



By-law 2023-xx

A by-law to designate a property as being of
Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
“Almira Mill House”

WHEREAS Pursuant to Part IV, Section 29, of the Ontario Heritage Act (the “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;

WHEREAS the property described in Schedule “A” to this By-law (the “Property”) contains the cultural heritage resource known as the Almira Mill House;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Markham, by resolution passed on September 12, 2023, has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

Nancy Myer
William Dreving Enterprises
6128 Winston Churchill Blvd
Alton, Ontario
L0N 1A0

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the Almira Mill House, 4130 Nineteenth Avenue, and has caused such notice of intention to be published digitally in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Act;

AND WHEREAS Council has described the Property, set out the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest for the Property, and described the heritage attributes of the Property in Schedule “B” to this By-law, which forms 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:

“Almira Mill House”
4130 Nineteenth Avenue
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 property described in Schedule “A” attached hereto in the property Land Registry Office.

Read a first, second, and third time and passed December 13, 2023.

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2023-xx

In the City of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, the property municipally known as 4130 Nineteenth Avenue, Markham, Ontario, and legally described as follows:

PT E1/2 OF W1/2 LT 31 CON 5 MARKHAM AS IN MA107317; MARKHAM

PIN: 037250037

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2023-xx

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4130 Nineteenth Avenue
c.1855

The Almira Mill House is recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 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 Almira Mill House is a two-storey brick dwelling located on the north side of Nineteenth Avenue, to the west of Bruce Creek, in the historic community of Almira. The building is set back from the road and faces south

Design Value and Physical Value

The Almira Mill House has design and physical value as a unique example of mid-nineteenth century vernacular architecture that artfully combines several architectural influences. The architectural character of the dwelling reflects the formality and balance of the Georgian architectural tradition while the large ground floor windows, small square-shaped second storey windows, and low-pitched hipped roof suggest an Ontario Regency architectural influence. The eared door and window surrounds point to the Classic Revival style, or more precisely, the Greek Revival style. The door and window surrounds are unique in Markham and are unusual for their application to a brick building, their picture frame form, and the absence of traditional window sills.

The one-and-a-half storey frame wing on the west wall of the brick dwelling may represent a traditional *gross doddy* associated with Pennsylvania-German Mennonite culture. The *gross doddy* was a separate, attached dwelling unit that provided for multi-generational occupation of a farmhouse. Since some of the later owners of the Almira Mill House were of this cultural background, it suggests the possibility that the side wing once served as a *gross doddy*. Otherwise, an addition or wing of this type would have served as a kitchen wing combined with quarters for hired farm hands.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Almira Mill House has historical and associative value as it represents the theme of immigration and the religious and cultural mosaic of Markham Township. Further, as the former home of Benjamin and Jane Bowman, and then the home of John and Sarah Bowman, the property also represents the theme of industry, innovation and economic development for its association with the Almira Mills, an important local industry founded by Benjamin Bowman in 1844. Benjamin Bowman was a native of Derry, Ireland, who came to Canada with his brothers James and Robert in 1823. He first lived in Niagara then moved to York County in 1826. By 1837, Benjamin Bowman was living on Lot 31, Concession 5, a Clergy Reserve lot. He built a woolen mill on Bruce Creek and later added a flouring mill. In its day, the Almira Mill was the only one of its kind in the province. By the late 1850s, Benjamin Bowman was a merchant and the local postmaster, owning and operating the Almira General Store across the road from the mill. His son, John Bowman, ran the mill after his father's death in 1862. The family home was likely constructed c.1855 after Benjamin Bowman received the Crown patent for the mill property.

Contextual Value

The Almira Mill House has contextual value as one of a grouping of older buildings that are important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character and extent of the historic community of Almira. The property is historically related to the site of

the Amira Mills at 4160 Nineteenth Avenue to the east, the Klein-Bowman House at 4165 Nineteenth Avenue, and the Almira General Store and Post Office at 4159 Nineteenth Avenue, all of which are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Almira Mill House are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria, as amended, below:

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design value and physical value as a unique example of mid-nineteenth century vernacular architecture that artfully combines several architectural design influences:

- 2-storey, brick main block organized in a rectangular plan;
- Flemish bond red-orange local brick;
- Low-pitched hipped roof with wide, overhanging eaves and single-stack brick chimneys;
- 6/6 single-hung ground floor windows;
- Small, square second storey window openings;
- Eared, picture-frame style window trim;
- Front doorcase with single-leaf door and sidelights with eared trim;
- Front veranda;
- One-and-a-half storey frame west wing.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value and associative value representing the theme of immigration and the religious and cultural mosaic of Markham Township, as the former residence of Benjamin and Jane Bowman, then of John and Sarah Bowman, and the theme of industry, innovation and economic development for its association with the Almira Mills:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Bowman family that historically resided here, and of the Almira Mills.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value as a building that is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character and extent of the historic hamlet of Almira:

- The location of the building facing south and set back from the road, within the historic hamlet of Almira.

Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value, or otherwise are not included in the Statement of Significance:

- Sunroom on the east end of the dwelling.