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RECEIVED  
2024/03/15  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

Planning and Urban Design Department

February 8, 2024

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

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE  
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, JOHN AND ELIZABETH HILTS HOUSE, 10756 VICTORIA SQUARE BLVD**

To [REDACTED]

This will confirm that at a meeting held on January 31, 2024, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

**That Council state its intention to designate 10756 Victoria Square Blvd 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 (February 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](mailto:emanning@markham.ca)

Kimberley Kitteringham  
City Clerk

C. Ontario Heritage Trust

Attachment: Statement of Significance

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### John and Elizabeth Hilts House

10756 Victoria Square Blvd.  
c.1890

The John and Elizabeth Hilts 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 John and Elizabeth Hilts House is a one-and-a-half storey red brick dwelling located on the west side of Victoria Square Boulevard within the historic community of Victoria Square. The house faces east.

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

The John and Elizabeth Hilts House has design and physical value as representative example of a vernacular village dwelling in a late rendition of the Georgian architectural style. It is a vernacular building without ornament designed to meet the modest needs of a labourer, tradesman, or retired farmer. The symmetrical plan and formal design follows the Georgian architectural tradition that continued to influence vernacular architecture in Ontario long after the historic Georgian period ended in 1830. This is a late example of its type with a tall wall height and a medium-pitched gable roof without eave returns. The use of two-over-two and one-over-one glazing patterns is typical for the late nineteenth century period of construction.

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

The John and Elizabeth Hilts House has historical value as it makes legible the early development of the hamlet of Victoria Square, specifically the creation of retirement properties in village settings for retired local farmers. The property also has associative value for its connection to the locally-significant Pennsylvania German Tunkard community within Markham Township. This was the former residence of John and Elizabeth Hilts, retired farmers that were part of the Pennsylvania German Tunkard community of north-west Markham Township. John Hilts Jr. purchased Lot 3, Plan 404 from Christopher Heise in 1892. There may have already been a dwelling on the property built for income purposes by Christopher Heise. The MPAC date of construction is 1890, but the building could be earlier than that. The house is located within a small plan of subdivision created in 1875 on the south-eastern corner of the Heisey farm. Christopher Heise contributed to the development of Victoria Square by severing building lots from his farm that led to the construction of a series of businesses, a temperance hall, and village residences. Prior to moving to Victoria Square, John and Elizabeth Hilts farmed the north-west quarter of Markham Township Lot 27, Concession 3. Their home in Victoria Square was sold out of the family in 1939.

### **Contextual Value**

The John and Elizabeth Hilts House has contextual value as one of a number of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings are important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character and extent of the historic hamlet of Victoria Square.

### **Heritage Attributes**

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the John and Elizabeth Hilts 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 village dwelling in a late rendition of the Georgian architectural tradition:*

- Rectangular plan of the main block;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Red-orange brick veneer with splayed arches over door and window openings and a plinth course.
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with open, overhanging eaves;
- Single-leaf front door;
- Flat-headed, two-over-two single-hung windows on the ground floor with lugsills;
- Flat-headed, one-over-one single-hung windows on the second floor with lugsills.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value, providing insight into the early development of the hamlet of Victoria Square, specifically the creation of retirement properties for former local farmers, and its associative value for its connection to the locally-significant Pennsylvania German Tunkard community in Markham Township:*

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the John and Elizabeth Hilts family that historically resided here.

*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 Victoria Square:*

- The location of the building facing east, within the historic hamlet of Victoria Square.

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

- One-storey frame rear addition;
- Frame garage.