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City Clerk's Office

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

DEC 22 2009

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Secretariat  
Francine Adamo  
North York Community Council  
North York Civic Centre  
5100 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario M2N 5V7

Ulli S. Watkiss  
City Clerk

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JAN 05 2010

Culture Programs & Services Branch  
Culture Services Unit

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT  
R.S.O. 1990 CHAPTER 0.18 AND  
4700 KEELE STREET (ABRAHAM HOOVER HOUSE)  
CITY OF TORONTO, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

Christopher R. Wong, Director  
Transportation and Master Plng  
York University Develop Corp  
190 Albany Road, Suite 102  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, ON M3J 1P3

✓ Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1J3

Take notice that Toronto City Council intends to designate the lands and buildings known municipally as 4700 Keele Street (Abraham Hoover House) under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Reasons for Designation**

**Description**

The Abraham Hoover House on the Keele Campus of York University is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act for its cultural heritage value, and meets the criteria for municipal designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the three categories of design, associative and contextual value. The Abraham Hoover House (circa 1850) is a 1½-storey house form building with additions that is located at the west end of Hoover Road in the southwest area of the Keele Campus. The Abraham Hoover House is included on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value**

The Abraham Hoover House is located on the Keele Campus of York University, a significant institution in the City of Toronto that contributed to the growth in the 1960s of Canadian post-secondary education and the establishment of new university campuses outside traditional urban centres. After receiving its charter in 1959, York University offered its first classes at the University of Toronto (with which it was affiliated until 1965) before opening a campus at North York's Glendon Hall. As part of its development plans, in 1962 York University received over 400 acres of provincially-owned farmland near the southwest corner of Steeles Avenue West and Keele

Street in North York as the site of the Keele Campus. According to the master plan that guided development on the campus, the Abraham Hoover House was one of four historic buildings preserved on the site. With the official opening of the Keele Campus in October 1965, the Abraham Hoover House was retained in its original setting and used for faculty housing.

Historically, the Abraham Hoover House is associated with one of North York's pioneer families. Abraham was the son of Christian Hoover, who moved to York Township from Pennsylvania and acquired Lot 23, Concession 4 West, between Keele and Jane streets in 1826. Family records indicate that the 1½-storey frame house was in place by 1848, and the building was recorded in the Decennial Census of 1851 when it was occupied by Abraham Hoover. Extended over time, the dwelling remained in the Hoover family until the 1930s. The Abraham Hoover House is significant as one of the oldest surviving buildings in Toronto.

The Abraham Hoover House is an important example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse that was altered over time to meet the needs of its inhabitants. The dwelling is a good example of early frame construction, and recalls its Pennsylvania-German origins in its scale, raised stone foundation and medium-pitched gable roof with returned eaves. The Abraham Hoover House displays the only documented use of late 19<sup>th</sup> century board-and-batten cladding on a historical building in North York, with the material added to the structure following the construction of the rear (east) wings. The wraparound wood verandah is another important surviving attribute that relates to the extension of the original dwelling.

Standing in its original location overlooking Black Creek, the Abraham Hoover House recalls the historical character of Kaiserville, the Pennsylvania-German farming community that developed near the corner of Steeles Avenue West and Jane Street in the early 1800s. For nearly half a century, the Abraham Hoover House has contributed to the Keele Campus of York University.

### **Heritage Attributes**

The heritage attributes of the Abraham Hoover House are:

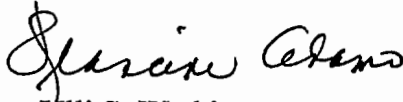
- The scale, form and massing
- Above a raised rubblestone foundation, the 1½-storey T-shaped plan composed of the main body of the house (west) and the wings (east)
- The materials, with wood, stone and glass
- The medium-pitched gable roof with returned eaves, wood mouldings and chimneys on the main body, and the offset gable on the south end of the east wing
- The main entrance, which is located on the south elevation and features a doorcase with wood moulding, a six-panel door, and a glazed transom and sidelights
- The paneled exterior doors
- The fenestration, with flat-headed window openings and casement windows on the main body of the house, the round-arched window opening on the south elevation of the adjoining wing, and the six-over-six sash windows in some of the openings
- The board-and-batten cladding, and the verandahs on the south and east with bellcast roofs with curved rafters and chamfered posts
- On the interior, the side hall plan, the central staircase with newel post, the timber-beam ceilings, the wainscoting in the entrance hall and southwest room, the original fireplace

surround in the southwest room, the built-in cupboards on the second floor, the paneled wood doors, the moulded door and window surrounds, and the plank floors

- The setting of the building in landscaped open space overlooking Black Creek

Notice of an objection to the proposed designation may be served on the City Clerk, Attention: Francine Adamo, Administrator, North York Community Council, North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario M2N 5V7, within thirty days of the 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009, which is January 18, 2010. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection, and all relevant facts.

Dated at Toronto this 18th day of December, 2009.



for  
Ulli S. Watkiss  
City Clerk

cc: Manager, Heritage Preservation Services, City Planning Division, City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl, Ste. A18  
Director, Community Planning, North York District  
Jasmine Stein, Municipal Law Unit, Legal Division, City Hall, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
Deputy Chief Building Official and Director, Building Division, North York District  
Interested Persons