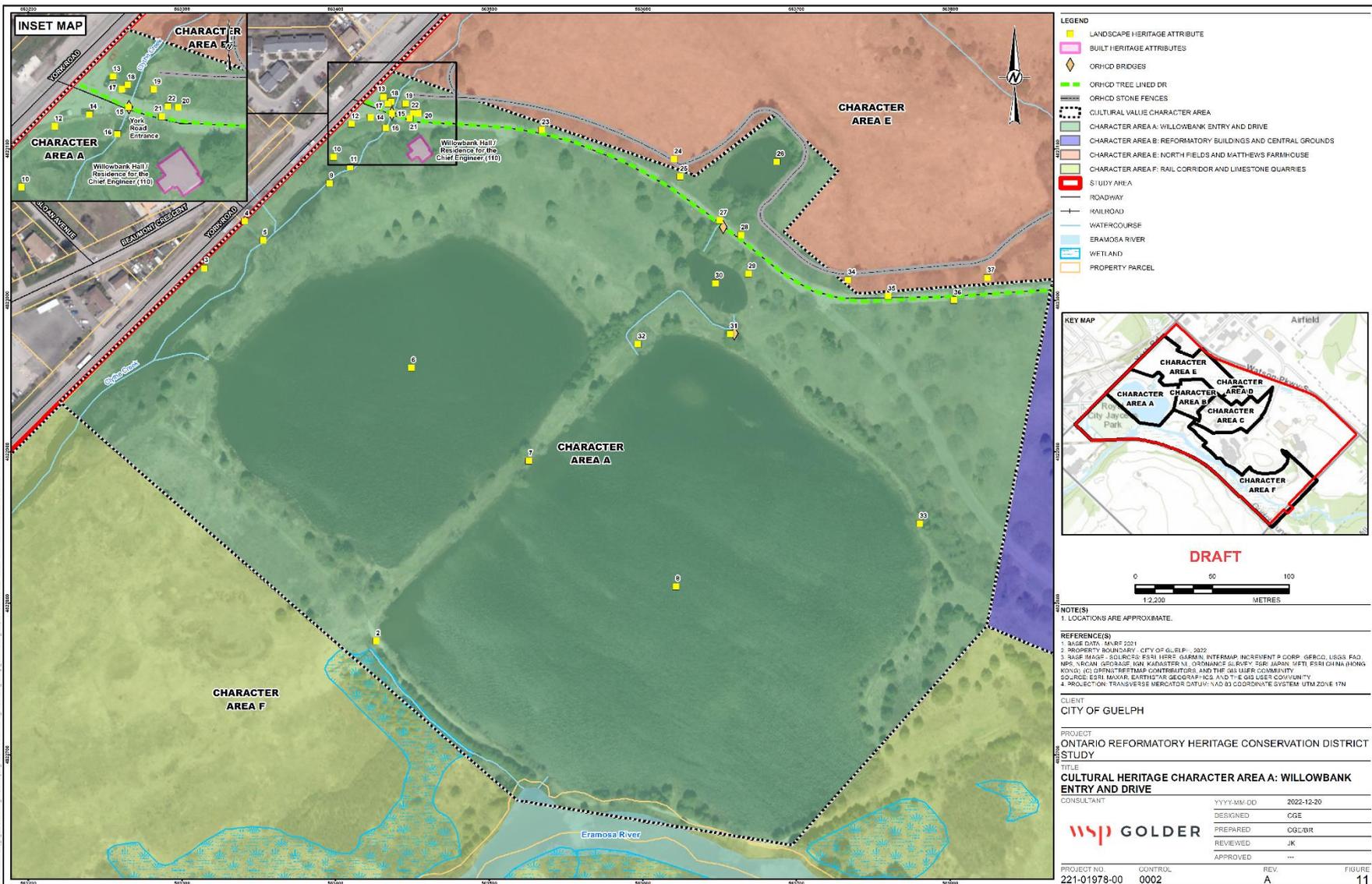
Recommended Heritage Attributes of the Ontario Reformatory HCD

- 919 York Road (Matthews farmhouse) a single-storey stone residence with hipped roof; stone shed outbuilding; stone gate on York Road leading to Matthews farmhouse and the original north access road to the Reformatory buildings.
- “The Rocks” - former Ontario Reformatory quarry area (now part of 80 Dunlop Drive) consisting of three quarry faces and remnant mining infrastructure.
- Reformatory wood trestle railway bridge over the Eramosa River.
- McQuillan’s Bridge, a single-span bowstring arch bridge carrying a footpath over the Eramosa River; “1916” date stamp located on the cross brace.

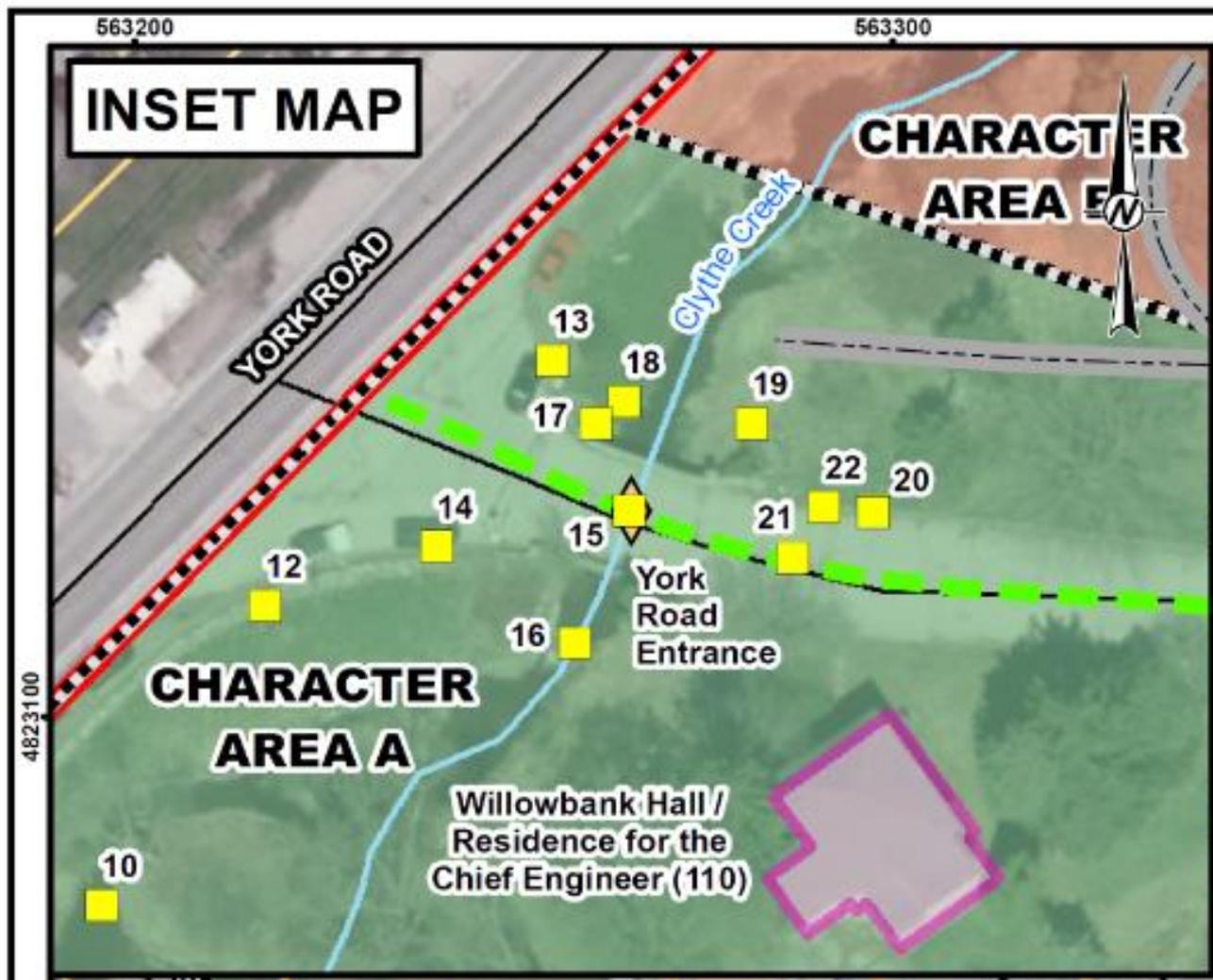
Character Areas A-F



Character Area A



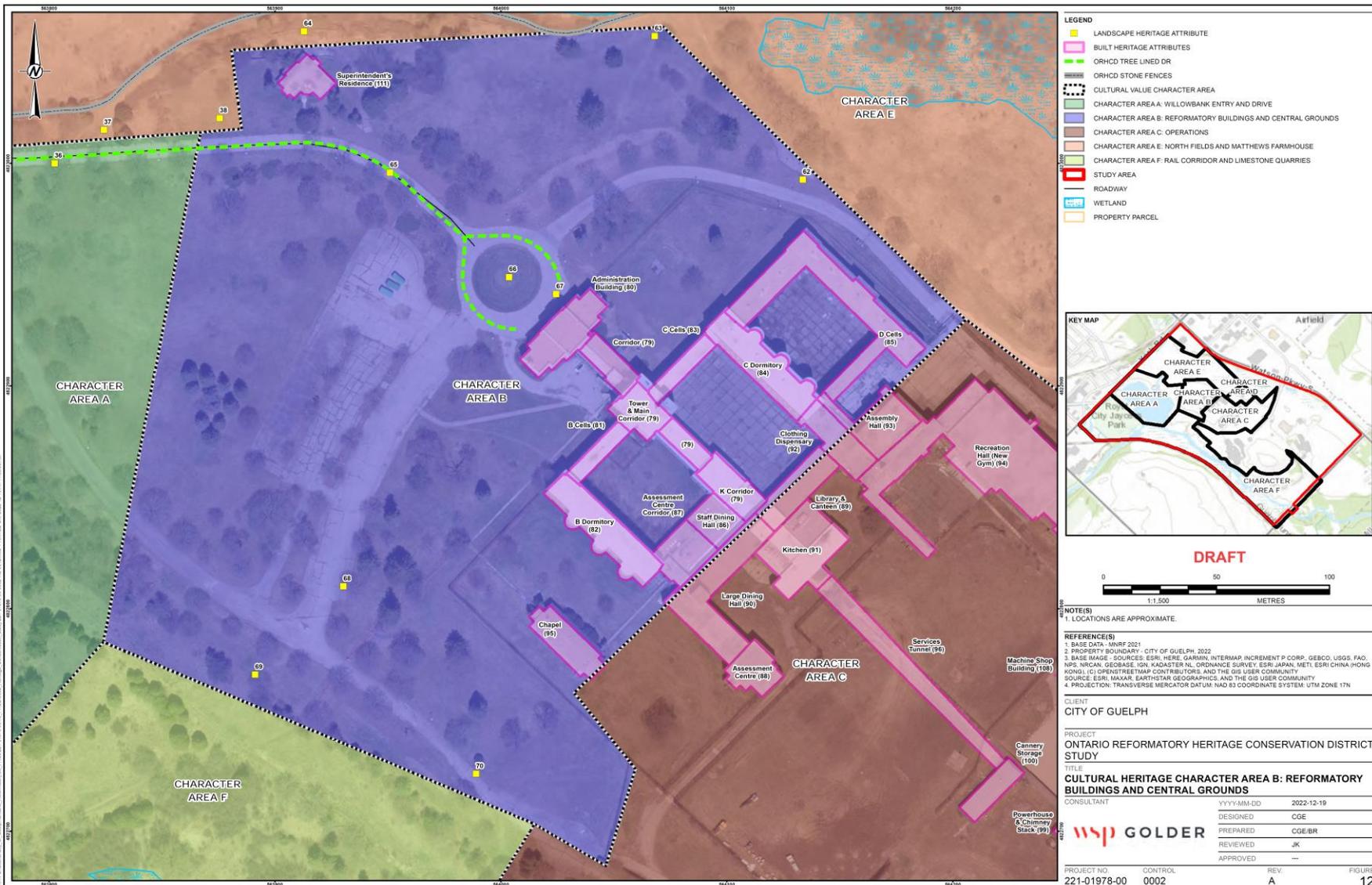
Inset Map on Character Area A



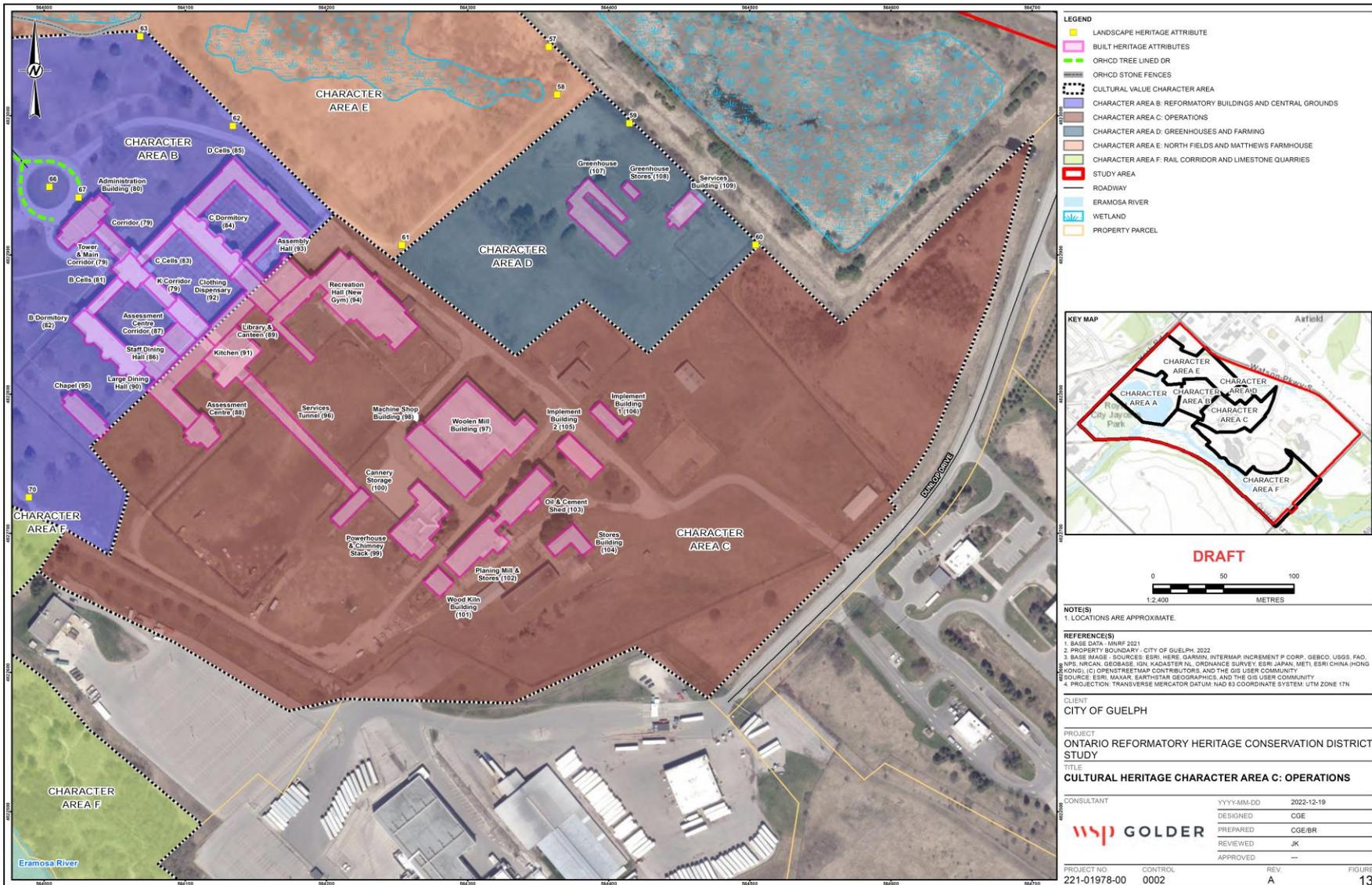
Example Heritage Attributes from Character Area A

Ontario Reformatory HCD Property Information Database Inventory				
CULTURAL HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES				
Attribute No.	Heritage Attribute Name	Heritage Attribute Type	Existing Recognition	Notes
12	Wing wall with sentinel (west)	Site Walls	Part IV	Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
13	Wing wall with sentinel (east)	Site Walls	Part IV	Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
14	Gateway entry - Stone wall	Gates & Fences	Part IV	Field stone wall leading into entry with bridge over stream. The stone wall is newer surrounded by evergreen vegetation with a delineated tree line vantage point that leads up the paved pathway. The stream buffers the stonewall. Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
15	Main entrance road bridge	Built Heritage Resource	Part IV	York Road entrance bridge. Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
16	Stone weir (riffle)	Built Heritage Resource	Part IV	Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
17	Stone steps	Drives, Trails and Paths	Part IV	Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
18	Fieldstone weir with cut stone terrace wall	Built Heritage Resource/Site Walls	Part IV	Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
19	Stone entrance sign	Landmark Feature/ Focal Point	No Protection	
20	West field wall (ashlar)	Site Walls	Part IV	Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
21	Curving main entrance road lined with mature trees	Drives, Trails and Paths	Part IV	Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
22	Start of west fieldstone wall	Site Walls	Part IV	Historical wall with distinctive tree line running along its entirety. It is an entry vantage point with views to an open field and lawn beyond the stonewall and pathways leading in many directions. The wall curves along the landscape with a 15 foot offset from the path to the wall. There is a distinctive tree line between with perennials and some larger shrubs. Referenced in 785 York Road Part IV designation.
110	Willowbank Hall	Built Heritage Resource	Part IV	IO Building number is B13498

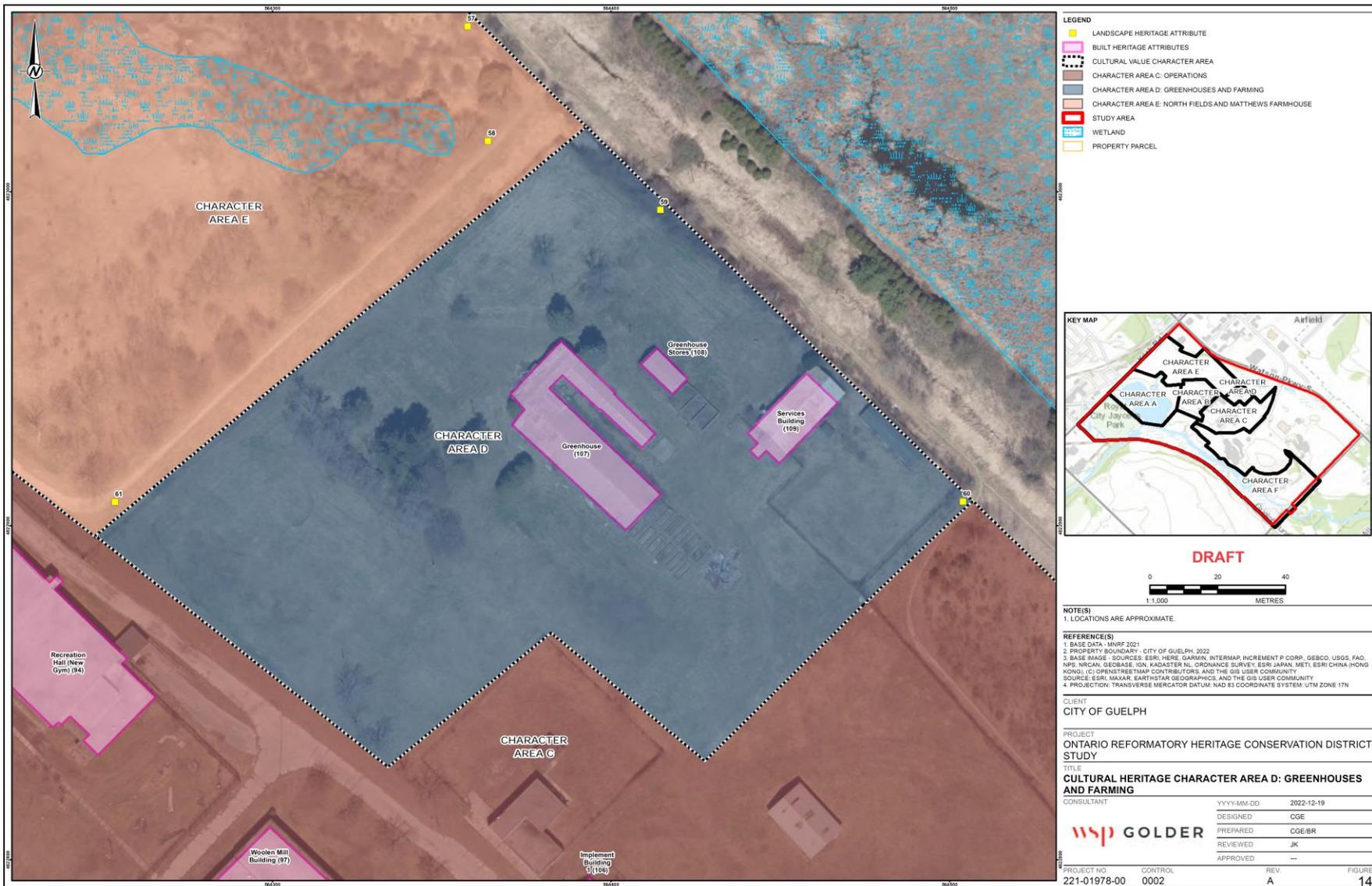
Character Area B



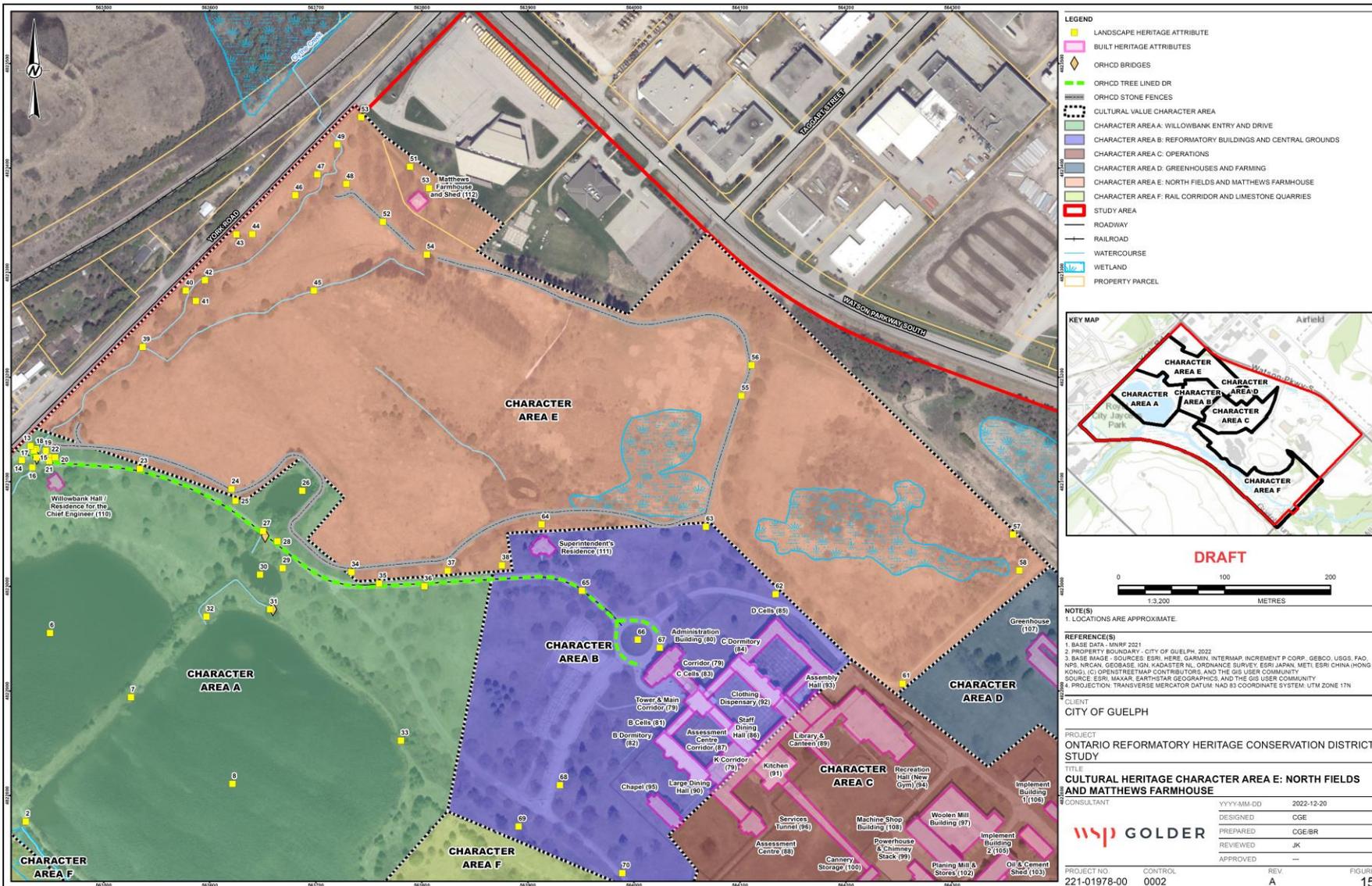
Character Area C



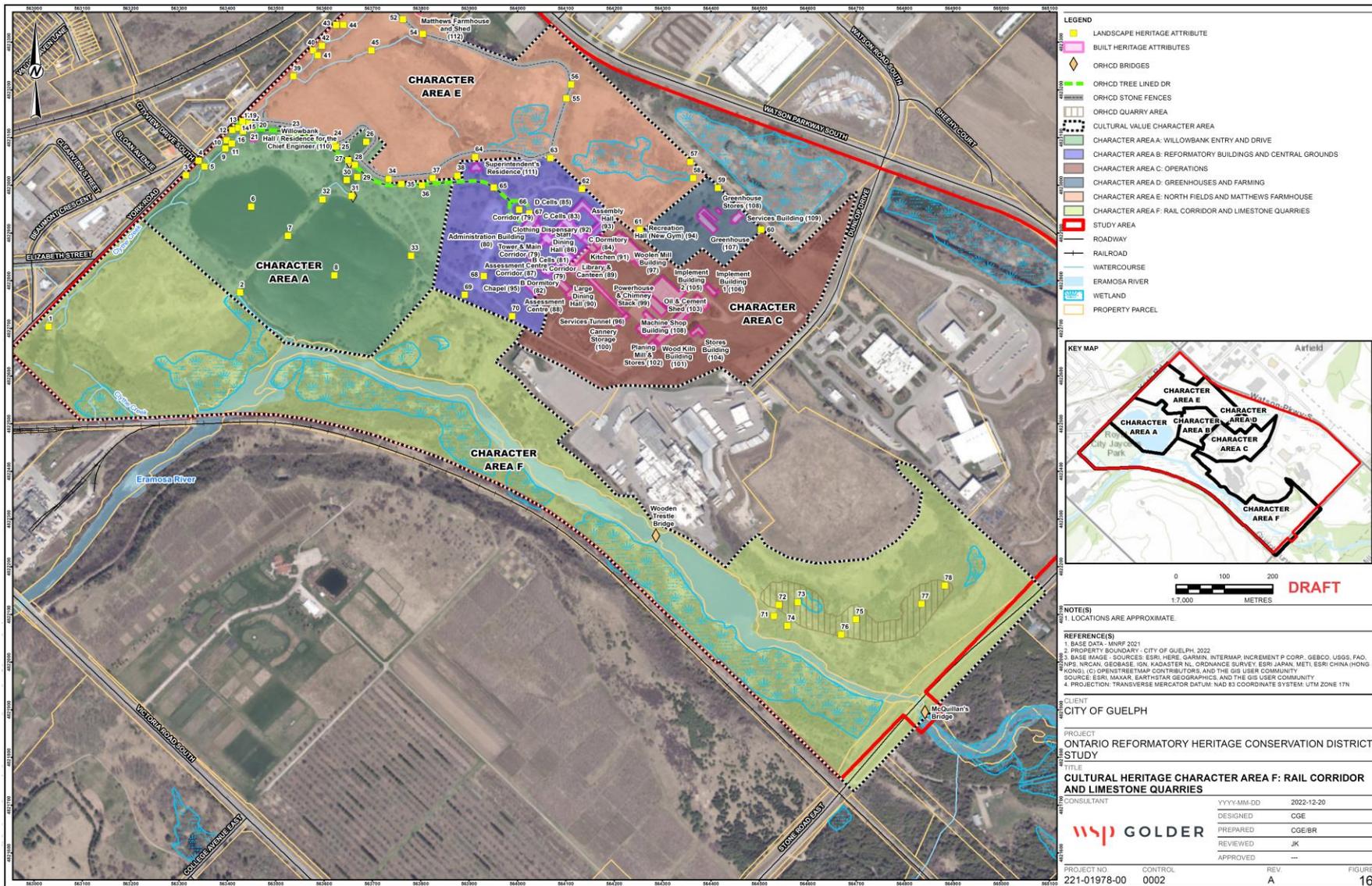
Character Area D



Character Area E



Character Area F



Key Considerations

- Two areas of the proposed HCD boundary do not trace formal property lines
- Privately-owned property at 919 York Road and the City-owned property at 80 Dunlop Drive may be contemplated for severances, with the identified heritage attributes of each property located within the proposed HCD boundary.
- Should the HCD Study be approved, reference plans will be used for these properties when determining the legal description for the HCD designation by-law.

Royal City Jaycees Park Area

- The project team received consistent feedback from the public during all follow-up engagement activities to consider including the former Royal City Jaycees Park within the HCD.
- Royal City Jaycees Park has been included within the proposed HCD boundary as it contains some cultural heritage value in its built heritage features such as a stone/concrete weir and stone-lined edge in that part of Clythe Creek.

Wetlands Adjacent to the HCD Boundary

- The wetlands on the northeast side of the Study Area were not included in the proposed boundary as direct associations could not be made with the overall OR lands.
- In the case of the reservoir south of Dunlop Drive, the physical link to the former Reformatory has been severed by the introduction of Dunlop Drive to the north and contemporary land uses to the west, which have isolated the attribute from the larger landscape. For these reasons these elements were not included within the HCD boundary.

What input are we looking for?



What input are we looking for?

Do you have any further comments regarding the recommendations of the Phase 1 HCD Study?

Do you support the area identified as the recommended Ontario Reformatory Heritage Conservation District boundary?



Thank you!

Please reach out to Stephen with any additional questions or comments:

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