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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER O.18 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS THE JOSEPH SHEPARD HOUSE - DEMPSEY BROTHERS STORE, 250 BEECROFT ROAD (FORMERLY 4804 YONGE STREET) IN THE CITY OF NORTH YORK, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
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TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the City of North York on the 6th day of October, 1997, decided to designate the lands and building known municipally as the Joseph Shepard House - Dempsey Brothers Store, 250 Beecroft Road (formerly 4804 Yonge Street) as a property of architectural and historical interest or significance under The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990 Chapter O.18.

Short Statement of the Reasons for the Proposed Designation:

The restored Joseph Shepard/Dempsey Brothers Store, located at 250 Beecroft Rd. (formerly at 4804 Yonge Street) is recommended for *Designation* on architectural and historical grounds.

Built in 1860, by Joseph Shepard II, the building was constructed as a general store and originally included the Shepard family's residence. In 1866, a post office was added. The post office, and subsequently the immediate surrounding community, was called "*Lansing*". Situated at the crossroads of Yonge St. and Sheppard Ave. the store served as a depot for the coach from Yorkville to Richmond Hill. It then became the milk depot for local farmers and was the main source of all manufactured goods in the vicinity. In 1883, Benjamin R. Brown took over the operation of the store. He purchased it in 1904 and sold it to George and William Dempsey in 1923. From that time, the building operated as the well-known Dempsey Brothers Hardware store and was owned by a member of the Dempsey family until the late 1980s.

Architecturally, the Dempsey Store is a unique example of a rural mid-19th century building constructed in the Georgian Survival style with NeoClassical influences. The Store measures 2-1/2 storeys in height with a slightly off-centred, 4-ranked, front facade at the upper storey level. The high pitched gabled roof features compounded wooden eaves, fascia boards and cornice returns at the sides.

The original sash windows at the upper storey have six-over-six muntin arrangements. The attic windows at the gable-ends have three-over-one muntin arrangements on the south side and one-over-one on the north. The upper storey windows on the front elevation feature segmentally-arched heads, while those on the south, west, and north sides feature jack-arched (flat) lintels. Most windows have stone sills.

The window configuration of the ground floor has been reconstructed to reflect the building's original storefront appearance. Also rebuilt on this facade, is the separate ground floor entrance denoting the original residential component of the store. A six-over-six window with segmentally-arched head has also been reinstated to the right of this entrance.

The verandah covering the storefront is a reconstructed, last quarter of the 19th century addition to the Store. The verandah consists of chamfered posts and elaborate fret-work at each consecutive bay. A wooden sign-band above the verandah also spans the entire east-front and a section of the south elevation of the building. Dichromatic brickwork is also featured on the building and is found on the quoined corners, below the eave area and gable-ends.

On the interior, original elements such as historic trims, baseboards, window casings and door surrounds have been conserved, restored and reintroduced in the display room (former store area) and upper storey areas. The original north stairway constructed from pine has also been conserved. Other important original features include the pine plank floor located in the upper storey area and narrow strip wood flooring in the display room, vestibule and lower stairhall.

Objection to the designation may be served on the City Clerk within thirty days of November 15, 1997.

Dated at North York this 15th day of November, 1997.

D. Kelly
City Clerk