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December 4, 2008



Dear .

Re:

By-law 2008-188- To designate certain properties as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest (Sylvester Tomlinson House - 7943 Ninth Line)

This will advise that Council at its meeting held on September 9, 2008, passed By-law 2008-188, which designated "Sylvester Tomlinson House", 7943 Ninth Line, as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest.

A copy of the by-law, with the pertinent registration data, is attached for your information.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Kitteringham

Town Clerk

C)h

Encl.

cc: The Ontario Heritage Trust

R. Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning

P. Hoffman

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY
"Kimberley Kitteringham" c/s
KIMBERLEY KITTERINGHAM, TOWN CLERK
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM



# BY-LAW 2008-188

A by-law to designate a property as being of Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest Sylvester Tomlinson House

WHEREAS Pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, the council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic and/or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:



and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate Sylvester Tomlinson House, 7943 Ninth Line and has caused such notice of intention to be published once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designations are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

 THAT the following real properties, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law is hereby designated as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest:

Sylvester Tomlinson House 7943 Ninth Line Town of Markham The Regional Municipality of York

THAT the Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law
to be registered against the properties described in Schedule "A" attached
hereto in the property Land Registry Office.

READ A FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2008.

"Kimberley Kitteringham"

"Frank Scarpitti"

KIMBERLEY KITTERINGHAM TOWN CLERK FRANK SCARPITTI MAYOR

### SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2008-188

In the Town of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, property descriptions as follows:

Part of Lot 1, Plan 3542 designated as Part 1 Plan 65R-29421

TOWN OF MARKHAM REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

#### SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2008-188

#### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## **Sylvester Tomlinson House**

West Part, Lot 7, Concession 9 7943 Ninth Line c. 1853

The Sylvester Tomlinson House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance:

**Description of Property** 

The Sylvester Tomlinson House is a one and a half storey frame farmhouse. In 2008 it was relocated to a new lot on Ninth Line in 2008, from its original location further to the east, but still with the historic farm property. The house is located with the Box Grove Secondary Plan area of Markham, and is historically associated with the Box Grove community.

### Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

#### Historical Value

The Sylvester Tomlinson House, constructed circa 1855, has cultural heritage value for its association with the Tomlinson family and the historic community of Box Grove. Sylvester Tomlinson's father Joseph was among the earliest settlers of Markham and was listed in William Berczy's Census of 1803. Joseph Tomlinson's last marriage produced 11 children including Sylvester's brother Alfred, who was credited with constructing a dam on the Rouge River that led to the establishment of a sawmill, a woollen mill, and a shoddy mill. These mills formed the economic nucleus of a community which was originally named Sparta.

The name was changed from Sparta to Box Grove by Sylvester's father Joseph when he applied for a post office in 1867 and found out that another community named Sparta already existed in Ontario. It is thought that Joseph Tomlinson may have chosen the name "Box Grove" after boxwood trees growing in the vicinity. His son, Sylvester, was a farmer and resided on his father's property on Lot 7, Concession 9 as early as 1853. In 1861, the farm was sold to Sylvester Tomlinson for one dollar. He and his wife Sarah (Gohn) Tomlinson raised a family of 6 children on the property, none of whom ever married.

#### Architectural Value

The Sylvester Tomlinson House is a representative example of a modestly-scaled, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Markham Township farmhouse. It possesses the classic simplicity and balance of the vernacular Georgian tradition. This common house form is characteristic of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Ontario and is evocative of a period in the area's history when the settlement period was long over, and Markham's agricultural community was well-established and prospering. Many early homes were replaced or substantially improved during this time. Sylvester TomlinsonAlthough some of the details of the Tomlinson House have been covered over with modern materials, and alterations have been made, the original design intent of the builder and the proportions and form of the house remain faithful to the Georgian architectural tradition.

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### **Contextual Value**

The Sylvester Tomlinson House is of contextual significance for its association with the rural farming community that once surrounded the hamlet of Box Grove. The Sylvester Tomlinson House is one of only two buildings in the area that remain to commemorate this prominent Box Grove family.

### Significant Architectural Attributes

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Sylvester Tomlinson house include:

- the house's simple rectangular form and 1 ½ stoery height;
- the placement, size and shape of door and window openings;
- the trim, transom window, and classical entablature associated with the entrance door;
- the moderately pitched gable roof;
- the 3 bay principal façade;
- the original wooden clapboard siding concealed beneath the modern vinyl siding.