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Notice is Hereby Given that the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Newmarket intends to designate as a property of cultural heritage value and interest the following property in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18:

Property Description: 465 Davis Drive (Davis Leather Company) is situated along the north side of Davis Drive, in proximity to the intersection of Davis Drive and Main Street North in the Town of Newmarket. The subject lands are associated with the former Davis Leather Factory and contains a large red brick chimney which is associated with the original factory.

Legal Description: PART LOTS 96 & 97, CONCESSION 1 EYS, EAST GWILLIMBURY

Publication Date: Nov 1, 2024

Last Date for Objection: Dec 1, 2024

Any notice of objection to this Notice of Intention to Designate, setting out the reason for objection and all relevant facts, must be served upon the Town Clerk within 30 days of the first publication of this notice.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

Historical and Associative Value

465 Davis Drive is associated with E.J. Davis, Oliver E. Tench, and has historic value as an early 20th century tannery and factory, the Davis Leather Factory. The Davis family was originally from Wales and settled in the United States before immigrating to Wentworth County, near Hamilton, Ontario, in 1792. Patriarch, James Davis worked as a tanner, passing on the trade to his children. James' son, Andrew Davis, built a prosperous factory in Kinghorn, Ontario, where he taught his son, E.J. Davis the trade, however, the Kinghorn facility was destroyed by fire in 1903. Through encouragement by Newmarket Town Council, the Davis Leather Company moved its operation to Newmarket. The Davis Leather Company constructed a new large factory in Newmarket in 1904 on the subject property, which was designed by local architect Oliver E. Tench.

Oliver Tench was born in King Township in 1859 and worked predominately in the Town of Newmarket throughout his career. He came to local prominence in 1893, when his design for the Newmarket High School was accepted by the Ministry of Education. He also designed one of the first reinforced concrete industrial buildings for the Davis Leather Company in 1909, which led to other commissions from the company. Oliver Tench was also employed by the Newmarket Public School Board to design new facilities and additions for existing facilities. Oliver Tench design both residential and commercial/industrial works. He retired from the Ontario Association of Architects in 1932 and died in Newmarket in 1941. Under the ownership of E.J. Davis, the prosperity of the Davis Leather factory resulted in expansion of the facilities in 1912, which doubled the business' production capacity. By 1915, the Davis Leather Company employed around 200 men and was the largest producer of calf leather in the British Empire with additional facilities in Quebec and Boston. For more than 50 years, the Davis Leather Company was a mainstay of Newmarket's industrial sector and a driving force in the community. The factory closed in 1962, and remained largely vacant until it was redeveloped in the 1980s.

In addition to his successful management of the Davis Leather Company, owner E.J. Davis also play a significant role in civic matters throughout his lifetime. Prior to moving to Newmarket, E.J. Davis served in politics for 32 years, including as the MPP for his riding between 1888 and 1902, including serving as the Provincial

Secretary in 1896. E.J. Davis retired from politics in 1904, the same year he moved his business and family to Newmarket. E.J. Davis died in 1936, and the management of the factory passed to his sons. Due to his immense financial success, he became a highly respected and prominent local community member and was known for his philanthropist pursuits until his death in 1936. Davis Drive is named after the Davis Leather Company and E.J. Davis.

484-488 Water Street is associated with the historic Village of Newmarket, the Presbyterian Church of Canada, and local architect John T. Stokes.

The lots lines, layout, and built form of the historic village of Newmarket was well established in the mid-19th century and evident in a well-established commercial core found along Main Street and the large presence of residences located along several side streets. The development of the commercial core, social and civic spaces, and surrounding residential streetscapes in the mid-19th century played a significant role in the social and economic development and growth of the Village of Newmarket. It is likely that the brick used in the construction of the church was from the Stickwood Brickyard, which produced both red and yellow/buff coloured bricks during this time period. Local historians indicate that almost all of the brick buildings built in Newmarket between 1860 and 1910 were

Contextual Value

465 Davis Drive has contextual value as a local landmark. The history of the Davis Leather Company is well known and is reflected in the name of the building, "The Tannery". The large brick smoke chimney topped with clocktower, is distinguishable and is a well-known marker in the community.

Additional information, including a full description of the rationale for designation is available upon request from Umar Mahmood, Planner, Committee of Adjustment and Cultural Heritage, Planning Services at (905) 895-5193, extension 2458, or at umahmood@newmarket.ca during regular business hours.

Dated at the Town of Newmarket this 1st day of Nov, 2024

Town Clerk | Town of Newmarket

P.O. Box 328, 395 Mulock Drive, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7