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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: 440-442 Eagle Street (Hill/Beman/Robinson House) is located on the south side of Eagle Street in the Town of Newmarket. The large two-and-a-half storey frame building was built between 1801 and 1804 and moved to its current location in 1855.

Legal Description: PART LOT 22 S/S EAGLE, LOT 23 S/S EAGLE, PLAN 85, NEWMARKET

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:

Physical/ Design Value

440-442 Eagle Street is an early example of a vernacular building and is one of the oldest in Newmarket. The massing of 440-442 Eagle Street follows a simple but large two-and-a-half storey frame structure constructed to a rectangular plan. The large unadorned front gable frame building follows a rectangular plan with simple window openings often found in vernacular expressions.

Historical and Associative Value

440-442 Eagle Street directly associated with the historic Village of Newmarket. 440-442 Eagle Street is one of the first known residence constructed in the village by Joseph Hill around 1801 and later occupied by the Beman-Robinson family.

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 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.

440-442 Eagle Street was built around 1801 by Joseph Hill, a Quaker settler who arrived in Newmarket along with Timothy Rogers and his first wave of settlers from the United States. Along with this residence, Hill also constructed a dam and mill at the foot of Main Street creating the millpond currently known as Fairy Lake. Joseph Hill occupied the property until 1804, when the mill, store, and frame residence were purchased by Elisha Beman. In 1808, Elisha Beman obtained more of Joseph Hill's property, including an illegally operating tannery. Elisha Beman was born in New York in 1795 immigrated to York (Toronto) around 1795. Elisha Beman established himself as the proprietor of a tavern and the Commissioner of Weights and Measures for the town of York, and also served as its Overseer of Highways in 1801 and 1802. In 1802, he married Esther Sayre Robinson, the widow of Christopher Robinson, who had been a member of the Legislative Assembly and the Deputy Surveyor of

Woods and Forests. As a result of this marriage, Elisha Beman became well connected to powerful families with far-reaching political connections. Elisha Beman moved his family to Newmarket in 1803, where he purchase Joseph Hill's mill, store, and house, along with 95 acres of land.

Elisha Beman and his stepsons, Peter Robinson, John Beverly Robinson, and William Robinson operated numerous lucrative businesses in Newmarket. He was known as a shrewd businessman with ties to Ontario's prominent families and was responsible for much of the fledgling village's early growth. Peter Robinson and John Beverly Robinson would go on to play important roles in the early government of Ontario, while William Robinson helped his stepfather with several local commercial ventures. During Beman-Robinsons ownership of the house it served as a place of hospitality for many well known figures such as Dr. John Strachan, Lord Dalhousie, Sir Peregrine Maitland, and Sir John Franklin. Thanks to lucrative contracts with government officials and prominent businessmen, farmers were able to deliver their grain to Beman's mills in Newmarket to be processed instead of having to ship their grain to Toronto, which in turn encouraged business in Newmarket and aided in its early development as Whitchurch Township's mercantile centre. By the time of Elisha Beman's death in 1821, his store had developed into one of the larger trading establishments in the region. After Elisha Beman death the frame residence continued to be occupied by his family until the property was sold to George Cotter in 1837. George Cotter used the sawmill originally constructed by Elisha Beman as an oat mill.

Around 1855, the Beman-Robinson house was relocated to its current location at 440-442 Eagle Street by Capt. Wellington Selby, the son of Colonel Thomas "Squire" Shelby of Sharon, a well regarded military figure who fought at the Battle of Queenston Heights in the War of 1812. At this time the house was converted it into a double-tenant house, however it retained much of its original appearance.

Contextual Value

440-442 Eagle Street is important in supporting the 19th century character of the historic Village of Newmarket. Several residential side streets, including Eagle Street, were established in the village core, near the commercial Main Street. Located off or parallel to Main Street, the buildings along the side streets are comprised of predominantly one to two-and-a-half storey residences, primarily brick construction most using bricks from Stickwood's brickyard, with modest setbacks and include a range of architectural styles from that time period. As one of the earliest buildings in Newmarket, 440-442 Eagle Street exhibits setback and massing which associated with early buildings which help define the early origins of the historic village.

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