

# The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill

## By-Law 32-24

A By-Law to Authorize the Designation of 13076 Leslie Street (*George Sproxton House*)  
Under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

Whereas Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And Whereas the Council of The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill has caused to be served on the owners of the property known as 13076 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, a Notice of Intention to Designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such a Notice of Intention to Designate to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

And Whereas the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, the Description of Heritage Attributes, and a scale drawing identifying the location of the property's cultural heritage value or interest are set out in Schedule "A" and attached to By-Law 32-24;

And Whereas no objection to the proposed designation was served on the City Clerk within the period prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

**Now Therefore The Council Of The Corporation Of The City Of Richmond Hill Enacts As Follows:**

1. That the real property located at 13076 Leslie Street, being Part of Lot 6, Concession 2 Whitchurch; designated as Parts 3, 5 and 6 on Plan 65R-21423; save and except Parts 3 and 4 on Plan 65R-23011; Richmond Hill; Regional Municipality of York [PIN 03204-0103 (LT)], is hereby designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18, as being of cultural heritage value or interest.
2. That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this By-law to be served on the owner of the property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust, and publish a Notice of the Passing of the By-law in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.
3. 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" in the Land Registry Office.
4. That Schedule "A" attached to By-law 32-24 is declared to form a part of this By-law.

Passed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

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David West  
Mayor

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Stephen M.A. Huycke  
City Clerk

## SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 32-24

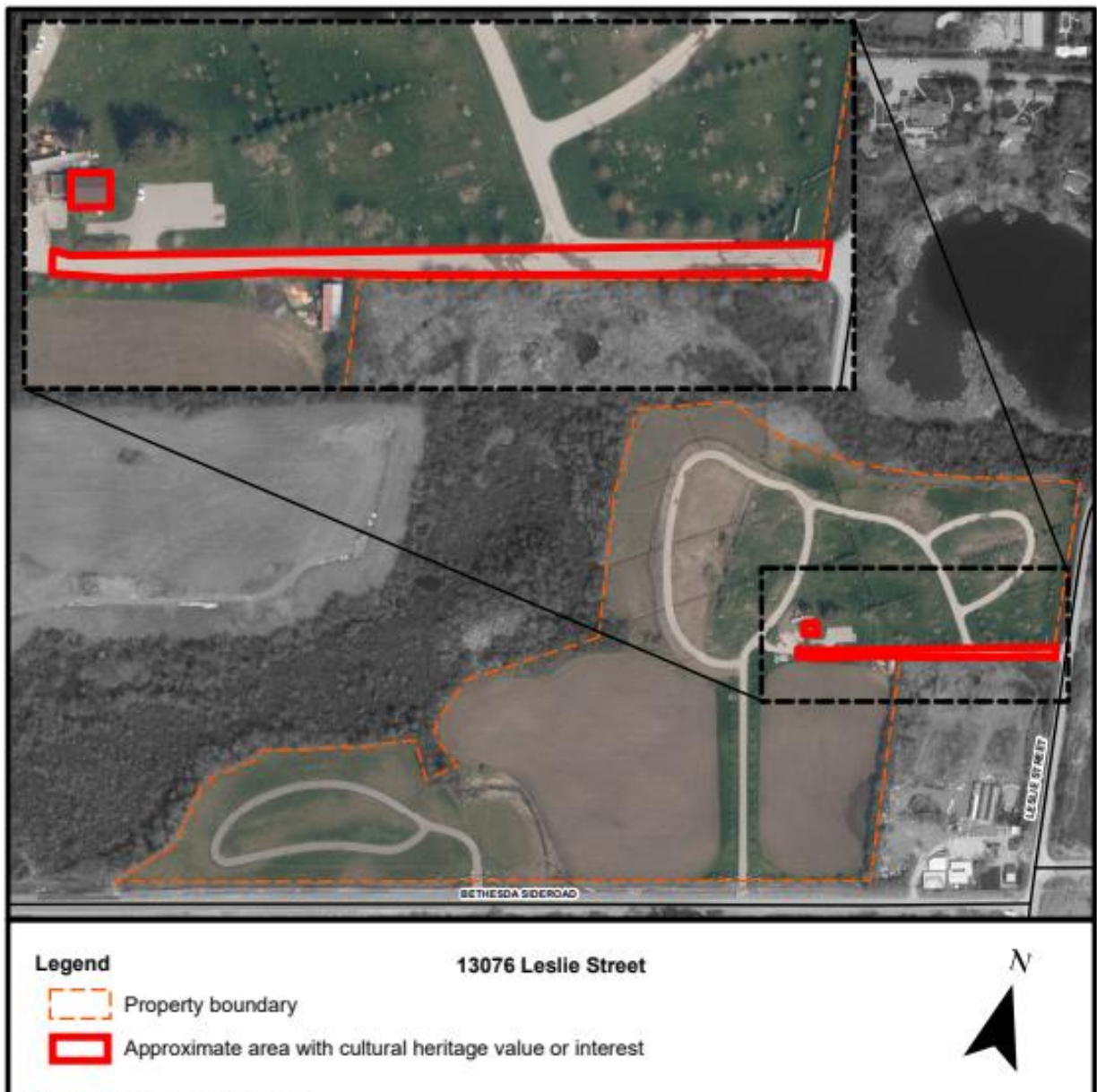
### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

13076 Leslie Street  
George Sproxton House

#### Description of Property

The George Sproxton House at 13076 Leslie Street is a 1 ½-storey dichromatic brick house with a rectangular plan and side gabled roof, located on the west side of Leslie Street, north of Bethesda Sideroad. The property is located within the historic hamlet of Oak Ridges, formerly part of Whitchurch Township, but now located in the northeastern portion of the City of Richmond Hill.

#### Area of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest



#### Statement of Significance

##### Design and Physical Value

Dating to c. 1853, the George Sproxton House at 13076 Leslie Street has design and physical value as a representative example of mid-19th-century Georgian farmhouse architecture in the former hamlet of Oak Ridges. The building has retained many of its

original architectural features representative of the Georgian architectural style, including its rectangular plan, medium-pitched side-gabled roof, rubblestone base and red brick cladding with buff brick quoins and voussoirs, flat headed windows with six-over-six wood sash units, and the main raised entrance with a paneled wooden door and transom.

#### Historical and Associative Value

The subject property has historical and associative value as the former residence of two generations of the Sproxtton family, who came to York County from Yorkshire, England in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and were early settlers and famers in Whitchurch Township. George Sproxtton built the existing dwelling as part of his farmstead c. 1853, and the Sproxtton family farmed the property from around 1850 to 1900.

#### Contextual Value

The George Sproxtton House is one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses that help to define the historical agricultural character of the hamlet of Oak Ridges in former Whitchurch Township.

The George Sproxtton House has stood on this property since c.1853, when it was part of a farmstead owned by the Sproxtton family in Oak Ridges. As such, the subject property has additional contextual value as it possesses long-standing and significant physical, visual and historical links to its surroundings, including to remaining landscape features of the Sproxtton farm, such as the original farm lane running west from Leslie Street, Hayes Lake (formerly Sproxtton Lake) to the north, and the woodlands to the west. The subject property also has long-standing and significant physical, visual and historical links to the former agricultural community of Oak Ridges.

#### **Heritage Attributes**

##### Design and Physical Value

The heritage attributes contributing to the value of the property as a representative example of mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century Georgian farmhouse architecture in the former hamlet of Oak Ridges are:

- The scale, form and massing of the 1 ½-storey building with rectangular plan;
- The medium-pitched side-gabled roof;
- The building's exterior materials, including the rubblestone foundation, and red-brick cladding with buff brick quoins and voussoirs;
- The balanced three-bay composition of the house's south (front) elevation, comprised of a central doorway flanked by two windows;
- The balanced two-bay composition of the house's east (side) elevation;
- The windows, including:
  - Flat-headed window openings with stone sills and buff brick voussoirs, and historical wood six-over-six sash units (where extant); and
  - Flat-headed basement windows on the east elevation with red brick voussoirs and quoining;
- The paneled wooden door surmounted by a transom window with decorative diamond-shaped tracery on the house's front (south) elevation; and
- The brick chimney at the west gable-end.

### Historical and Associative Value

The heritage attribute that contributes to the value of the property for its connections to George Sproxtton and the Sproxtton family, early settlers and farmers in Oak Ridges, are:

- The house's scale, siting, and orientation within a large former agricultural farmstead property on the west side of Leslie Street, north of Bethesda Side Road; and
- The house's modest Georgian farmhouse architectural style and material palette.

### Contextual Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the contextual value of the property as part of a collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses and country estates in the former hamlet of Oak Ridges are:

- The house's scale, siting, and orientation within a large former agricultural farmstead property on the west side of Leslie Street, north of Bethesda Side Road;
- The house's vernacular Georgian farmhouse architectural style and material palette; and
- The original access lane running west to the house from Leslie Street.

Note: the house's west 'summer kitchen' addition is currently in a state of partial demolition, and is not considered to possess significant heritage attributes.