

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE

BY-LAW NUMBER 2021-072-DS

BEING A BY-LAW to designate 3291 Stouffville Road (Bruce's Mill) as having Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

WHEREAS pursuant to Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, the Council of a Municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate real property including the buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at 3291 Stouffville Road and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality (Stouffville Sun-Tribune) for two consecutive weeks; and

WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this By-law; and

WHEREAS the notice of objection to the said proposed designation which has been served upon the Clerk and filed with the Conservation Review Board has been withdrawn by the objector; and

WHEREAS any changes, modifications, or alterations to any of the significant cultural heritage attributes listed in Schedule "A" require the issuance of a Heritage Permit approved by the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE 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:

3291 Stouffville Road Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Regional Municipality of York; and

2. That the Town 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 proper Land Registry Office.

READ a first and second time this 20th day of July, 2021.

READ a third time and passed this 20th day of July, 2021.


Iain Lovatt, Mayor


Gillian Angus-Trall, Clerk

SCHEDULE A

REASON FOR DESIGNATION OF 3291 STOUFFVILLE ROAD (BRUCE'S MILL)

Part of Lot 33 Concession 5 Markham; Part of Lot 34 Concession 5 Markham as in MA47249; Part of Lot 35 Concession 5 Markham as in MA47085; Save and except MA59998, Part 4 on Plan 64R-5948, Part 9 on Plan 64R-2765, Parts 6, 7 and 8 on Plan 65R-30634, Parts 6, 7 and 8 on Plan 65R-30636, Parts 1 and 3 on Plan 65R-32172, Parts 9, 14 and 15 on Plan 65R-30635 and Part 13 on Plan 65R-30635 (Save and except Part 2 on Plan 65R-32172), Subject to MA47249; Subject to Life Interest in MA47249; Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE

Description of Historic Place

Now part of a Toronto & Region Conservation Area at the corner of Warden Avenue and Stouffville Road, Bruce's Mill at 3291 Stouffville Road in the southwest portion of the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville was the site of a grist mill and farm located adjacent to Bruce's Creek, in the Rouge River watershed. The 108-hectare property includes a two-storey timber-frame mill with associated flume, forebay tank, embankment retaining a relict mill pond, concrete dam, and roadway with bridge, and a house (Mill Attendant's House or Bruce House) originally sited near the mill but relocated to the north entrance to the property from Stouffville Road.

Statement of Significance

Bruce's or Carrick Mill was the site of a sawmill and grist mill established by Pennsylvania Mennonite Caspar Sherk as early as 1827. The two-storey timber-frame and clapboard flour mill that stands today was erected next to the Sherk flour mill in 1858 by Robert and William Bruce, who named it for their ancestral home near Carrick Scotland. The mill expanded over time, incorporating timbers salvaged from the Sherk mill, and transitioned from wheel to turbine power before 1900. In 1912, miller Alexander Duncan Bruce installed a steel overshot Fitz Water Wheel Company wheel, and this may have also included laying a rivetted cast iron flume. Alexander Bruce ran the mill until 1961, when it was purchased by the Toronto Region Conservation Authority, by which time it was associated with a farm complex either side of the creek. A house from the complex, possibly Alexander Bruce's principal residence, was later relocated to its current location near the conservation area's north entrance.

The mill has design or physical value as a representative example of a mid-19th century timber frame mill that was expanded and modified over time, but also rare for its framing methods, its intact late 19th century milling machinery, early 20th century steel overshot water wheel, and its continued association with an iron flume, tall and extensive embankment, relict mill pond, concrete gravity dam and forebay tank, and former "given road". Together these elements constitute an evolved and relict industrial cultural heritage landscape linked to a formative period in the history of Ontario's agricultural development and settlement. The relocated Bruce house also has design or physical value for its unique Gothic Picturesque cottage style and the craftsmanship of its decorative elements.

As its name suggests, Bruce's Mill is directly associated with the Bruce family, who as millers, were important drivers of the area's economic development as well as leaders in the Presbyterian Church and local government. Alexander "Sandy" Duncan Bruce is recognized as the founder of the Independent Telephone Company, a campaign manager for Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, and for his leading role in the local historical society and committee.

Bruce's Mill has long been regarded as a local landmark and was the subject of two works by noted semi-impressionistic painter Manly Edward MacDonald. It is one of a small number of mills in the province where the building envelope and some component parts remain intact, and as part of a conservation area may be seen by thousands of visitors to the conservation area each year.

SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The heritage attributes of the cultural heritage landscape Bruce's or Carrick Mill includes its:

- Mill building comprised of a:
 - Two-storey main block built in 1858 of heavy timber-frame and with a gable roof, symmetrical fenestration, and wood double-hung windows.
 - Storey-and-a-half storeroom built in the fourth quarter of the 19th century, reputedly from timbers salvaged from the 1828 Caspar Sherk flour mill.
 - Single-storey north wing built in the late 19th century with a canted queen posts and heavy purlins.
 - Concrete penstock, Fitz Steel Overshot Water Wheel and associated components installed in 1912.
 - Late 19th century machinery installed on all levels, which may be required to be relocated based on adaptive reuse requirements.

- Landscape features comprised of:
 - Metal flume leading from the concrete forebay tank to the concrete penstock.
 - Concrete forebay tank.
 - Embankment on the south and east sides of the relict mill pond that may have been initially constructed in 1827.
 - Relict mill pond.
 - Concrete gravity dam built in 1963 in the same location as the dam used during the Bruce operation.

- Potential archaeological remains of the 1827 sawmill, 1828 flour mill, 19th century residences, barns, and outbuildings on both sides of Bruce's Creek.

- Views of the mill and associated features from the southwest, south, and southeast.

The heritage attributes of the relocated Bruce House (Mill Attendant's House) are its:

- Storey-and a half massing with cruciform plan.
- Veranda with turned posts, curvilinear brackets and bell-cast roof.
- Formal, inset and paneled entrance with sidelights, transom, and six-panel wood door.
- Lancet window with curved muntins at its head on the level directly above the formal entrance.