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May 31, 2024

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

RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, BROWNSBERGER-HAM HOUSE, 6666 MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE EAST

To [REDACTED]

This will confirm that at a meeting held on May 29, 2024, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

That Council state its intention to designate 6666 Major Mackenzie Drive 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 (May 31, 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
JUN 04 2024
Ontario Heritage Trust

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Brownsberger-Ham House

6666 Major Mackenzie Drive East
c.1906

The Brownsberger-Ham 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 Brownsberger-Ham House is a two-storey red brick farmhouse located on the north side of Major Mackenzie Drive East, north of the Greensborough Community, and east of Little Rouge Creek. The house faces south.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Brownsberger-Ham House has design and physical value as a representative example of an early twentieth century vernacular farmhouse in that includes elements of the highly eclectic Queen Anne Revival style of the late Victorian period as well as an L-shaped plan associated with the Gothic Revival style. The form of the house suggests that it may have once had decorative woodwork in the gables and on the porch. The absence of this woodwork has created a vernacular dwelling that is restrained in its design and difficult to place within a single stylistic category. That is, however, occasionally the nature of vernacular architecture.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Brownsberger-Ham House has historical and associative value as it represents the maturation of Markham's agricultural community as it transitioned from the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century and old farmsteads were updated with new buildings. The property also has historical value for its association with the Brownsberger and Ham farming families, Gideon Brownsberger being the builder of the house, and the Lewis Ham and his descendants long-time second owners. It has further historical value its association with the Ninth Line Wesleyan Methodist Church as the brick used in the construction of the house was salvaged from the church in 1906. The eastern 60 acres of Markham Township Lot 21, Concession 8 were purchased in 1896 by Gideon Brownsberger, a member of a Pennsylvania German family that settled in Ringwood, Whitchurch Township, in 1826. He built a new farmhouse in 1906 to replace an older frame dwelling on the property and built a new gambrel-roofed barn in the early twentieth century. In 1922, the farm was purchased by Lewis Ham and remains in the ownership of his descendants as of 2024.

Contextual Value

The Brownsberger-Ham House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it has stood and functioned as a farmhouse since 1906. In this capacity it helps make legible the once dominant agricultural character of Markham.

Heritage Attributes

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

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design and physical value as a representative example of an early twentieth century vernacular farmhouse in that displays elements of both the highly eclectic Queen Anne Revival style and the Gothic Revival style:

- L-plan;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Red-orange brick walls with radiating brick arches over door and window openings;
- Two-storey height;
- Cross-gabled roof with gable-roofed wall dormer and single-stack brick chimney;
- Single-leaf, flat-headed front door opening and hip-roofed open porch;
- Large plate glass fixed wood windows with rectangular transom lights containing red tinted glass on the front projecting bay;
- Flat-headed, rectangular two-over-two single hung wood windows;
- Narrow, flat-headed rectangular window on second storey positioned over the front door.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value and associative value, representing the maturation of Markham's agricultural community as it transitioned from the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century and old farmsteads were updated with new buildings, and for its association with the Brownsberger and Ham farming families. Further historical value is derived from its association with the Ninth Line Wesleyan Methodist Church where the brick used in the construction of the house was salvaged in 1906:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Brownsberger and Ham farming families, and its brick an historical remnant of the demolished Ninth Line Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings:

- The location of the building on its original site, facing south, where it has stood since 1906, helping make legible the most dominant agricultural character of Markham

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

- Metal posts supporting front porch;
- Rear wing;
- Accessory farm buildings.