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March 7, 2024

Trustees of the Netherlands Reform Congregation  
859 Opmar Road  
Oakwood, Ontario  
K0M 1M0

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE  
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, SCHOOL HOUSE SCHOOL SECTION NO. 14, 5650 FOURTEENTH AVENUE**

To whom it may concern:

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 5650 Fourteenth Avenue 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](mailto: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

### School House School Section No. 14

5650 Fourteenth Avenue  
c.1889

Schoolhouse SS No. 14 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**

Schoolhouse SS No. 14 is a one-storey buff brick building located on the north side of Fourteenth Avenue, approximately half way between McCowan Road to the east and Markham Road to the west. The building faces south.

#### **Design Value and Physical Value**

Schoolhouse SS No. 14 has design and physical value as a well-preserved representative example of a late-nineteenth century one-room rural schoolhouse designed in a vernacular expression of the Romanesque Revival style. Its design follows the standard plan that was popular in rural Ontario under the administration of J. George Hodgins from the mid to late nineteenth century when Hodgins served as Deputy Superintendent of Education and later, deputy Minister of Education. Hodgins promoted the building of attractive, durable, and functional schoolhouses of which 5650 Fourteenth Avenue is a fine example. The typical rural school in mid to late nineteenth century Markham had a meeting hall plan with its entrance on the gable end. Most were made of brick and replaced older frame buildings. Many schoolhouses had separate entrances for boys and girls. Schoolhouses had large windows to let in the natural light and to provide good ventilation. The state of preservation of this former schoolhouse is exceptionally good. Other than the addition to the west side of the building, the only significant alteration is the absence of a belfry.

#### **Historical Value and Associative Value**

Schoolhouse SS No. 14 has historical value as it is associated with the delivery of publicly funded education in Markham Township, a critical government service required for community development. A public school operated on this property from the early 1850s to the early 1960s. The earliest documentation of a schoolhouse on this site is on George McPhillip's Map of Markham Township 1853-54. A municipal by-law establishing School Section No. 14 was passed in 1855. This was prior to the formal purchase of the school site on the east half of Lot 6, Concession 7 from landowner William Crosby in 1856. In 1889, the older school on the property was replaced by a new brick schoolhouse in the Romanesque style. Beginning in the mid-1950s, the municipality's initiative to consolidate its numerous school sections through the creation of Township School Areas resulted in the closure of many rural schoolhouses. School Section No. 14 closed in the early 1960s, and in 1963 the Public School Board of Township School Area 2 Markham Township sold the property to the Trustees of the Netherlands Reformed Church. A

complementary addition was made to the west side of the old schoolhouse in 1992 to house a general-purpose hall and ancillary uses.

### **Contextual Value**

Schoolhouse SS No. 14 has contextual value for being physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its site where it has stood since 1889, and for the long-standing use of the site for a public school since at least the early 1850s.

### **Heritage Attributes**

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of Schoolhouse SS No. 14 are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria, as amended, below:

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's design and physical value as a well-preserved representative example of a late-nineteenth century one-room rural schoolhouse designed in a vernacular expression of the Romanesque Revival style:*

- Gable-fronted rectangular plan;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Buff brick walls with buttresses, decorative string courses, "eyebrow" arches over window openings;
- Datestone in the south gable wall;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with projecting, open eaves;
- Brick entrance porch with gable roof and half-round arched opening;
- Single-leaf door opening within the entrance porch;
- Tall, half-round headed single-hung windows with two-over-two panes and projecting lugsills on south, east and west elevations.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical and associative value, as a critical piece of infrastructure for the delivery of publicly-funded education on Markham Township:*

- The building is a tangible reminder of the historical period of use of the property as the site of a public school from the early 1850s to the early 1960s.

*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 where it has stood since 1889.

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

- Addition to the west side of the original schoolhouse building.

Received

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