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November 20, 2023

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

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE  
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, ARTHUR AND SARAH SPOFFORD HOUSE, 11520 KENNEDY ROAD**

To [REDACTED]:

This will confirm that at a meeting held on November 15, 2023, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

**That Council state its intention to designate 11520 Kennedy Road 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 (November 21). 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](mailto:emanning@markham.ca)

Kimberley Kitteringham  
City Clerk

C. Ontario Heritage Trust

Attachment: Statement of Significance

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Arthur and Sarah Spofford House

11520 Kennedy Road  
c.1880

The Arthur and Sarah Spofford 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 Arthur and Sarah Spofford House is a one-and-a-half storey stucco-clad dwelling located at the north-west corner of Kennedy Road and Nineteenth Avenue, east of the historic hamlet of Almira. The house faces eastwards.

#### **Design Value and Physical Value**

The Arthur and Sarah Spofford House has design value and physical value as a locally rare example of a late nineteenth century Gothic Revival farmhouse with a cruciform plan. Its picturesque roofline with multiple gables ornamented with curvilinear bargeboards, and its prominent, two-storey canted bay windows with iron cresting make it a locally excellent example of its architectural style. The Gothic Revival style was popular in Ontario from the 1860s to the 1880s and was suited to the design of dwellings at a variety of scales.

#### **Historical Value and Associative Value**

The Arthur and Sarah Spofford House has historical value and associative value, representing the locally-significant theme of immigration, particularly the significant wave of British families who arrived in Markham Township from 1830 onwards. William and Harriet Spofford were English immigrants who came to Markham from Yorkshire sometime between 1833 and 1837. William Spofford was a farmer and lumber dealer that became a prominent property owner in the vicinity of Almira. Arthur Spofford, the youngest son of William and Harriet Spofford, purchased the family homestead in 1872. In approximately 1880, he constructed a new brick farmhouse in the Gothic Revival style. In this way, the property is indicative of the nineteenth century trend whereby farmsteads were improved as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase. The property remained in the ownership of the Spofford family until 1933.

#### **Contextual Value**

The Arthur and Sarah Spofford House has contextual value as it is physically, visually, and functionally linked to its surroundings where it has stood since c.1880. The property is also historically linked to its surroundings where it helps make legible the agricultural character of the former Markham Township.

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### Heritage Attributes

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

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's design value or physical value as a locally rare example of a late nineteenth century Gothic Revival farmhouse:*

- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Cruciform plan;
- Brick masonry underlying the existing stucco cladding;
- Segmentally-headed window openings with projecting lugsills;
- Two-storey canted bay windows on the south and east gable end walls with their decorative cast iron cresting;
- Medium-pitched, cross-gabled roof with projecting, overhanging eaves and curvilinear bargeboards;
- Steeply-pitched gabled wall dormers with projecting, overhanging eaves, curvilinear bargeboards, and pointed-arched windows.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value or associative value, representing the locally significant theme of immigration, particularly the waves of British families who arrived in Markham Township from 1830 onwards, and the nineteenth century trend whereby farmsteads were improved as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase:*

- The dwelling dating from c.1880 is a tangible reminder of the English Spofford family of successful farmers that historically resided on this property from the mid-1830s until 1933.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value as a nineteenth century agricultural remnant and landmark nearby to the historic community of Almira-:*

- The location and orientation of the building facing east, at the north-west corner of Kennedy Road and Nineteenth Avenue.

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

- Enclosed front porches;
- Chimneys;
- Modern windows and doors;
- One-storey rear wing;
- Rear sunroom and deck;
- Barn and other accessory buildings.