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December 14, 2023

North Toronto Chinese Baptist Church  
11248 Kennedy Road  
Markham, Ontario  
L6C 1P1

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE  
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, MELVILLE CHURCH, 12248 KENNEDY ROAD**

To whom it may concern:

This will confirm that at a meeting held on December 13, 2023, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

**That Council state its intention to designate 12248 Kennedy Road 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 (January 13, 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

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# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## Melville Church

11248 Kennedy Road  
c.1877

Melville Church 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**

Melville Church is a brick place of worship located on the west side of Kennedy Road, north of the historic crossroads hamlet of Cashel. The building faces east.

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

Melville Church has design and physical value as a locally unique example of late nineteenth century ecclesiastical architecture in the High Victorian Gothic Revival style. It has further design and physical value for the craftsmanship and artistic merit of its highly decorative patterned brickwork consisting of a red brick body with buff brick accents. The blind Gothic arch on the east or front wall above a trio of tall lancet windows is particularly noteworthy for its large, bold design. Melville Church is one of the most picturesque nineteenth century churches in Markham. The main body of the church is rectangular in plan with a distinctive tower and broached spire projecting from the north-east corner of the building. The front face of the tower is flush with the front wall of the main body of the church. The main body of the church is oriented on an east-west axis facing onto Kennedy Road.

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

Melville Church has historical and associative value as it is revealing of Markham's early religious and ethnic mosaic, particularly in connection to a Free Presbyterian Church congregation founded by Scottish and Scots-Irish immigrant families in north-central Markham Township in the 1840s. Significance is also found in its association with the initial movement toward the formation of the United Church in Canada in the early twentieth century. Melville Church has additional historical value for its association with John Anthony, its designer, who was an active local architect and builder based in Markham Village in the late nineteenth century. The nearby crossroads hamlet of Cashel was the site of Markham's first Presbyterian Church, known as St. Helen's. A split in the congregation over church doctrine, called the "Great Disruption" occurred in the mid-1840s, resulting in the founding of a Free Presbyterian Church congregation known as Melville Presbyterian Church. The original frame church, built in 1848, was on a plot of land donated by George Mustard on Markham Township Lot 29, Concession 5. The frame church was replaced by a new brick building in 1877 that was modelled after a Presbyterian Church in Newmarket. In 1902, Melville's congregation organized a conference to discuss amalgamation with the Methodist Church, an important step toward the creation of the United Church of Canada in 1925. Melville United Church closed in 2005 due to declining attendance, and became North Toronto Chinese Baptist Church in 2008.

### **Contextual Value**

Melville Church has contextual value as it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its site, where it has stood since 1877. It is historically linked to the adjoining cemetery and manse, which are now on separate properties but remain visually associated with the church. Melville Church has particular contextual value as a landmark on a rise of land on Kennedy Road north of the historic crossroads hamlet of Cashel.

### **Heritage Attributes**

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of Melville Church 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 locally unique example of late nineteenth century ecclesiastical architecture in the High Victorian Gothic Revival style:*

- Rectangular plan oriented on an east-west axis with a square corner tower;
- Battered fieldstone foundation with traces of false tuckpointing and Tudor-arched casement windows framed in brick;
- Red brick body trimmed with buff brick;
- Pointed arched blind arcade on the lower portion of the front wall;
- Stepped buttresses on the east and west walls;
- Steeply-pitched gable roof with projecting open eaves featuring decoratively-shaped exposed rafter ends;
- Square corner tower with modified original entrance on the front wall featuring a pointed-arched head, vertical tongue and groove wood remnants of the original doors, and inset windows salvaged from a demolished church in the position of the former double-leaf doors;
- Simple lancet windows in the corner tower;
- Broach spire with louvered wood vents, metal roofing, and weathervane;
- Trio of tall, narrow lancet wood windows with patterned glass bordered with narrow panes of coloured glass on front wall;
- Circular vent in the apex of front wall gable;
- Pointed-arched single-hung windows with patterned glass bordered with narrow panes of coloured glass on the north and south walls;
- Rose window in the west gable end wall;

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's design and physical value for the craftsmanship and artistic merit of its highly decorative patterned brickwork:*

- Red brick body trimmed with contrasting buff brick (historically referred to as white brick) used to highlight arches over doors and windows, buttresses, and projecting string courses above the foundation and below the windows;
- Large, blind Gothic arch in the east gable end wall above a trio of lancet windows.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical and associative value, revealing Markham's early religious and ethnic diversity, particularly in connection to a Free Presbyterian Church congregation founded by Scottish and Scots-Irish immigrant families in north-central Markham Township in the 1840s, and for its association with the initial movement toward the formation of the United Church in Canada in the early twentieth century:*

- The building is a tangible reminder of the Free Presbyterian Church congregation that worshipped on this site from 1848 until 1925, and of the United Church congregation that worshipped here from 1925 to 2005.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value as a building that is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings:*

- The location of the building facing east, on the site where it has stood since 1877.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value as a landmark:*

- The prominent location of the building on a rise of land north of the historic crossroads hamlet of Cashel.

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

- Vestibule addition on the north wall;
- One-storey addition on the rear wall;
- Standing seam metal roof.

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