



By-law 2024-148

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY AS BEING OF
CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST
“RUSSELL AND ALMA FORSTER HOUSE”
7842 HIGHWAY 7 EAST

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 Russell and Alma Forster House;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Markham, by resolution passed on May 1, 2024, has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

David and Juliet Smith
7842 Highway 7 East
Locust Hill, Ontario
LOH 1J0

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the Russell and Alma Forster House, 7842 Highway 7 East, 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:

“Russell and Alma Forster House”
7842 Highway 7 East
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 July 17, 2024.

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2024-148

In the City of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, the property municipally known as 7842 Highway 7 East, Markham, Ontario, and legally described as follows:

PART LOT 11, CONCESSION 10; MARKHAM PART 2, 64R4520;
MARKHAM

PIN: 700140010

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2024-148

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Russell and Alma Forster House

7842 Highway 7 East
c.1933

The Russell and Alma Forster 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 Russell and Alma Forster House is a one-and-a-half story brick house located on the north side of Highway 7 East, in the historic community of Locust Hill. The house faces south.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Russell and Alma Forster House has design value and physical value as a representative example of a village dwelling in the Dutch Colonial Revival Style with Arts and Crafts details. The gambrel roof places this 1930s dwelling into the stylistic category of Dutch Colonial Revival. It is one of the few examples of this style in Markham. The Dutch Colonial Revival style was one of several revivalist architectural styles that were popular in the early twentieth century. This revivalist style was not based on the design of traditional dwellings in Holland, but rather from colonial houses in the New England states where the gambrel roof was used by some English and Dutch colonists. The grouped windows, textured brick, and cutaway porch reflects an Arts and Crafts aesthetic, rather than the more commonly used Colonial Revival features seen in other examples of Dutch Colonial Revival.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Russell and Alma Forster House has historical value for its association with the early twentieth century development of the hamlet of Locust Hill, and specifically the creation of retirement properties for former local farmers as the former residence of Herbert Russell Forster and Alma (Yeo) Forster. Russell Forster was a farmer, township assessor, and carpenter. He farmed the Forster family homestead on Lot 13, Concession 9, and married Alma Yeo of Goderich, Ontario in 1900. In 1933, the farm was sold and Russell and Alma Forster moved into the hamlet of Locust Hill where they built a modest, one-and-a-half storey brick house in the Dutch Colonial style on a building lot purchased from Maude (Reesor) Millard in 1933. The Forster family were the owners until 1948.

Contextual Value

The Russell and Alma Forster House has contextual value for being important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the area as one of a number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that constitute the historic hamlet of Locust Hill. Locust Hill's Post Office has been housed at 7842 Highway 7 for a number of years after being relocated from the Locust Hill General Store that formerly stood across the road.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Russell and Alma Forster 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 village dwelling in the Dutch Colonial Revival Style with Arts and Crafts details:

- Rectangular plan;
- Concrete foundation;
- Red brick walls with segmental brick arches above door and window openings;
- Gambrel roof with shed-roofed dormers;
- Single-stack brick chimney;
- Cutaway porch with brick railings and brick column;
- Single-leaf doors;
- Existing window openings containing flat-headed, 1/1 single-hung windows.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value for its association with the early twentieth century development of the hamlet of Locust Hill, and specifically the creation of retirement properties for former local farmers as the former residence of Russell and Alma Forster:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the early twentieth century development of the hamlet of Locust Hill and of the Russell and Alma Forster family that historically resided here and were the original owners of this house.

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 Locust Hill:

- The location of the building on its original site, facing south, within the historic hamlet of Locust Hill.

Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value or are otherwise excluded from the Statement of Significance:

- Detached accessory building.