

APPENDIX A

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Abraham Strickler House

6297 Major Mackenzie Drive East

circa 1850

The Abraham Strickler House is recommended for designation under part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance:

Description of Property

The Abraham Strickler House is a one and a half storey solid brick farmhouse located on the south side of major Mackenzie Drive, east of Highway 48 and west of Ninth Line. The property is located near the community of Mount Joy, located immediately north of Markham Village.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Historical Value

Abraham Strickler Jr. arrived in Markham Township as a boy with his mother Barbara Ramer Strickler, his uncle and aunt and three of his siblings in 1825. Making the trek north from Pennsylvania in a Conestoga wagon, Barbara left her husband and two older children behind to reunite with the rest of her family who had arrived in Markham with Barbara's father, Abraham Ramer in 1809. The Ramer's are a prominent Pennsylvania German Mennonite family considered to be the founders of the Mount Joy community, so named for their original farm in Pennsylvania.

By the 1851 Census, Abraham Strickler now age 32 is listed as living in the brick house we see today with his second wife Mary. Abraham and Mary never had any children, but for a time looked after Abraham's aging mother Barbara in their house. Judging from the sophistication of construction and detail of the farmhouse, Abraham was a prosperous farmer. He remained in this house and continued farming until his death in 1877.

Architectural Value

The Abraham Strickler House is a classic example of a mid nineteenth century Georgian Tradition farmhouse. With its symmetrically arranged facades, moderately pitched roof and characteristic eave returns it exhibits the crisp lines and proportions of classical architecture favoured by Canada's first European settlers in response to the wilderness and isolation of life in Upper Canada. The Georgian and Classical Revival styles were a comforting reminder of the lives that many settlers had left behind either in Europe or the United States. Despite the traditional form of the Abraham Strickler house, the exuberant dichromatic brickwork foreshadows the fanciful architectural decoration and picturesque styles that would flourish in Ontario in the last half of the nineteenth century.

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Contextual Value

The Abraham Strickler House is of contextual significance for its association with the historic farming communities of Mount Joy and Milnesville. Set far back from the road it reflects the pragmatic choice of siting the farmhouse in a central location on the land that allowed easy access to the surrounding fields. When looked at in conjunction with the other remaining farmhouses in the vicinity, the Abraham Strickler house remains as a testament to the prosperity attained by the early settlers who worked the fertile soil of Markham.

Significant Architectural Attributes

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the heritage value of the Abraham Strickler House include:

- The overall 1 ½ storey form, T-shaped plan with one storey kitchen tail;
- Symmetrical arrangement of window and door openings;
- Solid brick construction and dichromatic decorative details;
- Moderately pitched roofs and classical eave returns;
- The original wooden fascias, soffits and eaves;
- The original 6 over 6 wooden windows with wooden lugsills;
- The original brick chimneys;
- The frame construction and horizontal wooden siding of the kitchen wing;
- The original front entrance and design details;
- The fieldstone foundation;

EXTRACT FROM THE GREENSBOROUGH SECONDARY PLAN

- b) Appropriate sites for day care centres may be incorporated in plans of subdivision and implemented through the approval of a zoning by-law.

5.3.6 Neighbourhood Commercial Centres

- a) This Secondary Plan shall permit small-scale convenience commercial uses intended to serve the retail needs of local residents throughout the Urban Residential - Low Density and Urban Residential - Medium Density designations, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.3.1 of the Official Plan (Revised 1987), as amended.
- b) Neighbourhood commercial centres will be encouraged to act as, or enhance, a community focal point. They will be permitted to locate on sites that abut the intersection of two collector roads or the intersection of a collector road with a local road.
- c) Appropriate sites for neighbourhood commercial uses will be identified in the Community Design Plan (or Community Design Plans) and shall be incorporated in plans of subdivision and zoned to permit neighbourhood level commercial uses in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.4.6.3 of the Official Plan (Revised 1987), as amended.

5.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE POLICIES

- a) Conservation of cultural heritage resources shall be consistent with the provisions of Section 2.5 of the Official Plan (Revised 1987), as amended.
- b) Three buildings having heritage significance have been identified by the Town within this Planning District (Appendix III) and are listed in the Town's Inventory of Heritage Buildings.
- c) It is the intent of this Secondary Plan to encourage the retention and conservation of buildings of architectural and/or historical merit on their original sites and to promote the integration of these resources into new development proposals in their original use or an appropriate adaptive re-use.
- d) Prior to recommending approval of the Community Design Plan, Council shall obtain the recommendation of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee as to whether the existing buildings should be retained, relocated or removed.
- e) As a condition of development approval, the Town will secure satisfactory financial and/or other guarantees (eg. heritage easements) to fully restore or reconstruct any damaged or demolished heritage structures.
- f) All development adjacent to, or incorporating a heritage resource should, from an urban design perspective, be respectful of the resource, having regard for scale, massing and setbacks.
- g) Prior to the approval of draft plans of subdivision, a study assessing the heritage resources of the subject lands shall be completed. It is intended that through avoidance or excavation/documentation, the development impacts to significant heritage resources shall be mitigated, to the satisfaction of the Archaeology and Heritage Planning Unit of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. No grading or other disturbance shall take place on the subject lands prior to the issuance of a letter of clearance from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX III - HERITAGE BUILDINGS

No buildings are designated under *The Heritage Act*, however, the following buildings have been identified as having some historical or architectural significance:

1. 6297 Major Mackenzie Drive East
2. 9516 9th Line
3. 9642 9th Line

