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Planning and Urban Design

June 18, 2025

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RECEIVED
2025/06/18
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
JESSE AND EMMA BYER HOUSE, 10388 HIGHWAY 48**

To [REDACTED]

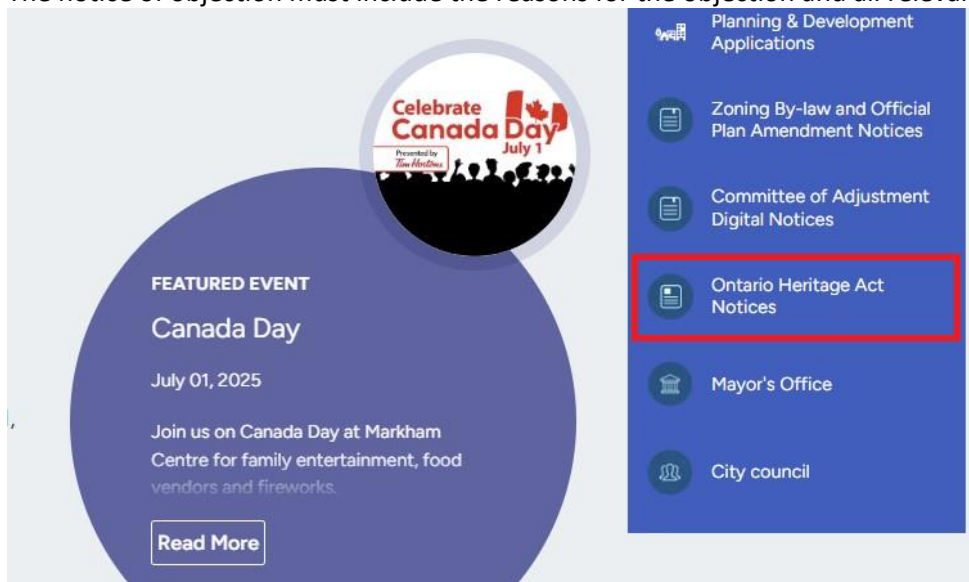
This will confirm that at a meeting held on April 22, 2025, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

That Council state its intention to designate 10388 Highway 48 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 (publication will occur on June 23, 2025).

Click on the 'Ontario Heritage Act Notices' icon on the City's landing page to find your address (<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home>)

The notice of objection must include the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.



City of Markham, Anthony Roman Centre,
101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham, ON L3R 9W3
905.477.5530 | [markham.ca](https://www.markham.ca)





Planning and Urban Design

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jesse and Emma Byer House

10388 Highway 48
c.1915

The Jesse and Emma Byer 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 Jesse and Emma Byer House is a two-storey red brick dwelling located on the west side of Highway 48, south of Little Rouge Creek, in the historic rural community of Milnesville. The house faces east.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Jesse and Emma Byer House has design value and physical value as a representative example of a rural dwelling in the form of an American Foursquare, with Edwardian Classical features. It is typical of the practical, simply detailed houses built on farms and in villages throughout Markham Township in the early twentieth century. Its architectural detailing is characteristic of Edwardian Classicism that was popular from the early 1900s through the 1920s. The house was constructed in the form of an American Foursquare, with a functional, compact shape and a deep front porch with Edwardian Classical details. The red pressed brick cladding, two-storey form and broad hipped roof are representative features of the style however the asymmetrical placement of door and window openings on the ground floor front is unusual for an early twentieth century house of this style.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Jesse and Emma Byer House has associative value for its link to the Byer family, members of the Pennsylvania German community who were early European arrivals to Markham Township, and for its link to the Byer apiary business. The house is located on a portion of the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 23, Concession 7, purchased by Jonas Boyer from York County, Pennsylvania, in 1820. The property became the home of his grandson John Hoover Byer, who was a farmer, sawmill owner, and minister of the Heise Hill Brethren in Christ Church from 1872 to 1892. The Byer family is said to have brought beehives from Pennsylvania when they settled in Markham in 1810-1811. Jesse Lewis Byer, John H. Byer's grandson, carried on the family tradition of honey production. He was a noteworthy innovator in the apiary field and, according to local sources, he developed the first commercial-scale honey production in Canada which was at one time the largest apiary in the country. J. L. Byer and Sons Brookside Apiaries carried on through several generations of the Byer family until operations ceased in 1991. In 1914, Jesse L. Byer purchased two acres of Lot 23, Concession 7, which are believed to have contained an early Byer family dwelling of frame construction. The old house was replaced by a new brick dwelling c.1915 which still stands at 10388 Highway 48.

Contextual Value

The Jesse and Emma Byer House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings as an early twentieth century dwelling within the historic rural community of Milnesville, where it has stood since c.1915, and for being historically linked to the Byer Homestead at 10235 Highway 48, and the former location of the Byer Brothers Brookside Apiaries at 10379 Highway 48.

Heritage Attributes

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

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design value and physical value as a representative example of a brick rural dwelling in the form of an American Foursquare, with Edwardian Classical features:

- Square floor plan and cubic massing;
- Concrete foundation;
- Two-storey height;
- Red brick walls;
- Pyramidal roof with projecting eaves and flat soffits;
- Single-stack brick chimney on the north wall;
- Hip-roofed front veranda supported on full-height wood Tuscan columns with a simple railing with square balusters;
- Box bay window with mansard roof on the south wall;
- Three-bay front wall with off-centre single-leaf door;
- Flat-headed single-hung windows with one-over-one panes, radiating brick arches, and cast concrete lugsills.
- Small rectangular accent window on the south wall.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value for its association with the Byer family, members of the early Pennsylvania German community within Markham Township, and for association with the Byer apiary business:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Byer family's long period of ownership of the property and of Jesse Lewis Byer and his nationally significant apiary business.

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

- The location of the building on its original site, facing east, opposite the site of Byer Brothers Brookside Apiaries, within the historic rural community of Milnesville.

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

- Rear one-storey frame addition;
- Accessory building.