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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

JUL 09 2020

RECEIVED

July 8, 2020

Via Registered Mail

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 Amend Designation By-law, Ontario Heritage Act
By-law 211-79**

The Council of the City of Markham intends to amend the designation by-law of the following property by replacing (i) the 'Reasons for Designation' with a new "Statement of Significance" and (ii) the Legal Description of Land in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Part IV, Section 30.1(2) to (10):

Briarwood Farm – James McLean House
4031 Sixteenth Avenue
Markham, ON

Notice of objections will be received **on or before 4:30 p.m. on August 7, 2020**, at the following address:

Clerk's Department, City of Markham
Attention: Mary-Jane Courchesne
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON L3R 9W3
Email: mcourchesne@markham.ca

The Statement of Significance is attached.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JKitteringham'.

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

c. Regan Hutcheson, Manager – Heritage

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Briarwood Farm – James McLean House

1855

4031 Sixteenth Avenue

Briarwood Farm – James McLean 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

Briarwood Farm – James McLean House is a one and a half storey patterned brick farmhouse located on the south side of 16th Avenue, east of Warden Avenue, bounded by a river valley on the west side and late 20th century houses fronting on Normandale Avenue on the east side.

Historical and Associative Value

Briarwood Farm – James McLean House has historical and associative value as the former home of James McLean, a Scottish immigrant that received the Crown patent for Lot 15, Concession 5, a former Clergy Reserve Lot, in 1845. McLean was a tenant on the land prior to becoming the owner. At the time of the 1851 census, James and Flora (McKinnon) McLean resided in a log house. By 1861, the log house had been replaced by a fine brick farmhouse. In 1875, the west half of the farm, including this dwelling, were willed to John Patterson, a labourer who had resided with the family for a considerable time and was married to Flora, the McLeans' daughter. The property is also of significance for its more recent history. In 1945, the farm was purchased by Aubrey Dean Hughes and Dora Evelyn Hughes. The Hughes family named the farm "Briarwood." Dean Hughes wrote about life on this farm north of Unionville in two books, *And So They Bought a Farm* and *Along the Sideroad*. He also used the farm as the basis of a radio show on the CBC that ran for 25 years, titled "The Craigs," and had a column in the Toronto Star.

Design and Physical Value

Briarwood Farm – James McLean House has design and physical value as an excellent example of a mid-19th century farmhouse in patterned brick, with a Georgian Tradition form and Classic Revival details. It is a type of substantial farmhouse that reflects a period of agricultural prosperity in the 1850s when wheat was selling for good prices, enabling many Markham Township farmers the means to replace older log and frame dwellings. This house is exceptional for its excellent state of preservation both on the exterior and interior.

Contextual Value

Briarwood Farm – James McLean House has contextual value as a remnant of the former agricultural community that historically existed to the north of Unionville, now transformed to a suburban community in the City of Markham.

Significant Architectural Attributes to be Conserved

Exterior, character-defining elements that embody the cultural heritage value of Briarwood Farm – James McLean House include:

- One-and-a-half storey main block of the building, and its one storey rear kitchen wing;
- Exterior walls of red brick with buff brick accents in the form of quoining, ground floor door and window arches, and frieze;
- Gable roof with its wood cornice and eave returns;
- Gable-end single-stack brick chimneys with limestone copings;
- Six over six sash-style wood windows with operable louvered wood shutters and projecting window sills;
- Single-leaf front door with a single panel in the Classic Revival style, with multi-paned wood transom and sidelights and wood panels below the sidelights;

Interior, character-defining elements remaining from the 1850s that embody the cultural heritage value of Briarwood Farm – James McLean House include:

- Pine plank floors;
- Staircase with turned newel posts, oval handrail and square pickets;
- Pine, single-panelled front door with rim lock;
- Four panelled pine doors with period hardware;
- Pine baseboards;
- Pine door and window architrave trim, and panelled window aprons;
- Brick fireplace and pine fireplace mantel in the west room
- Brick cooking fireplace, iron crane and wood mantel in the rear wing.