

The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill

By-Law 97-24

A By-Law to Designate 13561 Leslie Street (*Forester 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 property to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

And Whereas the Council of The Corporation of the City of Richmond Hill (“City Council”) has consulted with Heritage Richmond Hill concerning this matter;

And Whereas City Council thereafter caused the City Clerk to serve on the owner(s) of the property known as 13561 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill, as well as upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, a Notice of Intention to Designate the aforesaid property and has also caused the City Clerk to publish the Notice of Intention to Designate on the City’s website in accordance with subsection 26(4) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and City By-law 12-20, as amended;

And Whereas no Notice of Objection was served upon the City Clerk under subsection 29(5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*;

And Whereas the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest, the Description of Heritage Attributes, and a scaled drawing identifying the location of the property’s cultural heritage value or interest are set out in Schedule “A” to this by-law;

Now Therefore The Council of The Corporation of The City of Richmond Hill enacts as follows:

1. That the property located at 13561 Leslie Street, being Part of Lot 8, Concession 3 (W), as in R217776, except WH8315 and except Part 1, on Plan 65R-34349; Part of Lot 9, Concession 3 (W); Part of the North 1/2 of Lot 10, Concession 3 (W), except Parts 1 and 3, on Plan 65R-27558, Parts 1 and 2, on Plan 65R-29052 and Part 3, on Plan 65R-29054, except Part 1, on Plan 65R-33143 and Except Part 2, on Plan 65R-34349 and Parts 1 and 2, on Plan 65R-35827; Part of the South 1/2 of Lot 10, Concession 3 (W), as in A61634A lying west of the railway, except B88808B, B87629B, Part 1, on Plan 65R-17811 and Parts 3, 4, & 5, Expropriation Plan R259745, save and except Parts 2 & 4, on Plan 65R-33541; Richmond Hill; Regional Municipality of York [PIN 03204-0159 (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.

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2. That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner(s) of the property and on the Ontario Heritage Trust, and publish a Notice of the Passing of this by-law on the City's website in accordance with subsection 26(4) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and City By-law 12-20, as amended.
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 97-24 is declared to form a part of this by-law.

Passed this 9th day of October, 2024.

David West
Mayor

Stephen M.A. Huycke
City Clerk

File D12-07294

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 97-24

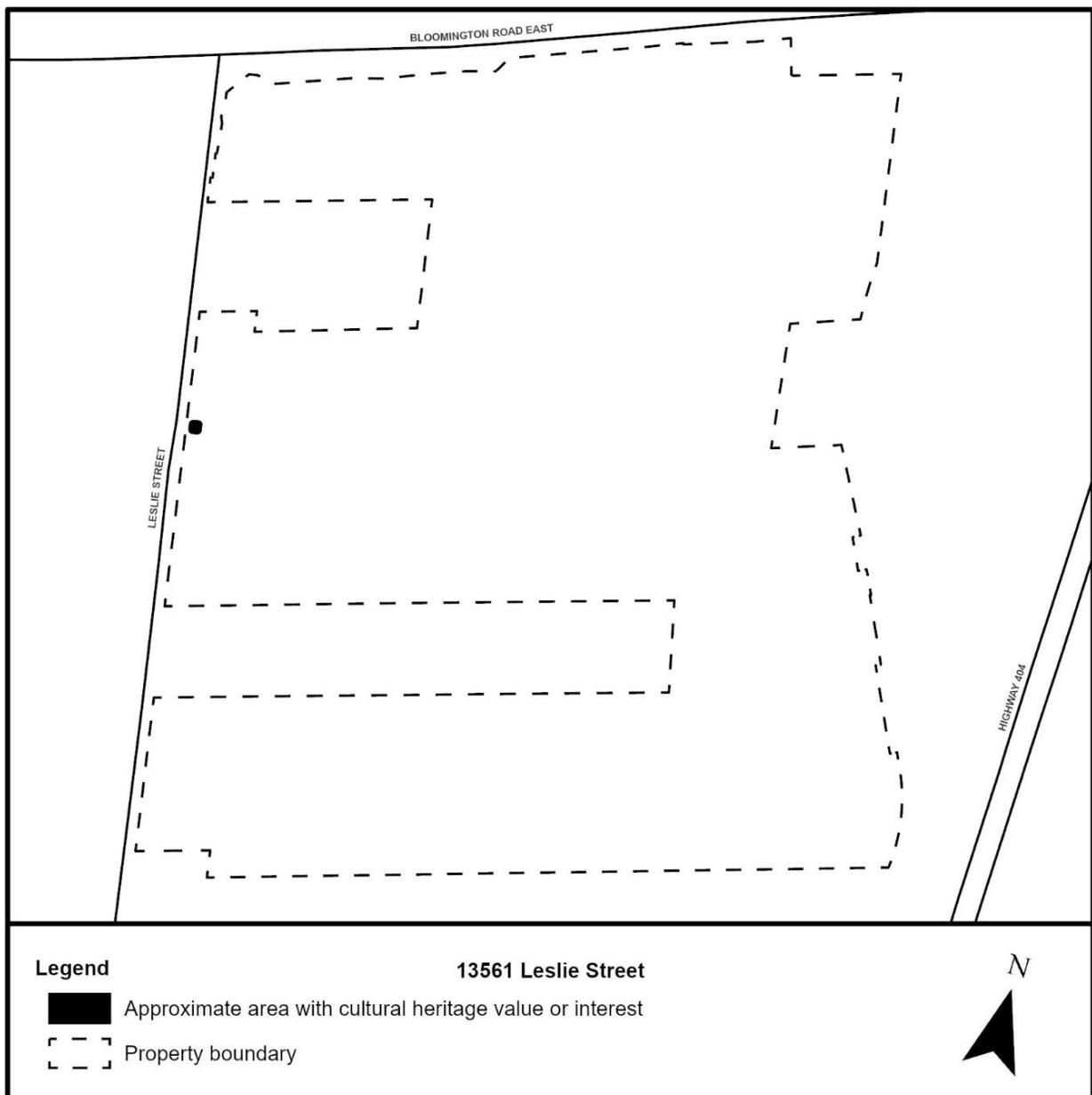
REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

13561 Leslie Street
Forester House

Description of Property

The Forester House at 13561 Leslie Street is a 1 ½ storey residential structure built in the Gothic Revival Cottage style with an irregular building footprint and a bellcast porch. The property is located on the east side of Leslie Street, just south of Bloomington Road and within the former hamlet of White Rose.

Area of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest



Statement of Significance

Design and Physical Value

The Forester House at 13561 Leslie Street, built circa the 1870s, has design and physical value because it is a representative example of the Gothic Revival Cottage architectural style. The Forester House consists of a 1 ½ storey frame structure with

painted brick veneer with rear and side additions. Historical architectural features that contribute to the building's representative Gothic Revival Cottage style include its frame construction with brick veneer, its medium-sloped side gable roof with front gable adorned with wooden vergeboarding and finial, the three-bay symmetrical composition of the front façade, the flat-headed windows with stone sills and brick voussoirs on the front and side facades, the flat-arched doorway at grade, the lancet-arch window with stone sill and brick voussoir on the second storey, and the one-storey porch on the front façade with a bellcast roof and wooden trim, featuring elliptical arches and drops.

Historical and Associative Value

The Forester House has historical and associative value for its direct association with the prominent Forester family, who lived and farmed on the subject property from 1879 to 1955. The Forester family were early settlers with roots in the area dating back to 1830, owned and farmed multiple properties and hundreds of acres in the area, and were engaged in the White Rose Methodist community. The Forester family is also associated with nearby heritage properties including the Forster Phylis Rawlinson Log House at 11715 Leslie Street (circa 1830s, designated), the John Forrester House at 188 Gormley Road West (1909, designated) and the John Forrester House at 13560 Leslie Street (circa 1880s, demolished).

Contextual Value

The Forester House has contextual value because it is one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses that help define the historical agricultural character of the former hamlet of White Rose in Whitchurch Township.

The Forester House has further contextual value because it is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. The property retains its physical and visual links to the surrounding agricultural landscape, including the rural landscape to the north, west, and south, and the creek and historic railroad running on the east side of the property. The Forester House is a remaining physical example of the White Rose rural community, which diminished and disappeared in the early twentieth century.

Heritage Attributes

Design and Physical Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property as a representative example of the Gothic Revival Cottage style are:

- The scale, form, and massing of the 1 ½ storey historical front (west) portion of the building, featuring a rectangular plan;
- The medium-pitched side gable roof with steeply-pitched front gable;
- The frame construction with brick veneer;
- The symmetrical composition of the main (west) façade, with three bays at grade and one bay on the second storey;
- The window and door openings, including:
 - The flat-headed windows with brick voussoirs and stone sills on the north, south, and west facades;
 - The lancet arch window with brick voussoir and stone sill on the west façade;
 - The principal flat-headed doorway with brick voussoir on the west façade;
- The wooden vergeboarding and finial within the front gable;
- The one-storey front porch spanning the width of the west elevation, including:
 - The bellcast roof; and

- The wooden columns with elliptical arches and drops.

Historical and Associative Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property as having association with the Forester family is:

- The building's scale, siting, and orientation on the east side of Leslie Street.

Contextual Value

The heritage attributes that contribute to the value of the property for defining and maintaining the rural character of the former hamlet of White Rose are:

- The building's scale, siting, and orientation on the east side of Leslie Street; and
- The house's 19th century Gothic Revival architectural style.

Note: the building's rear (east) and side (south) additions are not considered to possess heritage attributes.