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RECEIVED
2025/07/02
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

Notice of Intention to Designate

The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill

July 2nd, 2025

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate
1591 Elgin Mills Road East
City of Richmond Hill ON L4S 1M9
City File No.: D12-07179

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill ("Council") intends to designate the above noted property as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under part IV and pursuant to section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990,c.O.18.

And take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill stated their intention to designate said property under the *Ontario Heritage Act* on June 25th, 2025.

A statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property is set out below.

Notice of Objection:

Any person who objects to the above noted Council's intention to designate shall, within 30 days after the publication of this notice, serve on the Clerk of the City of Richmond Hill, a Notice of Objection setting out **the reason for the objection and all relevant facts**. The last day to submit the Notice of Objection is August 1st, 2025.



Service may be made digitally by email to clerks@richmondhill.ca or by delivery personally to the City Clerk or by Regular Mail at the following address:

Stephen M.A. Huycke, City Clerk
The City of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill ON L4B 3P4

Obtaining Additional Information:

Additional information about heritage planning at the City of Richmond Hill may be obtained by contacting Heritage Planning City staff by e-mail at heritage@richmondhill.ca. **Take note** that a Notice of Objection may only be served to the Clerk of the City of Richmond Hill as stated above.

Dated this 2nd day of July, 2025

Stephen M.A. Huycke, City Clerk
The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road
Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 3P4
E-mail: clerks@richmondhill.ca



Statement of Significance

1591 Elgin Mills Road East – Peter Heise House

The Peter Heise House at 1591 Elgin Mills Road East 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. The subject property has been found to meet Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria 1, 5, and 8.

Description of Property

The Peter Heise House is a 1½-storey fieldstone and brick dwelling located east of Leslie Street on the south side of Elgin Mills Road East.

Design and Physical Value

Dating to 1852, the Peter Heise House at 1591 Elgin Mills Road East has physical value as a rare representative example of mid-19th-century German-Georgian stone farmhouse architecture in former Markham Township. There are only three known remaining examples of this architectural expression in Richmond Hill, including the subject dwelling, the Henricks-Brodie House at 9481 Leslie Street (c. 1834), and the John Hilts House at 16 Bawden Drive (c. 1840), all of which were built by Pennsylvania German agricultural settlers in the mid-19th century. Building features representative of this architectural style and type include, but are not limited to: the 1½-storey massing and rectangular footprint of the main wing; the low-pitched side-gabled roof with wide return eaves; the fieldstone construction with buff brick quoining and banding; the asymmetrical four-bay composition of the north and south elevations; flat-headed window openings with stone sills and buff brick quoining and voussoirs; classical doorcases with sidelights and paneled wooden doors on the north and south elevations; the roof-ridge chimney; and the bellcast-roofed verandah on tapered wooden posts on the rear (south) elevation.

The Peter Heise House is also a rare example of a double-fronted residential building typology.

Therefore, the subject property meets O. Reg. 9/06 Criterion 1: The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

Historical and Associative Value

The Peter Heise House at 1591 Elgin Mills Road East has historical and associative value because it yields information that contributes to an understanding of early-19th-century Pennsylvania German settlers in Upper Canada, who immigrated en masse to York County following the American Revolutionary War and who formed early agricultural and



religious communities in Markham Township. Pennsylvania German settlers had their own distinct cultural traditions, many of which are reflected in the subject dwelling's location in proximity to surface water, and German-Georgian architectural expression.

The subject property was the residence and farm of one branch of the Heise family, a family originally of the Brethren in Christ (Tunker) faith who came to Markham Township from Pennsylvania around 1804. John Heise bought the subject property from the Clergy Reserve Board in 1830, and his son Peter built the existing fieldstone dwelling in the German-Georgian style in 1852.

Therefore, the subject property meets O. Reg. 9/06 Criterion 5: The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.

Contextual Value

The Peter Heise House at 1591 Elgin Mills Road East has contextual value for being historically linked to its surroundings as part of the 19th-century Heise family farmstead once located on Lot 25, Concession 3 in Markham Township. The existing fieldstone house was intentionally built in this location by the Heise family in 1852 due to the site's proximity to surface water and limestone-rich soils. As such, the subject dwelling retains long-standing and significant historical links to its surroundings. For instance, remaining landscape features of the original Heise farm include: the Leslie Street Tributary of the Rouge River located immediately east of the house and the heavily treed valley lands to the east.

Therefore, the subject property meets O. Reg. 9/06 Criterion 8: The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

Heritage attributes contributing to the value of the property as a rare representative example of 19th-century German-Georgian stone farmhouse architecture and a rare example of a double-fronted house are:

- The scale, form and 1 ½-storey massing of the house with a rectangular plan;
- The low-pitched side-gabled roof with wide return eaves, and a plain cornice below the eaves on the north and south elevations;
- The house's fieldstone construction with buff brick detailing including:



- Large, squared stone cladding on the north and south elevations and variegated stone cladding on the side (east and west) elevations;
- Buff brick quoining at all four corners of the building and around window and door openings; and
- Buff brick recessed sawtooth stringcourses below the eaves on the north and south elevations;
- The asymmetrical four-bay composition of the north and south elevations, with an off-centre doorway flanked by one bay to the east and two bay to the west;
- The flat-headed window openings with stone sills and buff brick quoining and voussoirs;
- The flat-headed classical doorcases on the north and south elevations with sidelights and six-paneled wooden doors, surrounded by buff brick quoining and voussoirs; and
- The bellcast-roofed verandah on tapered octagonal wooden posts on the south elevation.

Historical and Associative Value

Heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property for yielding information that contributes to an understanding of early-19th-century Pennsylvania German settlers in Markham Township are:

- The house's German-Georgian architectural expression and stone construction, which reflect the cultural traditions of Pennsylvania German settlers; and
- The house's location on the west bank of the Leslie Street Tributary of the Rouge River.

Contextual Value

Heritage attributes contributing to the contextual value of the property for historical links to its surroundings as part of the 19th-century Heise family farmstead are:

- The house's scale, siting and orientation south of Elgin Mills Road East, on the west bank of the Leslie Street Tributary of the Rouge River; and
- The house's German-Georgian architectural expression and stone construction.

Note: the early-20th-century front porch on the north elevation and the one-storey frame summer kitchen addition on the south elevation are not considered to possess heritage attributes.