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Town of Ajax
Ontario's First ISO 9001
Quality Community

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May 15, 2001

The Ontario Heritage Foundation
Attention: Pamela Craig
77 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

Dear Ms. Craig:

Re: Designation By-law 67-2001 - 504 Kingston Road West, Ajax

Please find enclosed a copy of Town of Ajax By-law 67-2001 which has designated 504 Kingston Road West, Ajax, as being of local architectural and historical value and interest.

This By-law will be registered on the title of the subject property.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

M. de Rond
Clerk

/os

cc Mrs. Jessica Prest
 B. Kriz, Co-ordinator, Heritage Ajax

✓ Lb.
July 16/01

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF AJAX

BY-LAW NUMBER 67 -2001

A By-law to designate the property known municipally as 504 Kingston Road West Ajax, as being of Architectural and Historical value or interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18), as amended, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all buildings and structures thereon, to be of Architectural or Historical value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as 504 Kingston Road West and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation a Notice of Intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

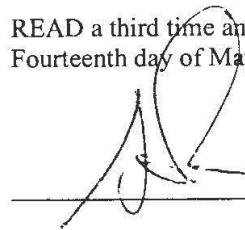
AND WHEREAS the Council has considered the recommendations of Heritage Ajax with respect to this matter;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ajax enacts as follows:

1. There is designated as being of Architectural and Historical value or interest the real property known as 504 Kingston Road West. The reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
2. The Municipal Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" hereto in the property land registry office.
3. The Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause Notice of the Passing of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

READ a first time and second time this
Fourteenth day of May, 2001.

READ a third time and finally passed this
Fourteenth day of May, 2001.



Mayor



Clerk

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NUMBER 67 -2001

REASON FOR DESIGNATION

This 2 ½ storey clapboard High Victorian dwelling, owned by Mrs. Jessica Prest, was built in 1890 on the north side of Kingston Road at the easterly end of Pickering Village. A wealth of history as well as architectural significance is associated with this property. It was originally occupied by the Richardson family, a prominent pioneer family of Pickering who were descended from Irish immigrants who settled in Upper Canada around 1816.

Another prominent resident of the Village, Mr. E. L. Ruddy, owned the dwelling in the 1930's and assembled considerable acreage east and north of the house. He transformed the remnant of the burnt-out Pickering College, located on the drumlin behind the property, into a summer home called "The Hermitage" which occupied the northeasterly section of what is now Hermitage Park.

Jessica Prest has lived in and lovingly cared for the house since 1937. Mrs. Prest, then Jessica Ruddy, was the first president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Ajax-Pickering Hospital.

Architecturally, this dwelling has occupied a prominent position on Kingston Road for eleven decades. Originally there were at least two verandahs around the front of the house; Mr. Ruddy had them removed and other changes made in the 1930's to allow more light into the interior, to enlarge the ground floor, and to incorporate Classical Revival details to the façade.

The house occupies its original site exactly. The renovations of the 30's used the original structure thoughtfully and carefully in adapting to new occupants in successfully bridging the generation gap from 1890 to 1930. Due to its 2 ½ storey height and elevation high above Kingston Road, the house is a forceful presence in the streetscape. We are recommending its designation due to its unique architectural style, excellent condition, remarkable attention to detail, and its significant historical association with the Hermitage.

VRA