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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

FEB 14 2020

RECEIVED

February 13, 2020

Via Registered Mail

Jim Leonard
Registrar, Ontario Heritage Trust
Heritage Programs and Operation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Jim Leonard:

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate a Property, Ontario Heritage Act

The Council of the City of Markham intends to designate the following property for reasons of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Part IV*:

Bishop-Reesor House
7739 Ninth Line
Markham, ON

Notice of objections will be received **on or before 4:30 p.m. on March 16, 2020** at the following address:

Clerk's Department, City of Markham
Attention: Mary-Jane Courchesne
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON L3R 9W3
Email: mjcour@sympatico.ca

A statement of significance/reasons for the designation is attached.

Yours truly

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

APPENDIX 'A'

Statement of Significance

Bishop-Reesor House

7739 Ninth Line

c.1890

Description of Property

The Bishop-Reesor House is a two storey buff brick dwelling at the south-east corner of Ninth Line and Fourteenth Avenue in the historic hamlet of Box Grove.

Historical and Associative Value

The Bishop-Reesor House has historical and associative value as the former home of James and Capitola Bishop. James Bishop was a member of a family of prominent carpenter-builders active in the eastern part of Markham Township in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. James Bishop built a number of houses as speculative ventures in which he and his wife lived for short periods of time before selling and building anew. This property was sold to James' brother Thomas in 1900, who sold to Josephus and Elizabeth Reesor in 1901. Josephus Reesor, a retired Mennonite farmer who farmed south of Box Grove on Lot 3, Concession 9, was noteworthy in his Box Grove – Cedar Grove community as a skilled herbalist. Some of his remedies were said to have come from aboriginal sources and were passed down through generations of the family. The property remained in the ownership of the Reesor family until 1921.

Design and Physical Value

The Bishop-Reesor House is a representative example of a village dwelling in a vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. Its irregular plan, medium pitched roof with multiple gables, and overall sense of verticality, express the picturesque form of late Gothic Revival architecture, but in this example without some of the decorative elements typically associated with the style. There are no pointed-arched feature windows, and there is an absence of bargeboard trim in the gables. Fretwork details still visible on a portion of the west porch suggest that there may have originally been further wooden embellishments to this many-gabled village dwelling.

Contextual Value

The Bishop-Reesor House is of contextual value as one of several 19th century buildings that are found in the historic crossroads community of Box Grove. Its location at a prominent street corner, where one would expect that a commercial enterprise would have been located rather than a residence is unusual, resulting in a dwelling that is a landmark at the intersection. While

many of the remaining heritage buildings in Box Grove are smaller in scale and are of frame construction, the Bishop-Reesor House is a superior class of dwelling and would have been noteworthy for its quality at the c.1890 time of construction.

Significant Architectural Attributes to be Conserved

Exterior, character-defining elements that embody the cultural heritage value of the Bishop-Reesor House include:

- Irregular plan outline;
- Masonry foundation;
- Buff brick walls with brick plinth and angled arches over door and window openings;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with open, overhanging eaves and steep Gothic Revival gable on the north side;
- Flat-headed one over one sash-style windows;
- Canted bay window on the north side of the house;
- Modified former open porch on the north side of the house, sheltering an entrance door, with a hipped roof and fretwork brackets and spandrels;
- Open, shed-roofed porch on the west side of the house, sheltering an entrance door;
- Gable-roofed frame wing at the south end of the house, clad in vertical tongue and groove wood siding.