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Planning and Urban Design

June 18, 2025

1000347346 Ontario Inc.
10537 McCowan Road
Markham, Ontario
L3P 3J3

RECEIVED
2025/06/18
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
JOSEPH AND MARY STECKLEY HOUSES, 10535 & 10537 MCCOWAN ROAD**

To whom it may concern:

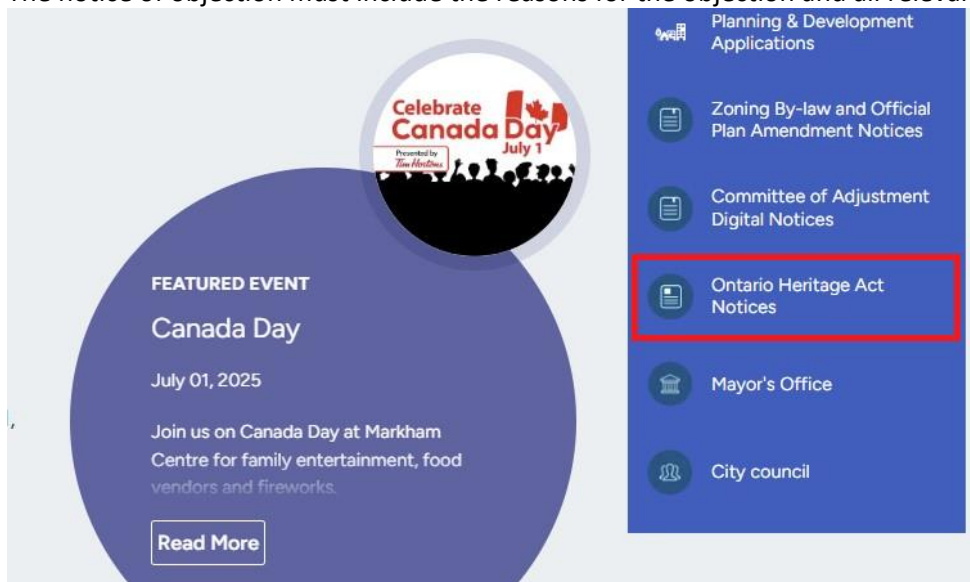
This will confirm that at a meeting held on April 22, 2025, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

That Council state its intention to designate 10535 & 10537 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 (publication will occur on June 23, 2025).

Click on the 'Ontario Heritage Act Notices' icon on the City's landing page to find your address (<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home>)

The notice of objection must include the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.



City of Markham, Anthony Roman Centre,
101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham, ON L3R 9W3
905.477.5530 | [markham.ca](https://www.markham.ca)





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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

Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses

10535 and 10537 McCowan Road

Stone House c.1850 and Brick House c.1855

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses are recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for their cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance.

Description of Property

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses consist of a one-and-a-half storey stone dwelling and a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling, respectively, located on the east side of McCowan Road, south of Elgin Mills Road East. The houses are adjacent to one another on the same property and face south.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses have design value and physical value as a locally rare example of two separate Pennsylvania German multi-generational dwellings on the same property, and as representative examples of mid-nineteenth century farmhouses in the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition. In Pennsylvania German culture, when a farmer decided to retire and pass the operation of the family farm to one of his sons, it was common practice to construct a self-contained secondary dwelling unit, or “doddy house”, as part of the main farmhouse, or as an addition to it, for the use of the parent(s). In the case of the Steckley family, a separate dwelling was constructed next to the main farmhouse for the use of Joseph and Mary Steckley when the operation of the farm passed to their son, John Steckley. Both the stone farmhouse c.1850 and the brick farmhouse c.1855 are vernacular examples of the Georgian architectural tradition. They are restrained in design, with a sense of symmetry and formality that reflected the conservative approach to vernacular architecture in Ontario long after the Georgian period ended in 1830.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses have historical value for their association with a community of early importance within early nineteenth century Markham Township, specifically Pennsylvania German Tunkers. This community was distinct from the Pennsylvania German Mennonites who settled the area during the same period. These houses are noteworthy examples of the cultural practice of Pennsylvania German families to provide multi-generational housing on their farms. Joseph Steckley was born in the Short Hills/Fonthill area of the Niagara region. His family was of Pennsylvania German origin. They were members of the Tunker Church, an Anabaptist sect related doctrinally and historically to the Mennonites that later became known as the Brethren in Christ. Joseph Steckley purchased the western 100 acres of Markham Township Lot 24, Concession 7 in 1832. His wife, Mary, was born in Pennsylvania. About 1850, the family was well-established on the farm and constructed a farmhouse of fieldstone construction to

replace their earlier log dwelling. After the marriage of their son John Steckley to Mary Smith in 1855, Joseph and Mary Steckley built a modest brick house for their retirement rather than constructing a “doddy house” addition to their home (this was the most common multi-generational housing arrangement among the Pennsylvania Germans in Markham Township). The stone farmhouse became the home of John and Mary Steckley. The farm remained in the ownership of the Steckley family until 1902.

Contextual Value

The Joseph and Mary Steckley Houses are of contextual value for being physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to their surroundings where they have stood since the mid-nineteenth century. They are two of several important mid-nineteenth century farmhouses on the stretch of McCowan Road between Major Mackenzie Drive East and Elgin Mills Road East. Together these farm residences are an indication of the prosperity of Markham’s agricultural community in the mid-nineteenth century.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the John and Mary Steckley Houses are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended, criteria below:

Heritage attributes that convey the property’s design value and physical value as a locally rare example of two separate Pennsylvania German multi-generational dwellings on the same property, and as representative examples of mid-nineteenth century farmhouses in the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition:

Stone House

- Rectangular plan;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with projecting eaves;
- Heavy red brick chimney at the east gable end;
- Three-bay primary (south) elevation with principal entrance consisting of a single-leaf door with flat-headed transom and sidelights;
- Flat-headed rectangular window openings with projecting lugsills and radiating red brick arches and quoin-like margins;
- Two-over-two paned windows on gable end walls.

Brick House

- Rectangular plan;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Masonry foundation;
- Red brick walls;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with projecting boxed eaves and eave returns;
- Heavy red brick chimney at the west gable end;
- Three-bay primary (south) elevation with a centrally-placed principal entrance;

- Flat-headed rectangular window openings with radiating brick arches and projecting lugsills;
- Gable-roofed brick exterior cellar entrance.
-

Heritage attributes that convey the property's high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit:

Stone House

- Multi-coloured coursed, split fieldstone walls.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value for its association with a community of early importance within early nineteenth century Markham Township, specifically Pennsylvania German Tunkers. These houses are noteworthy examples of the practice of Pennsylvania German families to provide multi-generational housing on their farms:

- The stone and brick dwellings are tangible reminders of the Pennsylvania German Tunker Steckley family who owned the property from 1832 to 1902 and are an expression of the cultural practice of Pennsylvania Germans to provide multi-generational housing on their farms.

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 buildings on their original sites next to one another, facing south, where they have stood since the 1850s.

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

Stone House

- Enclosed front porch;
- Modern front windows within old window openings;
- External chimney on west gable end;
- Frame addition on north side;
- Accessory buildings.

Brick House

- Enclosed front porch;
- Frame addition to west gable end;
- Modern windows within old window openings.