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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

OCT 30 2015

RECEIVED

October 29, 2015

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 City 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:

John Eby Reesor House
8402 Steeles Avenue
Markham, ON

Notice of objections will be received **on or before 4:30 p.m. on Monday, November 30, 2015** at the following address:

Clerk's Department, City 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JKitteringham', written over a horizontal line.

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

The Corporation of the City of Markham • Clerk's Department

Anthony Roman Centre, 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Markham, ON L3R 9W3 • Tel: 905.475.4744 • Fax: 905.479.7771 • www.markham.ca

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Eby Reesor House 8402 Steeles Avenue 1853

The John Eby Reesor House 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 John Eby Reesor House is a two storey brick building located on the north side of Steeles Avenue, west of the York-Durham Town Line. The house is set far back from the road within a clump of mature trees and shrubs, in a rural area that is part of the Rouge National Urban Park.

Historical or Associative Value

The John Eby Reesor House is of historical or associative value as the 1853 home of John Eby Reesor (1806-1864), one of the sons of Reesor family patriarch, Peter Reesor, who came to Markham Township from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1804. The Reesors are historically important as the founding family of the community of Cedar Grove, a significant settlement of Pennsylvania German Mennonites in both Markham Township and Ontario. John Eby Reesor was a successful farmer, and contributed to his community by providing land on his farm for an early school and the Old Order Risser/Reesor Mennonite Church and cemetery. He was ordained as a minister in the Mennonite Church in 1836. His descendents owned and farmed this property well into the twentieth century.

Design or Physical Value

The John Eby Reesor House is an excellent representative example of a traditional Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmhouse, complete with a "doddy house" for the older generation of the family, a summer kitchen and a woodshed wing. The overall character of this Old Order Mennonite dwelling is one of simplicity. The four-bay arrangement of door and window openings on the front wall of the main block is a typical, early Pennsylvania German detail. The small, square attic windows of the main block are another typical Pennsylvania German Mennonite element, as is the extension of the roof slope of the kitchen wing to form the veranda roof. The design or physical value of the building is enhanced by its superior degree of architectural integrity.

Contextual Value

The John Eby Reesor House is a significant element in defining the agricultural character of the Cedar Grove community of east Markham. Its traditional Pennsylvania German Mennonite form,

in combination with the nearby Reesor Mennonite Church, driveshed and cemetery at 7070 York-Durham Line, clearly illustrates the influence of the Pennsylvania German Mennonite culture and heritage in this part of the Rouge River watershed. As one of the oldest structures in the community, the John Eby Reesor House has been a fixture on this land for over one and a half centuries.

Significant Architectural Attributes

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the John Eby Reesor House include:

- Overall form of the building, including the main two storey rectangular block, one and a half storey brick “doddy house”, one storey brick kitchen wing, one storey frame summer kitchen and woodshed;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Brick walls of the main building, kitchen wing and “doddy house,” and vertical tongue and groove siding of the frame wings;
- Gable roof with projecting eaves, with eave returns on the main block;
- Hip-roofed front porch, a remnant of a former full-width veranda;
- Verandas formed by the extension of the roof of the kitchen wing and summer kitchen;
- Belfry on the roof peak of the summer kitchen;
- Four panelled wood front door with multi-paned transom light above;
- 6 over 6 wood windows.