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December 14, 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, THOMAS READ HOUSE, 3056 ELGIN MILLS ROAD EAST**

To [REDACTED]:

This will confirm that at a meeting held on December 13, 2023, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

**That Council state its intention to designate 3056 Elgin Mills Road East 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 (January 13, 2024). Refer to 'Ontario Heritage Act Notices' at the link below. The notice of objection must include the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.

<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home>

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

Received

DEC 18 2023

Ontario Heritage Trust

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Thomas Read House

3056 Elgin Mills Road East
c.1861

The Thomas Read 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 Thomas Read House is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling located on the north side of Elgin Mills Road, west of Thomas Reid Road, in the historic community of Victoria Square. The house faces south.

Design and Physical Value

The Thomas Read House has design and physical value as a representative example of an Ontario Classic farmhouse. The Ontario Classic farmhouse is typology that was popular from the 1860s to the 1890s with many examples constructed on farms and in villages throughout Markham Township. These vernacular dwellings were often decorated with features associated with the picturesque Gothic Revival style, as was the case with the Thomas Read House, with its pointed-arched window in its centre gable. While exhibiting Gothic Revival detailing, the overall character of the Thomas Read House adheres to the Georgian architectural tradition common in the mid-nineteenth century. This includes the one-and-a-half storey scale of the dwelling, symmetrical composition, patterned brick work, medium-pitched roof, and a prominent Classic Revival front doorcase with a transom light and sidelights.

Historical and Associative Value

The Thomas Read House has historical and associative value as the former residence of two generations of the Read family, a leading family of English origin after which the historic crossroads community of Read's Corners was named. The community was known as Read's Corners until 1854 when a post office was established under the name "Victoria Square". From as early as 1834, Thomas and Ann Read were associated with the western half of Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 4. Initially a tenant, Thomas Read formally purchased the land from Benjamin Thorne and other investors in 1846. By the mid-nineteenth century, Read owned four 100-acre farms in Markham Township. A fine brick dwelling was erected on the portion of the Read farm closest to the hamlet c.1861. The widowed Ann Read lived here until her death in the mid-1880s. The property was willed to her grandson, Thomas Read, who lived here with his wife Sarah until 1940 when the property was sold out of the family. Former Markham mayor Anthony "Tony" Roman was a notable later owner.

Contextual Value

The Thomas Read House has contextual value as one of a number of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that are important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character and extent of the historic hamlet of Victoria Square. The Thomas Read House has stood on this property since c.1861. A nearby street called Thomas Reid Road was named for Thomas Read.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Thomas Read 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 an Ontario Classic farmhouse:

- The rectangular plan of the main (historic) block of the dwelling;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Brick walls with variegated local brick including traces of buff or white brick quoining and splayed arches over door and window openings;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with overhanging eaves and a centre gable on the south elevation;
- Front doorcase with single-leaf door, flat-headed transom light, and sidelights with paneled aprons;
- Existing flat-headed window openings on the east, west and south elevations with splayed arches and lugsills.
- Pointed-arched window in the front gable.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value and associative value as the former residence of two generations of the Read family:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of two generations of the Read family that historically resided here.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value as a building that helps define the character and extent of the historic hamlet of Victoria Square:

- The location of the building facing south, west of Thomas Reid Road, within the historic hamlet of Victoria Square.

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

- Modern windows within old window openings;
- Non-functional window shutters;
- Wrap-around veranda;
- Attached garage;
- Rear addition.

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