

MARYLAKE - SHORT STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

MARYLAKE

Keele Street, West Side
Concession 4, Part Lot 11 to Part Lot 15
Roll No. 025-280

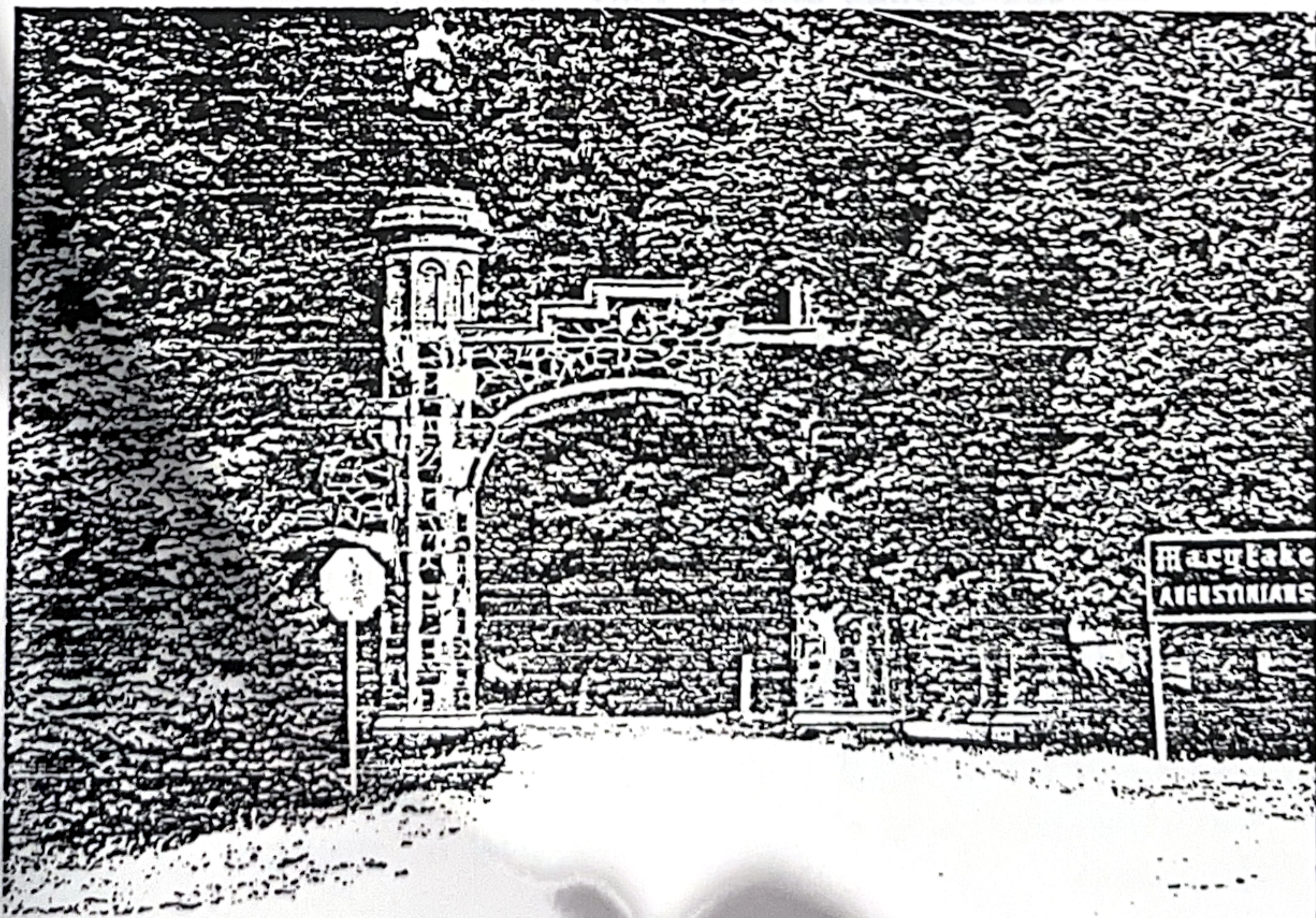
Present Owner: Augustinian Fathers

Trevor Patterson, June 1984

The Casa Loma Castle in Toronto - now a major tourist attraction. The gates, fence and gatehouse of Marylake are similar to Casa Loma in style and construction.

The Basilian order from Toronto bought the property in 1736, forming an agricultural association of lay and clergy, and renaming it Marylake.

The Augustinian order from Toronto then bought the property 1842 for their main retreat house. An impressive



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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The major significance is historical concerning the entrance gates and gatehouse, their relationship to Sir Henry Pellatt's development of this property, and his property in Toronto, which is a Heritage landmark.

The property was assembled and developed into a country estate during the first decade of this century by Henry Pellatt. He is best known for his building of the Casa Loma Castle in Toronto - now a major tourist attraction. The gates, fence and gatehouse of Marylake are similar to Casa Loma in style and construction.

The Basilian order from Toronto bought the property in 1936, forming an agricultural association of lay and clergy, and renaming it Marylake.

The Augustian order from Toronto then bought the property 1942 for their main retreat house. An impressive spiralling tower built in 1964 is the centre for their Marylake Shrine.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This significance is not major, and concerns the gates, fence and exterior only of the gatehouse.

They are similar in style and construction to the Casa Loma Castle in Toronto. Designed by E.J. Lennox, based loosely on Norman and Scottish castle architecture, they are built of finely cut stone trim with fieldstone infill.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of these three items - the gatehouse, the gates, and attached fences are all of similar architecture, and primarily of historical interest.

They relate to Sir Henry Mill Pellatt, C.V.O., D.C.L., V.D., (1859-1939). well known for his property in Toronto - the Casa Loma Castle - the subject of many books and articles, and a major tourist attraction.

Early in the century, Sir Henry became interested in a country estate, and so began purchasing land in King Township, just north of King City. By 1911 he had acquired approximately 1000 acres at the northwest corner of Concession 4 (Keele Street) and the 15th Sideroad. Included in this property was a beautifully clear 40 acre lake. He named his estate "Lake Marie", after his wife Marie. It is rumoured he later sold some of his acreage to Eaton family, now the site of Seneca Colleg's King Campus.

Over a number of years he improved the property, started a farm operation and ordered the construction of the impressive iron and stone gates, the fence and the gatehouse, at the Concession 4 entrance to his estate. These were built in the same style as his Casa Loma Property, and designed by the same architect, E.J. Lennox. The work was probably carried out by the same contractor and even the same stonemasons.

In addition he built or purchased a number of buildings for his estate. One was a main lodge, in the traditional British colonial style, with verandah. Adjacent were two smaller stone buildings, again built on the Casa Loma style. Also he had a log cabin moved from Concession 3, one rumoured to date back to the era of William Lyon Mackenzie.

MARYLAKE - MAJOR STATEMENT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE CONT'D

Lake Marie was an operating farm, complete with cattle and fowl. Evidently not all these operations were successful. One story is that during a period in his financially troubled years he butchered several hundred of his geese for sale from Casa Loma. Possibly due to quality, most were finally disposed of in the castle's furnace or garbage.

Lady Pellatt was head of the Girl Guide movement in Canada, and its first commissioner. Over the years many Girl Guides were visitors to King City. A Toronto newspaper of 1915 featured one of these excursions.

Sir Henry Pellatt early in the century was active in Canada's military life. His is especially remembered for his command of the Queens Own Rifles Regiment of Toronto. His support included financially underwriting a successful visit to England in 1910 of several hundred of the regiment.

On June 27th, 1926, a special event took place at Lake Marie celebrating his fifty years of service with his regiment, of which he was then Major-General. Five hundred of his men paraded in a march past, with visitors from many other regiments and from England.

Unfortunately Sir Henry by 1920 was in trouble financially. In 1924 Casa Loma was left unheated, suffered damage, and in June was auctioned with its contents for taxes.

Lady Pellatt died in 1923. In 1927 Sir Henry married Catharine Merritt and in June they permanently settled in King. However, his financial troubles continued, and he was forced in 1936 to sell Lake Marie, receiving \$95,000.00.

The Basilians of Toronto, a Roman Catholic order, were the purchasers. They formed a new association, agricultural in nature, a rural development and school community of lay and clergy, headed by Reverend M.J. Oliver, C.S.B..

MARYLAKE - MAJOR STATEMENT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE CONT'D

They named their property Marylake.

In 1942 another Catholic order, the Augustinians, purchased the property, retaining the name Marylake. Ever since, they have been simultaneously developing its physical and spiritual values. It is today the main spiritual centre of the Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto and each year thousands of pilgrims, people wanting a retreat, and tourists go there. The prime focus is the Marylake Shrine, an impressive spirallying tower of stained-glass windows, overlooking the 65 foot deep Lake Marie.

The impressive stone gates and gatehouse built by Sir Pellatt are a continual source of interest and appreciation for all who enter the property.

MARYLAKE - MAJOR STATEMENT

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The entrance to "Marylake" at the northwest corner of Concession 3 and the 15th Sideroad in King Township is through impressive iron and stone gates, flanked by low stone fences, with an adjacent two storey gatehouse.

Their significance is primarily historical. Built between 1911 and 1915, they are not of architectural significance - except as related to the Casa Loma Castle in Toronto.

The owner of the property at the time was Sir Henry Pellatt, who was then building his famous Casa Loma. As the architectures are similar, the entrance was no doubt designed by his architect, E.J. Lennox. Also, probably, the work was carried out by the same contractor and workmen, especially the stonemasons.

The gates, fence and gatehouse are a combination of Norman and Scottish Towers plus French baronial style. They are said to resemble Balmoral Castle in Scotland.

Construction is of finely cut stone trim with field-stone infill.

The main double gates of wrought iron are flanked by stone towers some twenty five feet apart, with connecting overhead archway. On each side are pedestrian gates, again of wrought iron, set in stone pillars which are connected to the main towers by stone lintels. Curving out from each pedestrian gate are low stone fences of about fifty feet length with matching stone pillars at ten foot intervals.

The two main iron gates are presently not in place. They are on hand but require repairs. The two smaller pedestrian gates are in place and do show some severe rusting. The stone gates are basically sound although there is much crumbling of mortar. Presently the community has an experienced mason carrying out repairs. The fences are in good shape.

MARYLAKE - MAJOR STATEMENT HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE CONT'D

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MARYLAKE - MAJOR STATEMENT ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE CONT'D

The two storey gatehouse is basically a rectangular plan of about thirty feet by forty feet. Material is similar to the gates - of finely cut stone trim with field-stone infill. It has a very steep gabled roof, of grey slate.

The exterior is in good condition. Modern alterations are aluminum double windows and a wooden screened front porch.

As this request for designation is for the exterior of the gatehouse only, no survey of the interior has been made. Evidently many alterations have been made, although none have altered the exterior (i.e. windows or doors). While the interior is not in good condition there are plans to restore it.