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March 7, 2024

[Redacted]

RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, JACOB WISMER HOUSE, 46 TIMBERMILL CRESCENT

To [Redacted]

This will confirm that at a meeting held on February 28, 2024, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

That Council state its intention to designate 46 Timbermill Crescent under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in recognition of its cultural heritage significance

Please find attached the Statement of Significance which summarizes the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and provides a description of the heritage attributes of the property. Notice of objection to the notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention on the City’s website (March 7, 2024). Refer to ‘Ontario Heritage Act Notices’ at the link below. The notice of objection must include the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.

<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home>

Should you have any questions regarding the Statement of Significance or the implications of heritage designation, please contact Evan Manning, Senior Heritage Planner, at emanning@markham.ca

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

C. Ontario Heritage Trust

Attachment: Statement of Significance

Received

MAR 11 2024

Ontario Heritage Trust

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jacob Wismer House

46 Timbermill Crescent
c.1840

The Jacob Wismer House is recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 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 Jacob Wismer House is a two-storey frame dwelling located on Timbermill Crescent but with its historic frontage being on the south side of Sixteenth Avenue in the historic community of Mount Joy. The house faces north.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Jacob Wismer House has design and physical value as a good representative example of a mid-nineteenth century frame Pennsylvania German farmhouse, and a locally rare example of a two-storey building of plank-on-plank construction. It is a vernacular building that generally reflects the simplified Georgian architectural tradition brought to Markham Township by Pennsylvania German families as seen in its rectangular form, restrained detailing, and the disciplined placement of door and window openings.

The difference in the number and placement of window openings on the principal elevation between the ground floor and second floor represents a variation on classic Georgian principles and highlights the vernacular character of the Jacob Wismer House. The underlying structure of the dwelling is of plank-on-plank or sawmill plank construction, a building technology that had its heyday in Southern Ontario during the 1840s as an alternative to post-and-beam construction. Rough-sawn planks were stacked one upon another and nailed together to form solid wood walls. Narrow one-inch-thick planks were laid with a slight offset to allow for the application of exterior stucco and interior plaster. This example is sided in wood clapboard.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Jacob Wismer House has historical value and associative value, representing the locally significant theme of Pennsylvania German Mennonites being attracted to Markham in the early nineteenth century, and for its direct association with Jacob Wismer, a prominent member of the Wismer family of Mount Joy-Quantztown. David and Lydia Wismer came to Markham from Bucks County, Pennsylvania in 1806 and became significant landowners in the area. Two of their sons, Jacob and Asa, settled on Lot 15, Concession 7 in the community of Mount Joy in the mid-1830s. Jacob Wismer was granted the east 100 acres of the property from the Crown in 1842, and constructed a two-storey plank-on-plank farmhouse. His first wife was Elizabeth Wurts, with whom he had eight children. His second wife was Julia Curtis. Jacob Wismer was an active and well-known Reformer in politics, but when he was passed over for a Justice of the Peace appointment by the Baldwin cabinet, he switched his allegiance to the Conservative party.

His lengthy obituary in the July 11, 1895 edition of the *Markham Economist* paints a picture of a much-respected citizen of old Markham who lived to the remarkable age of 94. The property was sold out of the family 1895.

Contextual Value

The Jacob Wismer House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it has stood since c.1840.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Jacob Wismer House are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria, as amended, below:

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design value or physical value as a good representative example of a mid-nineteenth century frame Pennsylvania German farmhouse, and a locally rare example of a two-storey building of plank-on-plank construction:

- Rectangular plan shape;
- Two-storey height;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Wood clapboard siding with corner boards, frieze, and water table;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with eave returns;
- Five-bay configuration of the north (primary) elevation;
- Principal entrance with single-leaf door and wood Classical door surround;
- Flat-headed rectangular window openings with wood trim and projecting lugsills on the north, east, and west walls.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value or associative value representing the locally significant theme of Pennsylvania German Mennonites being attracted to Markham in the early nineteenth century, and for its direct association with Jacob Wismer, a prominent member of the Wismer family of Mount Joy-Quantztown:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Jacob Wismer Pennsylvania German family that historically resided on this property from the 1830s until 1895.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings:

- The location of the building on its original site, with its primary elevation facing Sixteenth Avenue, where it has stood since c.1840.

Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value, or are otherwise not included in the Statement of Significance:

- Modern window units within old window openings;
- Decorative shutters;
- Gable-roofed front porch;
- Modern exterior chimneys;
- Rear dormer-like extension;
- Accessory buildings;

- Rear deck.

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