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May 8, 2024

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RECEIVED
2024/05/13
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, RUSSELL AND ALMA FORSTER HOUSE, 7842 HIGHWAY 7 EAST

To [REDACTED]

This will confirm that at a meeting held on May 1, 2024, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

That Council state its intention to designate 7842 Highway 7 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 8, 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Russell and Alma Forster House

7842 Highway 7 East
c.1933

The Russell and Alma Forster 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 Russell and Alma Forster House is a one-and-a-half story brick house located on the north side of Highway 7 East, in the historic community of Locust Hill. The house faces south.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Russell and Alma Forster House has design value and physical value as a representative example of a village dwelling in the Dutch Colonial Revival Style with Arts and Crafts details. The gambrel roof places this 1930s dwelling into the stylistic category of Dutch Colonial Revival. It is one of the few examples of this style in Markham. The Dutch Colonial Revival style was one of several revivalist architectural styles that were popular in the early twentieth century. This revivalist style was not based on the design of traditional dwellings in Holland, but rather from colonial houses in the New England states where the gambrel roof was used by some English and Dutch colonists. The grouped windows, textured brick, and cutaway porch reflects an Arts and Crafts aesthetic, rather than the more commonly used Colonial Revival features seen in other examples of Dutch Colonial Revival.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Russell and Alma Forster House has historical value for its association with the early twentieth century development of the hamlet of Locust Hill, and specifically the creation of retirement properties for former local farmers as the former residence of Herbert Russell Forster and Alma (Yeo) Forster. Russell Forster was a farmer, township assessor, and carpenter. He farmed the Forster family homestead on Lot 13, Concession 9, and married Alma Yeo of Goderich, Ontario in 1900. In 1933, the farm was sold and Russell and Alma Forster moved into the hamlet of Locust Hill where they built a modest, one-and-a-half storey brick house in the Dutch Colonial style on a building lot purchased from Maude (Reesor) Millard in 1933. The Forster family were the owners until 1948.

Contextual Value

The Russell and Alma Forster House has contextual value for being important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the area as one of a number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that constitute the historic hamlet of Locust Hill. Locust Hill's Post Office has been housed at 7842 Highway 7 for a number of years after being relocated from the Locust Hill General Store that formerly stood across the road.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Russell and Alma Forster 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 a village dwelling in the Dutch Colonial Revival Style with Arts and Crafts details:

- Rectangular plan;
- Concrete foundation;
- Red brick walls with segmental brick arches above door and window openings;
- Gambrel roof with shed-roofed dormers;
- Single-stack brick chimney;
- Cutaway porch with brick railings and brick column;
- Single-leaf doors;
- Existing window openings containing flat-headed, 1/1 single-hung windows.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value for its association with the early twentieth century development of the hamlet of Locust Hill, and specifically the creation of retirement properties for former local farmers as the former residence of Russell and Alma Forster:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the early twentieth century development of the hamlet of Locust Hill and of the Russell and Alma Forster family that historically resided here and were the original owners of this house.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value as a building that is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character and extent of the historic hamlet of Locust Hill:

- The location of the building on its original site, facing south, within the historic hamlet of Locust Hill.

Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value or are otherwise excluded from the Statement of Significance:

- Detached accessory building.