

December 2023

To: City Clerk, City of Markham e-mail clerkspublic@markham.ca

I write on behalf of the owner, who objects to the proposed Part IV designation of his property at 2972 Elgin Mills Road East, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

I am a professional member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP) and a retired architect. I co-authored, with Phillip H. Carter the Heritage Conservation District Studies and Plans for Thornhill and Buttonville.

In my professional opinion, the property at 2972 Elgin Mills Road East in the City of Markham does not merit designation. Although its basic shape is intact it has lost many of its heritage defining attributes and is in moderately poor condition. At this point, its relation to the historic crossroads hamlet of Victoria Square is moot, because that hamlet has been overtaken by later development. Most of the area buildings are mid-twentieth century or later.

Ontario Regulation 9/06 lists 9 criteria and states that a property meeting two or more of them "may be included in the register"—not must be included, nor should be included, but may be included. It is the minimal requirement. I don't believe that checking off the boxes and adding them up provides a full assessment of cultural heritage value. I believe judgment is required and that designation should signify substantial value.

In my professional opinion the heritage value of the building at 2972 Elgin Mills Road East does not rise to the level that it merits designation under Part IV of the Act.

Yours,
Paul Durfee Oberst, B.Arch, CAHP

