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ONTARIO HERITAGE

YORK

The Town of Richmond Hill

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Canada L4C 4Y5

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1989 02 22

REGISTERED MAIL

Ontario Heritage Foundation 77 Bloor Street West Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9

Dear Sirs:

Re: Designations under the Ontario Heritage Act

We are enclosing a copy of By-law No. 21-89 designating a property in the Town of Richmond Hill under the above Act. We trust the contents are self-explanatory.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the writer.

Yours very truly,

David R. Melitzer Deputy Clerk

DRM/da Encl.

## THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

## BY-LAW NO. 21-89

A By-law to Designate the property known Municipally as Highway 7 North Side, Part of Lot 39, Concession 1 E.Y.S., being the former Russell House and Water Tower on the Property known as the former Langstaff Jail Farm of Architectural and Historical value or interest.

WHEREAS Section 26 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, 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 historic value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as Highway 7, North Side, Part of Lot 39, Concession 1 K.Y.S., and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Notice of Intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such Notice of Intention to be published in the same newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto;

AND WHEREAS no Notice of Objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- There is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest the real property located at Highway 7, North Side, Part of Lot 39, Concession 1 E.Y.S., more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.
- 2. The Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the 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 the same newspaper having general circulation in the Municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks.
- 4. Schedules "A" and "B" attached hereto shall form part of this by-law.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1989

READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1989

Mayor

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ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of lands and premises lying and being in the Town of Richmond Hill in the Regional Municipality of York and being composed of Part Lot 39, Conc. 1, E.Y.S., being Parts 1 and 2, Plan 65R-12167.

## SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NO. 21-89

## Reasons for Designation

The Russell House is recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. It is a good example of a prosperous farmer's residence. Its balanced facade and proportions, gable roof with return eaves and quarter-round attic windows indicate the late survival of Georgian and Neoclassical traditions, whereas the segmentally-headed transom and 2/2 windows are more typical of the period of construction. The doorcase retains its original 4-panelled door, sidelights and transom. The extensive use of polychrome brickwork, and the 2 and 1 storey brick tails add considerably to the architectural significance of the house.

William Russell purchased the portion of Lot 39, Concession 1, Markham, on which the Russell House now stands, in 1857. He replaced an earlier frame house built by John Landor with a 2 storey dwelling of patterned brick, c 1868. Russell and his sons were noted farmers and stock breeders. The farm, known as Springbrook Farm, later became part of the Langstaff Jail Farm, established in 1911.

The concrete water tower of the former Langstaff Jail Farm is recommended for designation for historical and architectural reasons. It has been the visual focal point of the property since the Jail Farm complex was built in the 19teens. Although primarily a water storage facility, the tower is reputed to have served as a guard tower as well. Its design, with crenellated pumphouse at its base, crenellated parapet, and concrete belvedere from which arises a crenellated turret, visually epitomizes the former penal function of the property.