



## By-law 2023-xx

A by-law to designate a property as being of  
Cultural Heritage Value or Interest  
“Almira General Store and Post Office”

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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 General Store and Post Office;

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:

Franceso Pizzimenti and Wendy Booth  
4159 Nineteenth Avenue  
Markham, Ontario  
L6C 1M1

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the Almira General Store and Post Office, 4159 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 General Store and Post Office”  
4159 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.

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Kimberley Kitteringham  
City Clerk

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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 4159 Nineteenth Avenue, Markham, Ontario, and legally described as follows:

PT LT 30 CON 5 MARKHAM AS IN R678477; MARKHAM

PIN: 030560014

# SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2023-xx

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Almira General Store and Post Office

4159 Nineteenth Avenue  
c.1853 and c.1915

The Almira Store and Post Office 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 Store and Post Office is a two-storey brick building located on the south side of Nineteenth Avenue, to the west of Bruce Creek, in the historic community of Almira. The building is sited close to the road and faces north.

#### **Design Value and Physical Value**

The Almira Store and Post Office has design and physical value as a representative example of a combined store and residence in a hamlet or village setting. As a building typology, the combined store and residence was typical of hamlets and villages in Markham Township throughout the nineteenth century and into the early twentieth century. Traditionally, the owners and operators of small businesses would live in part of the building that housed their place of work. The Almira General Store and Post Office is a vernacular building designed with the influence of Edwardian Classicism. Its character is similar to houses constructed in the early twentieth century on farms and in villages throughout Markham Township. As the Victorian period transitioned into the Edwardian, there was a trend toward the simplification of domestic architecture, moving away from the highly decorative styles that were popular in the late nineteenth century.

#### **Historical Value and Associative Value**

The Almira General Store and Post Office has historical and associative value for its role as the local general store and grocery store for the community of Almira from c.1853 to 1930 -1931, a business central to the life of the local residents. It also has historical and associative value representing the theme of government services as the location of the Almira Post Office from 1857 to 1915, an important local institution. The Bowman family, owners and operators of the Almira Mills, also owned and operated the store from the 1850s to the 1890s. The store was established c.1853 on the Klein property opposite from Amira Mills and was purchased by Benjamin Bowman in 1857, the same year he became Almira's first postmaster. The Spafford, or Spofford family, followed the Bowman family as later owners of the store and post office. Herbert H. Spoffard was the last to operate the store which closed around 1930. He was also Almira's last postmaster, serving from 1909 to 1915, and was responsible for the rebuilding of the old frame store into its current form. After the store closed, it was converted into a fully residential building by a later owner

#### **Contextual Value**

The Almira General Store and Post Office is a key building within the historic hamlet of Almira, having served as the community's general store from the early 1850s to the early 1930s, and the local post office from 1857 to 1915. The Almira General Store and post office is 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. It has further contextual value due to its location in the centre of the hamlet of Almira, across from the former site of the Almira Mills, which illustrates the historical relationship between the mills, their former owners and operators, and the store and post office. The property is historically related to the

Klein-Bowman House at 4165 Nineteenth Avenue and the Almira Mills at 4160 Nineteenth Avenue, both of which are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Heritage Attributes**

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Almira General Store and Post Office 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 representative example of a combined store and residence in a hamlet or village setting, designed with the influence of Edwardian Classicism:*

- Two-storey form organized in a L-shaped plan;
- Red brick veneer with shallow, flat brick pilasters framing the old storefront;
- Radiating brick arches over original window openings on all elevations of the building, and concrete lugsills;
- Medium-pitched hipped and gabled roof with closed, overhanging eaves;
- Former storefront with a series of five, six-paned, fixed windows;
- Fireplace chimney on the west elevation;
- Window openings with single or paired 1/1 single-hung windows;
- Gable-roofed, frame entrance vestibule.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value and associative value representing the themes of early development of the hamlet of Almira, industry, innovation and economic development, and government services, as the local general store and grocery store from c.1853 to 1930-1931, and Almira's post office from 1857 to 1915:*

- The building's form, with its former storefront readily discernable, is a tangible reminder of the Almira General Store and Post Office that was historically housed within the structure.

*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 Nineteenth Avenue, within the centre of the historic hamlet of Almira.

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

- Carport and box bay window on the east side of the building.
- Modern windows and doors;
- Detached accessory building.