



## By-law 2024-35

A by-law to designate a property as being of  
Cultural Heritage Value or Interest  
“Robert Armstrong House”  
5467 Nineteenth Avenue

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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 Robert Armstrong House;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Markham, by resolution passed on November 15, 2023, has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

Jiong & Gui Su  
5467 Nineteenth Avenue  
Markham, Ontario  
L3P 3J3

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the Robert Armstrong House, 5467 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:  
  
“Robert Armstrong House”  
5467 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 February 28, 2024.

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Kimberley Kitteringham  
City Clerk

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Frank Scarpitti  
Mayor

# **SCHEDULE ‘A’ TO BY-LAW 2024-35**

In the City of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, the property municipally known as 5467 Nineteenth Avenue, Markham, Ontario, and legally described as follows:

PT LT 30 CON 7 MARKHAM AS IN MA84726; MARKHAM

PIN: 030620104

# SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2024-35

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Robert Armstrong House

5467 Nineteenth Avenue  
c.1855

The Robert Armstrong 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 Robert Armstrong House is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling located on the south side of Nineteenth Avenue, west of the historic community of Dickson Hill. The house faces north.

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

The Robert Armstrong House has design and physical value as a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century patterned brick Georgian farmhouse with Classic Revival details, notably the flat-headed doorcase with multi-paned transom and sidelights. It is a fine example of the conservative, well-built brick farmhouses constructed in Markham Township during the prosperous years of the 1850s when wheat prices were high as the result of the Crimean War. An influx of cash enabled many farmers to replace older dwellings with new residences of more robust construction. This house displays the patterned brickwork in red and buff-coloured brick that was common in Southern Ontario construction from the 1850s to the 1880s. The rational form of the building, following the strict symmetry of the Georgian architectural tradition but with Classic Revival details, is typical of mid-nineteenth century residential design in Markham Township. The front doorcase with its multi-paned transom and sidelights is the focal point of the façade. A simple wood cornice composed of Classical mouldings and eave returns provide further decorative effect. The mix of window pane divisions is noteworthy and unusual in the context of Markham Township's mid-nineteenth century building stock.

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

The Robert Armstrong House has historical and associative value, representing the locally-significant theme of immigration, particularly the significant wave of British immigrants who arrived in Markham Township during the 1820s-1830s. Specifically, the property is associated with Robert Armstrong who came to Markham Township from Cumberland, England in 1826 with his widowed mother and six sisters. He was the brother of Captain William Goodfellow Armstrong, a leading citizen of old Markham Township, who settled near Reesorville (later Markham Village) in 1824. The property on Lot 30, Concession 7, was owned by Robert Armstrong from 1832 until his death in 1877. Sometime between the 1851 and 1861 census, a new brick farmhouse was constructed to replace an older frame dwelling on the farm. The public school that served the Dickson Hill community, S.S. No. 17, was located on the eastern part of Robert Armstrong's property. In this way the property is associated with the nineteenth century trend whereby farmsteads were improved as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase.

#### **Contextual Value**

The Robert Armstrong House has contextual value as the farmhouse that once served the Armstrong Farm, standing on its original site west of the historic community of Dickson Hill. It is historically linked to the former farm property where it has stood

since c.1855, and helps make legible the agricultural character of the former Markham Township.

### **Heritage Attributes**

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Robert Armstrong 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 very good representative example of a mid-nineteenth century patterned brick Georgia farmhouse with Classic Revival details:*

- Rectangular plan and the one-and-a-half storey height of the main block;
- One-storey rear kitchen wing;
- Red-orange brick masonry with buff brick quoins and splayed arches over the door and window openings;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Shed-roofed side veranda supported on slender wood posts and decorated with fretwork brackets;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with projecting boxed eaves, wood cornice, eave returns, and 3 single-stack gable-end chimneys (two on the main block, one on the rear kitchen wing);
- 3-bay configuration of the north (primary) elevation;
- Front doorcase with single-leaf door, multi-paned sidelights with panelled aprons, and flat-headed, multi-paned transom light;
- Flat-headed ground floor window openings with projecting lugsills, six-over-six single-hung windows and louvered shutters;
- Flat-headed second storey window openings with projecting lugsills, twelve-over-eight single-hung windows and louvered shutters;
- Flat-headed rear kitchen wing window openings with projecting lugsills, twelve-over-twelve single-hung windows;
- Single-leaf door centred on west wall of the rear kitchen wing;
- One-storey frame rear addition with medium-pitched gable roof with projecting boxed eaves and eave returns, and twelve-over-twelve single-hung window in west gable end.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical and associative value, representing the theme of immigration, particularly the significant wave of British immigrants who arrived in Markham Township during the 1820s-1830s, and the nineteenth century trend whereby farmsteads were improved as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase, and as the former residence of English immigrant Robert Armstrong:*

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Robert Armstrong family that historically resided here, prospered on this land, and subsequently constructed a fine brick farmhouse c.1855.

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

- The location of the building facing north, west of the historic community of Dickson Hill, where it has stood since c.1855, making legible the agricultural character of the former Markham Township.

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

- Barn and other accessory buildings.