



By-law 2024-xx

A by-law to designate a property as being of
Cultural Heritage Value or Interest
“Milton and Ann Kester 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 Milton and Ann Kester House;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Markham, by resolution passed on October 18, 2023, has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

Diane Passafiume
12442 McCowan Road
Stouffville, Ontario
L4A 4C5

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the Milton and Ann Kester House, 11548 York-Durham Line, 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:

“Milton and Ann Kester House”
11584 York-Durham Line
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 January 31, 2024.

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

**SCHEDULE ‘A’ TO
BY-LAW 2024-xx**

In the City of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, the property municipally known as 11584 York-Durham Line, Markham, Ontario, and legally described as follows:

CON 10 PT LT31 RS65R20217 PT 1, MARKHAM

PIN: 037320265

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2024-xx

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milton and Ann Kester House

11584 York-Durham Line
c.1870

The Milton and Ann Kester 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 Milton and Ann Kester House is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling located on York-Durham Line, north of Nineteenth Avenue and the historic community of Mongolia. The house is oriented eastwards.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Milton and Ann Kester House has design and physical value as a locally rare example of a vernacular, patterned brick farmhouse of the Confederation period designed with elements of the Gothic Revival and Italianate architectural styles. The Milton and Ann Kester House displays a high degree of artistic merit in its picturesque design and fine craftsmanship which remain remarkably intact. Its multiple gables, resulting from its cruciform plan, are ornamented with curvilinear Gothic Revival bargeboards and paired, round-headed windows. The patterned brick walls with locally-sourced red-orange brick and accented with buff brick quoins and arches contribute to the decorative effect. The frame wing appears to be an addition of the mid-1870s to early 1880s based on the style of its windows.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Milton and Ann Kester House has historical and associative value, representing the religious and cultural mosaic theme of Pennsylvania Germans being attracted to Markham Township in the early nineteenth century, and representing the theme of improvement of nineteenth century farmsteads as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase. The Caster/Castor or Kester family were early residents of the north-east corner of Markham Township. They were of German cultural origin. In the early nineteenth century, Leonard and Catherine Caster came to Markham from Mount Bethel, North Hampton County, Pennsylvania, with their three sons, Michael, Jacob, and Philip. The family settled on three adjoining properties. Leonard Caster obtained the Crown patent for Lot 31, Concession 10 (the subject property) in 1816. His son, Jacob Kester, became the owner in 1821, and his grandson, John Milton Kester (known as Milton), became the owner in 1853. In approximately 1870, Milton Kester replaced the old frame dwelling on the property with the picturesque patterned brick farmhouse that exists today. The farm remained in the ownership of the Kester family until 1914.

Contextual Value

The Milton and Ann Kester House has contextual value as one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses located in the general vicinity of the historic communities of Mongolia and Stouffville, and is historically linked to the farm property where it has stood since c.1870.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Milton and Ann Kester 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 representative example of a locally rare example of a vernacular, patterned brick farmhouse of the Confederation period with a cruciform plan shape, designed with elements of the Gothic Revival and Italianate architectural styles:

- Cruciform plan;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Patterned brick walls in red-orange brick accented with buff brick quoins and arches over door and window openings;
- Steeply-pitched cross gable roof with projecting open eaves decorated with curvilinear wood bargeboards;
- Additional gables on the north and south sides of the main roof with projecting, open eaves decorated with curvilinear wood bargeboards;
- Single-leaf doors on the east and south walls;
- Two-over-two single-hung wood windows on ground floor with flat-headed, louvered wood shutters;
- Round-headed, paired, one-over-one wood windows on second floor with round-headed, louvered wood shutters;
- South side porch with shed roof supported on turned wood posts, decorated with fretwork brackets.
- Frame west wing with its rectangular shape, medium-pitched gable roof with projecting, open eaves, round window in the south gable, and segmentally-headed, two-over-two, single-hung windows on the north gable end wall.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical and associative value, representing the religious and cultural mosaic theme of Pennsylvania Germans being attracted to Markham Township in the early nineteenth century, and the nineteenth century trend whereby farmsteads were improved as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Kester family that historically resided here and made legible these themes through their ownership and tenancy on the property.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value as a building that is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surrounding:

- The location of the building facing east, in the location where it has stood since c.1870.

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

- Enclosed porch on north side of the dwelling;
- Metal screen door;
- Modern siding of frame wing;
- Accessory buildings.