



By-law 2024-180

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY AS BEING OF
CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST
“BROWNSBERGER-HAM HOUSE”
6666 MAJOR MACKENZIE DRIVE 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 Brownsberger-Ham House;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Markham, by resolution passed on May 29, 2024, has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

Lloyd & Helen Ham
6666 Major Mackenzie Drive East
Markham, Ontario
L3P 3J3

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the Brownsberger-Ham House, 6666 Major Mackenzie Drive 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:

“Brownsberger-Ham House”
6666 Major Mackenzie Drive 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 September 25, 2024.

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2024-180

In the City of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, the property municipally known as 6666 Major Mackenzie Drive East, Markham, Ontario, and legally described as follows:

PT LT 21 CON 8(MKM) AS IN R677271 EXCEPT MA48671, PT 2,
65R29769, PT 1, 65R30377 & PT 1, 65R31371; T/W MA48671; MARKHAM

PIN: 03062-0423

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2024-180

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Brownsberger-Ham House

6666 Major Mackenzie Drive East
c.1906

The Brownsberger-Ham 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 Brownsberger-Ham House is a two-storey red brick farmhouse located on the north side of Major Mackenzie Drive East, north of the Greensborough Community, and east of Little Rouge Creek. The house faces south.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Brownsberger-Ham House has design and physical value as a representative example of an early twentieth century vernacular farmhouse in that includes elements of the highly eclectic Queen Anne Revival style of the late Victorian period as well as an L-shaped plan associated with the Gothic Revival style. The form of the house suggests that it may have once had decorative woodwork in the gables and on the porch. The absence of this woodwork has created a vernacular dwelling that is restrained in its design and difficult to place within a single stylistic category. That is, however, occasionally the nature of vernacular architecture.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Brownsberger-Ham House has historical and associative value as it represents the maturation of Markham's agricultural community as it transitioned from the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century and old farmsteads were updated with new buildings. The property also has historical value for its association with the Brownsberger and Ham farming families, Gideon Brownsberger being the builder of the house, and Lewis Ham and his descendants long-time second owners. It has further historical value its association with the Ninth Line Wesleyan Methodist Church as the brick used in the construction of the house was salvaged from the church in 1906. The eastern 60 acres of Markham Township Lot 21, Concession 8 were purchased in 1896 by Gideon Brownsberger, a member of a Pennsylvania German family that settled in Ringwood, Whitchurch Township, in 1826. He built a new farmhouse in 1906 to replace an older frame dwelling on the property and built a new gambrel-roofed barn in the early twentieth century. In 1922, the farm was purchased by Lewis Ham and remains in the ownership of his descendants as of 2024.

Contextual Value

The Brownsberger-Ham House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it has stood and functioned as a farmhouse since 1906. In this capacity it helps make legible the once dominant agricultural character of Markham.

Heritage Attributes

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

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design and physical value as a representative example of an early twentieth century vernacular farmhouse in that displays elements of both the highly eclectic Queen Anne Revival style and the Gothic Revival style:

- L-plan;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Red-orange brick walls with radiating brick arches over door and window openings;
- Two-storey height;
- Cross-gabled roof with gable-roofed wall dormer and single-stack brick chimney;
- Single-leaf, flat-headed front door opening and hip-roofed open porch;
- Large plate glass fixed wood windows with rectangular transom lights containing red tinted glass on the front projecting bay;
- Flat-headed, rectangular two-over-two single hung wood windows;
- Narrow, flat-headed rectangular window on second storey positioned over the front door.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value and associative value, representing the maturation of Markham's agricultural community as it transitioned from the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century and old farmsteads were updated with new buildings, and for its association with the Brownsberger and Ham farming families. Further historical value is derived from its association with the Ninth Line Wesleyan Methodist Church where the brick used in the construction of the house was salvaged in 1906:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Brownsberger and Ham farming families, and its brick an historical remnant of the demolished Ninth Line Wesleyan Methodist Church.

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, facing south, where it has stood since 1906, helping make legible the most dominant agricultural character of Markham

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

- Metal posts supporting front porch;
- Rear wing;
- Accessory farm buildings.