

Authority: North York Community Council Report No. 7, Clause No. 12,
as adopted by City of Toronto Council on July 27, 28, 29 and 30, 1999
Enacted by Council: November 25, 1999

CITY OF TORONTO

BY-LAW No. 775-1999

**To designate the property at 101 Senlac Road (Michael Shepard House)
as being of architectural and historical value or interest.**

WHEREAS authority was granted by Council to designate the property at No. 101 Senlac Road as being of architectural and historical value or interest; and

WHEREAS the *Ontario Heritage Act* authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historical or architectural value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the land and premises known as No. 101 Senlac Road and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Notice of Intention to designate the property and has caused the Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "C" to this by-law; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation was served upon the Clerk of the municipality;

The Council of the City of Toronto HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. The property at No. 101 Senlac Road, more particularly described in Schedule "A" to this by-law and shown on the map attached hereto as Schedule "B", is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest.

2. The City Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedules "A" and "B" to this by-law in the proper Land Registry Office.

3. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owners of the property at No. 101 Senlac Road and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Toronto as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 25th day of November, A.D. 1999.

CASE OOTES,
Deputy Mayor

NOVINA WONG,
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

SCHEDULE "A"

In the City of Toronto (formerly in the City of North York) and Province of Ontario being composed of part of Lot 17 in Concession 1, West of Yonge Street, in the Geographic Township of North York, the boundaries of the land being described as follows:

PREMISING that the bearings hereinafter mentioned are grid and are referred to the Central Meridian 79 degrees and 30 minutes West Longitude through Zone 10 of the Ontario Co-ordinate System, NAD 27 (1966 adjustment), then;

COMMENCING at a point the location of which may be arrived at as follows;

BEGINNING at a point in the westerly limit of Beecroft Road as confirmed under the Boundaries Act by Plan BA-632 (NY677403, Plan 9908), said point being in the northerly limit of Lot 487 on Plan M-407 registered in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Metropolitan Toronto (No. 66) distant 3.05 metres westerly from the north-easterly angle thereof;

THENCE North 78 degrees 54 minutes 05 seconds West a distance of 316.31 metres to the point of commencement;

THENCE South 76 degrees 29 minutes 15 seconds West a distance of 11.78 metres;

THENCE North 13 degrees 30 minutes 50 seconds West a distance of 5.58 metres;

THENCE South 76 degrees 29 minutes 15 seconds West a distance of 9.18 metres;

THENCE North 13 degrees 30 minutes 50 seconds West a distance of 8.14 metres;

THENCE North 76 degrees 29 minutes 15 seconds East a distance of 9.18 metres;

THENCE North 13 degrees 30 minutes 50 seconds West a distance of 0.62 metres;

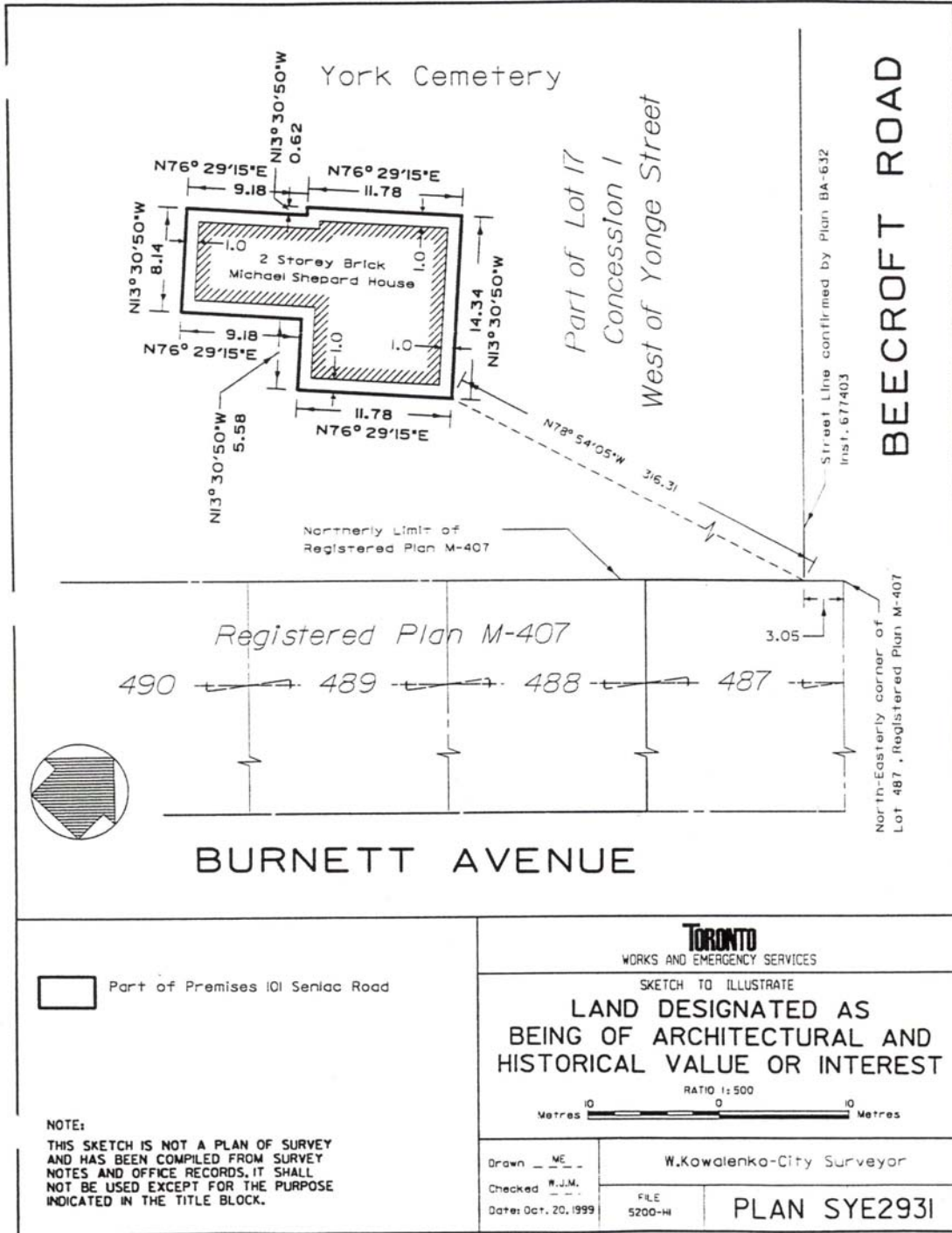
THENCE North 76 degrees 29 minutes 15 seconds East a distance of 11.78 metres;

THENCE South 13 degrees 30 minutes 50 seconds East a distance of 14.34 metres to the point of commencement.

Being part of PIN 10145-0433 R.

The hereinbefore described land being delineated by heavy outline on Plan SYE2931 dated October 19, 1999, as set out in Schedule "B".

Schedule "B"



SCHEDULE “C”**REASONS FOR DESIGNATION****MICHAEL SHEPARD HOUSE
101 SENLAC ROAD**

The Michael Shepard House is recommended for *Designation* under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990)* for architectural and historical reasons.

The Michael Shepard House stands as one of three domestic structures that survive from the legacy of the Shepard family. An enterprising family, the Shepards settled in the historic village of Lansing at the beginning of the 19th century and helped to foster its economic and industrial growth by establishing a number of farms, mills and mercantile businesses in the area.

Michael Shepard acquired the north-half of the farm property known as Lot 17, Concession 1 West of Yonge Street in 1837 from his father Joseph Shepard. He then purchased the south-half of the lot in 1855. With his wife Margaret, he built a two-storey, Georgian brick dwelling in 1859 which originally faced Yonge Street. Together, they resided in the house with their four children. Michael Shepard lived in the house until his death in 1876.

In 1916, the property was purchased by the Trustees of The Toronto General Burying Grounds for the purpose of developing a cemetery. The home of Michael and Margaret Shepard continued to be used as a private residence until 1948, when the Trustees of the Toronto General Burying Grounds officially opened the York Cemetery and ran its administration from the house. Today, the building continues to function as administrative offices under the organization’s new name - *The Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries*.

The historical significance of this former residence is derived in part from Michael Shepard’s participation in the Rebellion of 1837 and his escape from a Kingston penitentiary. Michael Shepard’s father, Joseph Shepard Sr., was a close friend and significant supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie, who led the radical wing of the Reform Party. After Joseph’s death in 1837, Michael and his three brothers - Thomas, Joseph Jr., and Jacob, supported Mackenzie and the Reform Party’s endeavors to seize the City of Toronto.

At the time of the Rebellion, Michael along with his brother Thomas and other men were sent to attack Tory troops who had been guarding the Don Bridge on King Street, Toronto. After confrontation there, they fled to avoid capture, but were found at Silverthorne’s farm near the Humber River and then incarcerated in a Toronto Jail. Without receiving any trial, Michael and Thomas were sent to Kingston to await exile to Van Dieman’s land in Australia, but managed to escape with other Reform Radicals from the penitentiary. They eventually crossed the American border where they were received by anti-British Americans and then safely escorted to Lewiston. After spending three years in the United States, Michael and Thomas Shepard learned that they had been pardoned by the Canadian government. Subsequently, they returned to Canada in 1843 to rejoin their families.

Architecturally, the Michael Shepard House is fashioned in the *Georgian Survival Style* and to a lesser degree is inspired by the *NeoClassical* and picturesque architectural styles which appeared in Ontario during the 19th century. Its massing takes the form of a two-storey, rectangular block with a one-and-a-half storey kitchen wing positioned at the west rear. Both the house and its kitchen wing feature Cedar shake, gable configured roofs of modest pitch. Incorporating a generous sense of proportion and a pleasing symmetry, the three-ranked facade of the Michael Shepard House is generally considered to be less common among Georgian buildings in the region. All elevations incorporate symmetrically placed, multi-pane, six-over-six, sash windows with thin, NeoClassically influenced glazing bars.

Significant features of the house include: the wooden roof eaves (consisting of over-extended boxed soffits/fascia, frieze board and mouldings) articulated by curvilinear brackets on all elevations inclusive of cornice/eave returns; the paired double-stack chimney flues at the gable ends which feature corbelled and chamfered brick detailing; the prostyle wooden portico with distyle Tuscan columns supporting a generous entablature; and the paired, NeoClassically styled, quarter-round apertures located within the attic storey of the gable ends (concealed by wooden louvered vents). The use of dichromatic brickwork on the exterior is a significant feature of the Michael Shepard House. On all elevations, buff coloured brick plays an important role in highlighting structural elements such as jack-arched lintels, belt courses, corner quoins, friezes, and the plinth. Characteristic of Georgian style houses in Ontario, the front (east) elevation features Flemish bond brickwork with Common bond used on all other facades. Although concealed by contemporary building materials, the basement of the Michael Shepard House is constructed from fieldstone foundations. Interior elements and spaces are not covered by the “Reasons for Designation”.

The Michael Shepard House is elevated on a raised site and is greatly enhanced by open space on its east, south and north sides. The house together with its lands (now developed as open space/cemetery use) provide an important understanding of the original farm property and considerable insight into the rural character of the area.