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October 25, 2023

[REDACTED]  
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**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE  
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, MILTON AND ANN KESTER HOUSE, 11584 YORK-DURHAM LINE**

To whom it may concern:

This will confirm that at a meeting held on October 18, 2023, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

**That Council state its intention to designate 11584 York-Durham Line under Part IV, Section 29 of  
the *Ontario Heritage Act* in recognition of its cultural heritage significance**

Please find attached the Statement of Significance which summarizes the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and provides a description of the heritage attributes of the property. Notice of objection to the notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention on the City's website (October 25). Refer to 'Ontario Heritage Act Notices' at the link below. The notice of objection must include the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.

<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home>

Should you have any questions regarding the Statement of Significance or the implications of heritage designation, please contact Evan Manning, Senior Heritage Planner, at [emanning@markham.ca](mailto:emanning@markham.ca)

Kimberley Kitteringham  
City Clerk

C. Ontario Heritage Trust

Attachment: Statement of Significance

**RECEIVED**  
2023/10/26  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

## 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 value 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 value 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;
- 2/2 single-hung wood windows on ground floor with flat-headed, louvered wood shutters;
- Round-headed, paired, 1/1 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, 2/2, single-hung windows on the north gable end wall.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value 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, as the former residence of Milton and Ann Kester:*

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Kester family that historically resided here.

*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.

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