



## By-law 2024-121

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY AS BEING OF  
CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST  
“JACOB WISMER HOUSE”  
46 TIMBERMILL CRESCENT

---

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 Jacob Wismer House;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Markham, by resolution passed on February 28, 2024, has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

Sandra Sommer & Gregory Sommer  
46 Timbermill Crescent  
Markham, Ontario  
L3P 6W7

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the Jacob Wismer House, 46 Timbermill Crescent, 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:  
  
“Jacob Wismer House”  
46 Timbermill Crescent  
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 June 26, 2024.

---

Kimberley Kitteringham  
City Clerk

---

Frank Scarpitti  
Mayor

# **SCHEDULE ‘A’ TO BY-LAW 2024-121**

In the City of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, the property municipally known as 46 Timbermill Crescent, Markham, Ontario, and legally described as follows:

PART LOT 15, CONCESSION 7, AS IN R421021; S/T MA109612  
MARKHAM

PIN: 029050137

# SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2024-121

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Jacob Wismer House

46 Timbermill Crescent  
c.1840

The Jacob Wismer 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 Jacob Wismer House is a two-storey frame dwelling located on Timbermill Crescent but with its historic frontage being on the south side of Sixteenth Avenue in the historic community of Mount Joy. The house faces north.

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

The Jacob Wismer House has design and physical value as a good representative example of a mid-nineteenth century frame Pennsylvania German farmhouse, and a locally rare example of a two-storey building of plank-on-plank construction. It is a vernacular building that generally reflects the simplified Georgian architectural tradition brought to Markham Township by Pennsylvania German families as seen in its rectangular form, restrained detailing, and the disciplined placement of door and window openings.

The difference in the number and placement of window openings on the principal elevation between the ground floor and second floor represents a variation on classic Georgian principles and highlights the vernacular character of the Jacob Wismer House. The underlying structure of the dwelling is of plank-on-plank or sawmill plank construction, a building technology that had its heyday in Southern Ontario during the 1840s as an alternative to post-and-beam construction. Rough-sawn planks were stacked one upon another and nailed together to form solid wood walls. Narrow one-inch thick planks were laid with a slight offset to allow for the application of exterior stucco and interior plaster. This example is sided in wood clapboard.

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

The Jacob Wismer House has historical value and associative value, representing the locally significant theme of Pennsylvania German Mennonites being attracted to Markham in the early nineteenth century, and for its direct association with Jacob Wismer, a prominent member of the Wismer family of Mount Joy-Quantztown. David and Lydia Wismer came to Markham from Bucks County, Pennsylvania in 1806 and became significant land owners in the area. Two of their sons, Jacob and Asa, settled on Lot 15, Concession 7 in the community of Mount Joy in the mid-1830s. Jacob Wismer was granted the east 100 acres of the property from the Crown in 1842, and constructed a two storey plank-on-plank farmhouse. His first wife was Elizabeth Wurts, with whom he had eight children. His second wife was Julia Curtis. Jacob Wismer was an active and well-known Reformer in politics, but when he was passed over for a Justice of the Peace appointment by the Baldwin cabinet, he switched his allegiance to the Conservative party. His lengthy obituary in the July 11, 1895 edition of the *Markham Economist* paints a picture of a much-respected citizen of old Markham who lived to the remarkable age of 94. The property was sold out of the family 1895.

### **Contextual Value**

The Jacob Wismer House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it has stood since c.1840.

### **Heritage Attributes**

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

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's design value or physical value as a good representative example of a mid-nineteenth century frame Pennsylvania German farmhouse, and a locally rare example of a two-storey building of plank-on-plank construction:*

- Rectangular plan shape;
- Two-storey height;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Wood clapboard siding with corner boards, frieze, and water table;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with eave returns;
- Five-bay configuration of the north (primary) elevation;
- Principal entrance with single-leaf door and wood Classical door surround;
- Flat-headed rectangular window openings with wood trim and projecting lugsills on the north, east, and west walls.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value or associative value representing the locally significant theme of Pennsylvania German Mennonites being attracted to Markham in the early nineteenth century, and for its direct association with Jacob Wismer, a prominent member of the Wismer family of Mount Joy-Quantztown:*

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Jacob Wismer Pennsylvania German family that historically resided on this property from the 1830s until 1895.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings:*

- The location of the building on its original site, with its primary elevation facing Sixteenth Avenue, where it has stood since c.1840.

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

- Modern window units within old window openings;
- Decorative shutters;
- Gable-roofed front porch;
- Modern exterior chimneys;
- Rear dormer-like extension;
- Accessory buildings;
- Rear deck.