



MEMORANDUM

TO: Heritage Markham Committee

FROM: Regan Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning

DATE: March 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Information Update
Fire Damage to the Christian Heise House
2730 Elgin Mills Road
PLAN 23 150145

Property/Building Descriptions: Christian Heise House, single detached, 1-1/2 storey dwelling constructed c. 1859.

Use: Vacant/ Residential

Heritage Status: Individually Designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

Application Proposal

- The City has received a Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA) application and a Plan of Subdivision application in support of a proposal to construct twenty eight new 3-1/2 storey townhouse units, a pair of 3-1/2 storey semi-detached dwellings and to relocate and incorporate both the Levi and Christian Heise Houses on Lots 1 and 2 with detached garages having additional second floor residential units.

Background

Planning Approvals

- Council has approved applications for Zoning By-law Amendment (ZBA) and Plan of Subdivision in support of a development including new townhouse units, a pair of semi-detached dwellings and the relocation and incorporate both the Levi and Christian Heise Houses with detached garages having additional second floor residential units.
- The owner has not yet entered into the Subdivision Agreement with the City for the property.

Fire

- On February 19, 2025, the Christian Heise House was damaged by fire (see photos in Attachment C)
- The adjacent Levi Heise House was not impacted by the fire.

- The Ontario Fire Marshall is investigating.

History of House

- The 1½ storey red brick house was built for Christian Heise (sometimes referred to as Christopher) and his wife Leah Rhodes, who raised their family of seven children here. The property had been in the Heise family since 1805, when it was acquired by Jacob Heise a settler from Pennsylvania.
- In their early years on the property the Heise family were known to have lived in a log house. The Georgian Vernacular style dwelling is of red brick with buff brick accents consisting of quoining on all exterior corners, a belt course along the eaves, and four course plinths. The original dwelling is rectangular in plan and sits on a fieldstone foundation. An Edwardian Classical front veranda, added in the early 20th Century runs the full length of the house, with large square posts on red brick piers, which support a hip roof.
- The Heise house is of contextual significance for its association with the early development in the North West of Markham Township and its connected with the adjacent Levi Heise House. This property has one of the longest associations with a single family in Markham as descendants of Jacob Heise farmed this land for six generations until 1983. The year 2005 marked the bicentenary of the Heise purchase of this property.

Staff Comment

- Currently, Heritage Section staff is exploring next steps including reaching out to the owner regarding the structural status of the brick building and opportunities to still retain the House.

Suggested Recommendation for Heritage Markham

THAT Heritage Markham receive as information the update on the fire damage to the Christian Heise House, 2730 Elgin Mills Road East.

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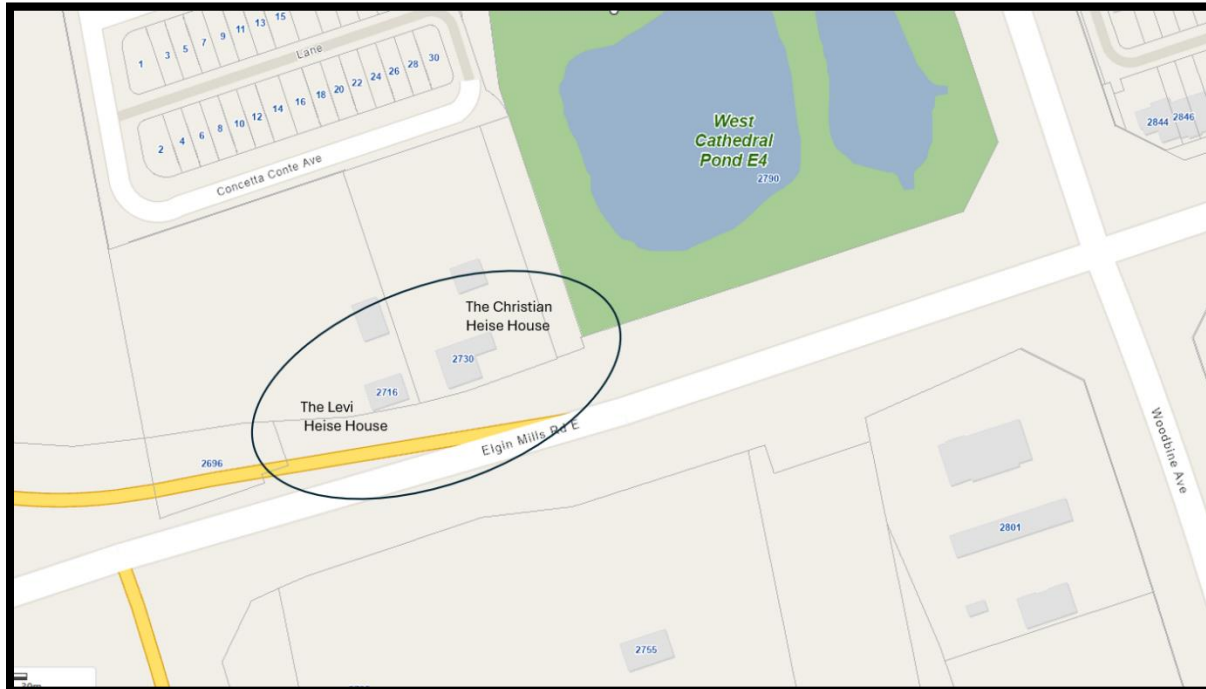
Attachments

Attachment A- Location Map and Photographs of the Existing Homes (pre- Fire)

Attachment B – Conceptual Site Plan (2024)

Attachment C - Fire Photographs

Attachment A- Location Map and Photographs of the Existing Homes

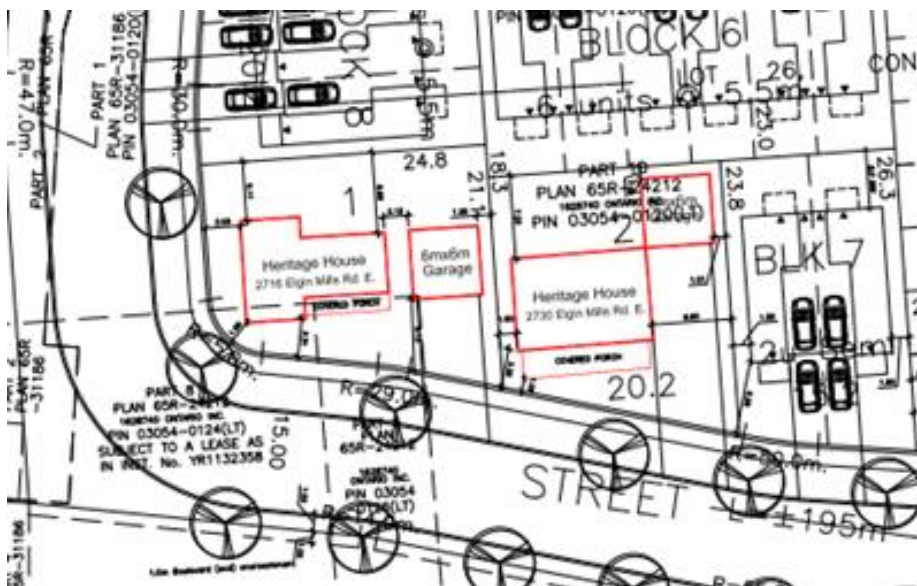




Levi Heise House



Christian Heise House



Appendix C- Fire Photographs





Aftermath of Fire.