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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM

BY-LAW NUMBER 229-93

A by-law to designate a certain property as
being of Historic and/or Architectural
value or interest

WHEREAS Section 29, Subsection 6 of the Ontario Heritage Act, Chapter 0.18, R.S.O. 1990 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic and/or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises as outlined hereunder:



and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate The Philip Eckardt Log Home, 9451 Kennedy Road, Markham, and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality once for each of three consecutive weeks;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule 'B', attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the following real property, being The Philip Eckardt Log Home, municipally known as 9451 Kennedy Road, Markham, more particularly described as outlined in Schedule 'A' attached is hereby designated as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest;

2. THAT the Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described herein in the Land Registry Office.

READ A FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD TIME THIS 14TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 1993.



BOB PANIZZA,
TOWN CLERK



FRANK SCARPITTI
MAYOR

BMIS 3833/2/3/4/5

SCHEDULE 'A'

DESCRIPTION OF LAND
PHILIP ECKARDT LOG HOME
9451 KENNEDY ROAD
MARKHAM, ONTARIO

In the Town of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, formerly in the geographic Township of Markham in the County of York, being composed of part of Lot 17, Concession 6 described as follows:

Premising that all bearings herein are astronomic and are referred to the easterly limit of part 8 in accordance with expropriation plan 11242, having a bearing of North 10° 37' 30" West.

Commencing at an iron bar planted in the interior of said Lot 17, distant 243.54 metres measured on a bearing of North 50° 27' 30" East from the south west angle of said Lot 17.

Thence North 0° 28' 05" West, 19.95 metres to an iron bar.

Thence North 89° 31' 55" East, 10.254 metres to an iron bar.

Thence South 0° 28' 05" East, 19.95 metres to an iron bar.

Thence South 89° 31' 55" West, 20.254 metres to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 'B'

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Philip Eckardt Log Home is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of both its architectural and historical significance.

Architectural Reasons

The Philip Eckardt Log Home (c. 1800), located on the west half of Lot 17, Concession 6 is a squared timber dwelling constructed of white pine. Originally the log house was two storeys in height with an attic loft. An upper and lower verandah likely wrapped around three sides of the home with a kitchen tail added to the fourth (south facade). The lower portion of the structure at one time (1885) was clad in clapboard siding, while the square timber construction was left exposed at the upper level. With dovetailed corners and mortise-and tenon joints, the home was originally constructed without nails. Because of its age and excellent craftsmanship, the Philip Eckardt Log Home was described in a 1916 edition of "The Canadian Lumberman and Worker".

Though substantially altered over the years, the gabled hip roof, a relic of European architecture intended to protect the timbers from precipitation while providing shelter to those entering or exiting the building, clearly identifies the structure as an early pioneer dwelling.

A 1948 renovation resulted in the removal of the lower floor, the north dormer and the kitchen tail as well as the addition of three hipped dormers to the east and west. The orientation of the home was also modified so the main entrance is now located on the east facade where it had previously been on the west, facing Kennedy Road. A second entrance was added to the south elevation and vertical tongue-and-groove siding installed. The square timber construction of the Philip Eckardt Log Home which includes individual timbers measuring up to 32" in width, now remains beneath the aluminum cladding. The stone foundation has been parged with concrete. Original double hung sash windows with 8/8 pane division remain on the north and west facades on the main floor level. The plank floorboards, 18-24" wide and 2" thick are also still in place.

Historical Reasons

Philip Eckardt (1795-1845) played an integral role in the settlement of Markham Township and the establishment of the Village of Unionville. Originally from Saxony, Germany, Philip emigrated on board the "Catharina" with the other Berczy families ultimately arriving in Markham Township in the fall of 1794. Because of his training as a miller, millwright, carpenter, surveyor and mechanic, Eckardt was engaged by the British government to build mills for the Berczy settlement which he established at German Mills. He also assisted in road construction in the area, the township surveys for Markham, Scarborough and Vaughan, and the construction of government buildings in York (Toronto). During his ten year contract with the government, Philip Eckardt received £200 a year with a £60 bonus.

Upon completion of his contract with the government and after the financial failure of the German Mills, Eckardt established mills on the Rouge River at Unionville. The grist mill burned in 1840 but the sawmill continued to operate until the 1860s either on Lot 16, Concession 5 or Lot 11, Concession 6. One of the most successful cattle and lumber dealers, Philip Eckardt was a natural leader in the community. He welcomed many prominent travellers to his home including Lieutenant Governor Simcoe and W. W. Baldwin. Over time, he was able to accumulate numerous parcels of land in the 5th and 6th Concessions of Markham, which he passed on to his children.

In 1794 Philip Eckardt married Ann Elizabeth Koepke whom he had met on board the "Catharina". They had some eighteen children, most of whom are reputed to have been born in the Philip Eckardt Log Home. Originally granted Lot 7, Concession 6, Philip purchased the west half lot on which the Philip Eckardt Log Home stands in 1808. This property remained in the Eckardt family until 1865 when John Fierheller acquired it.

A devout Lutheran, Philip Eckardt hosted early services in his home. In 1819 he donated an acre of land in the southwest corner of his property for the establishment of a Lutheran Church and Cemetery. The church, now known as Bethesda Lutheran Church was moved to Union Street in the Village of Unionville but the cemetery remains. In 1960, the Ontario Heritage Foundation installed two Provincial Plaques at the site of the cemetery to commemorate the Berczy Settlement of 1794 as well as the Bethesda Church and Burying Ground, Markham's oldest congregation and one of the earliest Lutheran congregations in Ontario.