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March 7, 2024

Trustees of Peaches United Church  
40 William Street  
Stouffville, Ontario  
L4A 1B9

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE  
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, PEACH'S UNITED CHURCH, 10762 MCCOWAN ROAD**

To whom it may concern:

This will confirm that at a meeting held on February 28, 2024, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

**That Council state its intention to designate 10762 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 (March 7, 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

MAR 11 2024

Ontario Heritage Trust

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Peach's United Church

10762 McCowan Road  
c.1863; Remodelled c.1890

Peach's United Church 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**

Peach's United Church is a red brick place of worship located on the north-west corner of Elgin Mills Road East and McCowan Road, opposite the Markham Fairgrounds. The building faces east.

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

Peach's United Church has design and physical value as a late representative example of a rural chapel in the vernacular Early Gothic Revival architectural style. The original frame chapel of 1863 was remodelled into its current form in 1890 to include elements of the Gothic Revival style including a steeper roof and pointed-arched windows. The only hint of the Classic Revival style of the building when first constructed is its, symmetrical form. Peach's United Church is a vernacular building that is a late and restrained expression of the Gothic Revival style which contrasts with the High Victorian Gothic Revival architecture seen on larger Markham churches of the late nineteenth century such as Victoria Square United Church. The beauty of this church lies in its stark simplicity, crisp Gothic Revival windows, and rural setting.

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

Peach's United Church, founded in 1847 as a Primitive Methodist church, has historical value as it is representative of the early diversity of Christianity within Markham Township. The congregation first met in a local schoolhouse. In 1863, the schoolhouse was relocated to the south-east corner of Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 6 on a site donated by Thomas Peach, a lay preacher in the congregation. The school building was converted to a white clapboard church with a tower and half-round arched windows. In 1884, Peach's became part of the Methodist Church in Canada with the union of the several Methodist denominations. In 1890, the original clapboarded church was remodeled into its current form through the removal of the tower, steepening of the roof pitch, and the addition of brick veneer cladding. Peach's became part of the United Church of Canada in 1925. It closed for regular services in 1955, but a memorial service is still held there once every year.

#### **Contextual Value**

Peach's United Church, located to the east of the historic crossroads hamlet of Cashel, has contextual value for being physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its site, where it has stood since 1863. It has further contextual value for being historically linked to the

John Peach House at 5060 Elgin Mills Road East, and as a landmark at the north-west corner of Elgin Mills Road East and McCowan Road.

### **Heritage Attributes**

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of Peach's United Church 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 late representative example of a rural chapel in the vernacular Early Gothic Revival architectural style:*

- Rectangular, gable-fronted plan;
- One storey height;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Red brick masonry walls;
- Datestone in front gable;
- Memorial tablets on south elevation commemorating veterans of the First and Second World Wars;
- Steep gable roof with projecting open eaves and corbelled brick chimney;
- Gable-roofed brick entrance porch with double-leaf wood doors, blind pointed arch clad in angled, narrow tongue and groove wood, and pointed arched wood windows on the side elevations;
- Three pointed-arched windows on the north and south elevations of the building with wood windows containing large panes of glass with a border of multi-coloured narrow glazing, and projecting lugsills;
- Gable-roofed frame shed centred on the rear elevation, with plank doors on the north and south elevations, and a four-light window on the west elevation.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value and associative value, representing the religious diversity of Christian worship within Markham Township:*

- The church is an enduring legacy of Peach's Primitive Methodist and United Church congregation that began in 1847 and endured until 1955.

*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, where it has stood since 1863.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value as a landmark:*

- The location of the building at the north-west corner of Elgin Mills Road East and McCowan Road.

*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 roof cladding;
- Cemetery.