



By-law 2021-58

A by-law to designate a property as being of
Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Joseph & Leah Pipher House

WHEREAS Pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, the Council of a Municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Markham has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

17 Brookfield Court
Markham, Ontario L3P 2W8

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the Joseph & Leah Pipher House, 33 Dickson Hill Road, Markham, Ontario, and has caused such notice of intention to be published once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MARKHAM HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the following real property, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest:

Joseph & Leah Piper House
City of Markham
The Regional Municipality of York

2. THAT the City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the properties described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the property Land Registry Office.

Read a first, second, and third time and passed July 14, 2021.

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

SCHEDULE ‘A’ TO BY-LAW 2021-58

In the City of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, property descriptions as follows:

PART LOT 29, CONCESSION 8, MARKHAM, AS IN MA45347
CITY OF MARKHAM
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2021-58

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Joseph and Leah Pipher House
33 Dickson Hill Road
1861

Description of Property

The Joseph and Leah Pipher House is a two storey stone farmhouse located on a keyhole lot on the east side of Dickson Hill Road in the historic hamlet of Dickson Hill. The house is set back from the road to the extent that it is not visible from the road, and faces south.

Historical and Associative Value

The Joseph and Leah Pipher House has historical and associative value for its association with the Pipher family, a Pennsylvania-German Mennonite family that were living on Lot 27, Concession 7, Markham Township at the time of William Berczy's census of 1803.

Joseph Pipher, born in Canada in the year 1800, was the youngest of the three sons of Samuel Pipher and Barbara (Labar) Pipher. He purchased the 200 acres of Lot 29, Concession 8 from Absalom Sommers in 1826. His first wife was Catherine Kleiser, who died in 1836. His second wife was Leah Kaiser. Their original home was a one and half storey frame dwelling. In 1861, the family constructed a fine two storey stone house that still stands at 33 Dickson Hill Road, well removed from the road. The Historical Atlas of York County map of Markham Township, dated 1878, illustrates the stone house near the centre of the lot, with an adjoining orchard. The house is said to have been constructed by a stone mason that learned his trade while incarcerated in Kingston for an incident connected with the Upper Canadian Rebellion of 1837. According to the 1861 census, two stone masons resided on the Pipher farm at that time, Wallingford Sanders and Robert Hill. It is probable that they were the builders of the stone farmhouse at 33 Dickson Hill Road. The portion of the farm where the stone house stands was inherited by a son, Isaac Pipher, in 1867, and remained in the ownership of the family until 1904, when it was sold to David Moyer, a local Mennonite farmer. His son, Harvey Moyer, resided here. The property was sold out of the Moyer family in 1960.

Design and Physical Value

The Joseph and Leah Pipher House is of design and physical value as Markham's finest remaining example of mid-19th century stone construction. The substantial two-storey dwelling, in a vernacular interpretation of the neo-classical style, is remarkable for its scale, being a full two storeys in height with a 5-bay front. The house retains most of its original detailing, including the front doorcase, single-hung six over six windows, louvered wood shutters, and a substantial wood cornice. The most noteworthy feature of the Pipher House is the stonework on the south (front) and west walls, which was rendered in dressed, coursed, multi-coloured fieldstone, squared and dressed with a crandalled finish and accented with quarried limestone brought in from another locality.

Large, multi-coloured voussoirs ornament door and window openings. Above the main entrance is a limestone block inscribed with the date “1861.”

An archival photograph provides visual evidence of a former full-width veranda supported on wood treillage, and a one-storey stone kitchen wing at the east end of the main block. A portion of this kitchen wing remains as a shed-roofed extension of the east gable-end wall.

Contextual Value

The Joseph and Leah Pipher House is one of a number of stone houses to have been constructed in Markham Township in the 19th century. It is arguably the finest remaining example due to its scale, the quality of its design and construction, and for its authenticity in terms of remaining original building fabric. The Pipher House is part of an agricultural landscape on the east side of the historic hamlet of Dickson Hill, associated with the hamlet due to the location of its long farm lane that connects the property to Dickson Hill Road. The farmhouse was once part of a complete farmstead with a barn and other outbuildings; today the only outbuilding still standing is a one storey brick building that once contained a bake oven and smokehouse.

Significant Heritage Attributes to be Conserved

Exterior, character-defining elements that embody the cultural heritage value of the Joseph and Leah Pipher House include:

- The scale form and massing of the two storey main block with its rectangular plan, and one storey remnant of the stone kitchen wing on the east gable end;
- Multi-coloured fieldstone walls with the front and west sides in coursed, dressed squared stone and north and east walls in coursed random rubble;
- Datestone inscribed “1861” over main entrance door;
- Gable roof with eave returns and wood cornice mouldings;
- Red brick gable-end, corbelled chimneys;
- Main entrance on south wall with multi-paned transom and sidelights with wood panels below, and six panelled wood door;
- Six over six wood single-hung windows with functional louvered wood shutters and lugsills;
- Quarter circle attic windows on west gable end, with a fan-shaped pattern of muntin bars;
- Six-paned attic windows on east gable end;
- The scale form and massing of the one storey red brick outbuilding with its gable roof with open, overhanging eaves, single stack corbelled brick chimney at the west gable end, three wood four-panel doors on the north wall and two wood six-paned windows and one wood six over six single-hung window on the south wall.