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April 9, 2024

[REDACTED]

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, ABRAHAM AND VERONICA LEHMAN HOUSE, 11287 MCCOWAN ROAD**

To whom it may concern:

This will confirm that at a meeting held on April 3, 2024, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

**That Council state its intention to designate 11287 McCowan 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 (April 9, 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](mailto:emanning@markham.ca)

Kimberley Kitteringham  
City Clerk

C. Ontario Heritage Trust

Attachment: Statement of Significance

Received

APR 11 2024

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Abraham and Veronica Lehman House

11287 McCowan Road  
c.1854

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman 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 Abraham and Veronica Lehman House is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling located on the west side of McCowan Road, south of Nineteenth Avenue. The house faces south.

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

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman House has design and physical value as a representative example of a vernacular Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmhouse from the mid-nineteenth century. It is a modestly scaled and detailed dwelling. Its rectangular plan, medium-pitched gable roof with eave returns and six-over-six windows generally reflect the long-standing influence of the Georgian architectural tradition upon the design of vernacular dwellings in this area, but the informal asymmetry of its primary (south) elevation stands in sharp contrast to the balance and formality typical of Georgian architecture. The reason for the unconventional placement of openings on the primary elevation likely relates to the internal arrangement of rooms rather than a regard for exterior appearances. It is also a strong indicator of an old building having an influence over the nature of later alterations if the plank house of c.1846 exists behind the brick veneer.

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

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman House has historical value for its association with the locally significant Pennsylvania German Mennonite farming community who formed one of the early European communities in Markham Township, and for its association with the Lehman family who owned the property from 1815 until 1874. The Lehman family were Swiss-German Mennonites who came to America in 1737. A branch of the family from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania came to Markham in 1807. Abraham Lehman II and Susannah (Grove) Lehman settled on the western half of Markham Township Lot 29, Concession 7 in 1815 and lived in a two-storey log house. By the mid-nineteenth century, one of their sons, Abraham Lehman III, established a separate household on the family farm. He and his wife Veronica (Barkey) Lehman initially lived in a one-storey plank house. By 1861, their home was described as brick and one-and-a-half storeys in height. The existing dwelling on the property, constructed c.1854, may incorporate the earlier plank house that was the first home of Abraham and Veronica Lehman.

#### **Contextual Value**

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman House has contextual value for being physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its site where it has stood since c.1854. It is one

of a series of nineteenth century farmhouses on the east side of McCowan Road between Major Mackenzie Drive and Nineteenth Avenue that make legible the agricultural history of the north central part of Markham.

### Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Abraham and Veronica Lehman 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 a vernacular Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmhouse from the mid-nineteenth century:*

- Rectangular plan of the one-and-a-half storey main block;
- One-storey rear wing;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Red brick walls;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with wood cornice and eave returns;
- Three-bay composition of the primary (south) elevation;
- Single-leaf door offset on the primary elevation;
- Flat-headed, rectangular, single-hung windows with six-over-six panes and projecting lugsills;
- Shed-roofed back porch supported on slender wood posts.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value for its association with the locally significant Pennsylvania German Mennonite farming community, and for its association with the Lehman family who owned the property from 1815 until 1874:*

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Abraham and Veronica Lehman Pennsylvania-German Mennonite family that historically resided here.

*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 facing south, where it has stood since c.1854,

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

- Gable-roofed dormers;
- Skylights;
- Exterior chimney on west wall;
- Patio door on east wall of rear wing;
- Barn and other accessory buildings.

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