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January 19, 2012

ONTARIO T
JAN 20 2012
RECEIVED

Jim Leonard
Registrar, Ontario Heritage Trust
Heritage Programs and Operation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Jim Leonard,

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate a Property, Ontario Heritage Act

The Council of the Town of Markham intends to designate the following property for reasons of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Part IV:

Beckett Farmhouse
4672 Sixteenth Avenue
Markham, ON

Notice of objections will be received **on or before 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2012** at the following address:

Clerk's Department, Town of Markham
Attention: Judy Carroll
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON L3R 9W3
Fax, 905-905-479-7771

A statement of significance/reasons for the designation is attached.

Yours truly

Kimberley Kitteringham
Town Clerk

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beckett Farmhouse

West Half Lot 16, Concession 6

c.1920

4672 Sixteenth Avenue

The Beckett Farmhouse is recommended for designation under Part IV 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 Beckett Farmhouse is a two and a half storey brick building east of Kennedy Road and north of Sixteenth Avenue, originally designed with its front facing west toward Kennedy Road. It is a former farmhouse located within a residential subdivision known as Upper Unionville under development in 2011, north of the historic village of Unionville.

Design or Physical Value

During the early 20th century period in Markham's history, many older farmhouses were remodelled or replaced with more modern structures as the Township's agricultural community prospered with mixed farming and in particular, dairy production. The Beckett Farmhouse is an excellent example of this trend of farm improvement, and of its early 20th century period of construction. The building incorporates elements of an earlier, one storey brick house on the same foundation, which was constructed in the mid-19th century, giving it additional physical value as an example of an evolved structure.

The Beckett Farmhouse is typical of the spacious, simply-detailed farmhouses built in Markham in the first quarter of the 20th century. Its architectural detailing reflects the Edwardian Classicism that was popular from the 1910s through the 1920s. The house was constructed in the form of an American Foursquare, with a functional, basically cubic shape. The 'rug brick' cladding and two and a half storey form of the house, with a broad pyramidal roof and attic dormers, is representative of up-to-date farm residences that were locally built in the early part of the 20th century.

Historical and Associative Value

The Beckett Farmhouse has historical and associative value as the long-time residence of the Beckett family. Charles Beckett purchased the west half of Lot 16, Concession 6 in 1918. Previously, the family had farmed in Scarborough Township, near present-day Victoria Park and

Eglinton Avenues (the Golden Mile area). The farm passed to Frank E. and Lillian Beckett in 1950, and that same year, the family's land holding were increased with the purchase of the west half of Lot 17, Concession 6 (the historic Philip Eckardt farm). In 1969, the property was granted to William Beckett, and then to Albert, Ernest and Lawrence Beckett. In 2009, after almost a century of ownership by the same family, the Beckett farm was sold for development.

In addition to its association with the Beckett family, the house is of historical and associative value as it incorporates portions of the mid-19th century farmhouse of Frederick Eckardt, son of Philip Eckardt, who received the Crown patent for the land in 1842 and resided on the property for much of the 19th century. Eckardt was a member of a prominent Berczy settler family that is considered one of the most significant founding families of Unionville. Frederick Eckardt is credited with building the adobe brick house at 206 Main St., on Lot 12, Concession 5, in 1829. He sold lots on the east part of his Unionville property that led to the formation of the commercial core of the village. His later house on Lot 16, Concession 6 (thought to form the core of the present dwelling) was a one storey brick house that was noted in the 1851 census.

Contextual Value

The Beckett Farmhouse has contextual value as a farmhouse from Markham's early 20th century period of agricultural maturity. It remains on its original site within an evolving urban landscape, and within this landscape it serves as a reminder of the long period of agricultural use of the land prior to its transformation to the new neighbourhood of Upper Unionville. The Beckett Farmhouse forms part of a grouping of cultural heritage features which also includes the Philip Eckardt Log House and the Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery.

Significant Architectural Attributes

Exterior character-defining elements that embody the cultural heritage value of the Beckett Farmhouse include:

- The form and volume of the brick portion of the house, with its cubic plan, sunroom extension and two and a half storey height;
- Fieldstone and concrete foundation;
- Multi-coloured rug brick walls;
- Pyramidal roof with hip-roofed dormers and single-stack brick chimney;
- Original window openings in a variety of sizes, some with wood, sash-style windows, with radiating brick arches and projecting brick sills;
- Flat-roofed box bay window facing south, and exterior door above;
- Exterior wood doors, including the 4 panelled door providing exterior access to the basement.