

APPENDIX ‘D’: Research Reports

RESEARCH REPORT



Hilts-Ford House **East Half Lot 26, Concession 4** **3450 Elgin Mills Road East** **c.1850 & c.1875**

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023

History

The Hilts-Ford House is located on the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 4, east of the historic crossroads hamlet of Victoria Square.

Henry Schell received the Crown patent for the original 200-acre property in 1802. Henry Schell was one of three brothers who came from New York State to Markham Township in the late 1790s. In *Markham 1793-1900*, this family is included as part of Markham's Pennsylvania Dutch (often referred to as "Pennsylvania German") community due their Germanic cultural background. The crossroads of Elgin Mills Road and Warden Avenue was historically known as Schell's Corners due to the cluster of Schell properties and families in that vicinity.

In 1808, Henry Schell sold the eastern 100 acres of Lot 26, Concession 4 to Jacob Hilts. He sold the western 100 acres to Jesse Ketchum, the noted tannery owner of the Town of York (later Toronto) in 1821. The western part of this property later formed part of the crossroads hamlet of Read's Corners, later known as Victoria Square.

Jacob Godfried Hiltz was a member of the significant Pennsylvania-German settler community of Markham Township. The Hiltz family were of the Tunker faith, a Christian sect doctrinally and historically related to the Mennonites. Similar to the Schells, the Hiltz/Hiltz family came from New York State. Jacob Hiltz was born in Herkimer County, New York. He married Susannah Davy in 1807. Jacob Hiltz was a private in the First York Company of the York Militia under Captain John Arnold during the War of 1812. He was listed as residing on the subject property, Lot 26, Concession 4, in Walton's Directory of 1837, the same year that he passed away. The property passed to Godfrey Hiltz, the only son of Jacob and Susannah Hiltz. Godfrey Hiltz' wife was Mary Elizabeth Schell, whom he married in 1833. The Hiltz and Schell families were both from Herkimer County, New York. Perhaps the families knew one another there before coming to Upper Canada.

Godfrey and Mary Hiltz, their children, and Godfrey's widowed mother Susannah (Davy) Hiltz were noted in the 1851 census as residing in a frame house on Lot 26, Concession 4. The family were of the Methodist faith rather than Tunkers. By the time of the 1861 census, their residence was described as a one-and-a-half storey frame house. The Hiltz House is believed to form the earliest portion of the existing farmhouse at 3450 Elgin Mills Road East.

Godfrey Hiltz died in 1862. The family farm appears to have been rented to tenant farmers by the mid-1860s. In 1875, his heirs sold to William Ford who already resided in the area. He was a tenant on the Jennings farm on Lot 24, Concession 4, south of Victoria Square. Based on the steep centre gable and medium roof pitch of the farmhouse, it appears that William Ford may have updated the old Hiltz house with a steeper roof pitch and centre gable to gain more headroom on the second floor. William Ford, an English immigrant, was a farmer. His wife, Ann Boynton, was born in Ontario. The family were of the Methodist faith.

An early school serving School Section No. 12 was located at the south-east corner of the Hiltz farm. It was noted in a c. 1855 by-law that established school sections in Markham Township, and shown on a map accompanying that by-law. The location of the school was also shown on the McPhillips Map of Markham Township dated 1853-54 so it pre-existed the passing of the by-law. In 1874, the school site was moved two farm lots to the north and a new brick schoolhouse was built, known as the Clayton School (11172 Warden Avenue). The old schoolhouse was moved to another property on Elgin Mills Road East and was converted into a residence.

William Ford sold the farm to Walter Scott in 1885. The farm was occupied by one of the sons of Walter and Margaret (Ferguson) Scott. Walter Scott Sr. (Walter Scott I) died in Whitchurch Township in 1887. In 1892, Walter Scott Jr. became the owner of the family farm where he resided with his wife, Elizabeth McKonochie, their children, and his wife's widowed mother. Robert McKonachie, a school teacher, was also in the household at the time of the 1891 census. The family were of Scottish descent and were Presbyterians. One of their children, Walter Scott III (1889-1975) did not pursue a career in farming but became a noted educator in Richmond Hill. According to genealogical records:

“Walter was principal of Richmond Hill Public School from 1924 until his retirement in 1956, a year after the new public school [located on Major Mackenzie Drive East] was named after him. Born in Markham Township, Walter obtained his teacher’s certificate in Toronto. He was past Master at Richmond Hill Masonic Lodge & elder of the Richmond Hill United Church. He was a veteran of WW I, 67th and 40th Batteries.”

The Scott family owned the farm until 1927 when it was sold to John Snider. The Snider family were the owners until 1961. Romandale Farms was the owner in 2017.

Architecture

The Hilts-Ford House is a one-and-half storey frame dwelling clad in board and batten siding. The main block has a rectangular plan and rests on a fieldstone foundation. It is a representative example of a centre-gabled Ontario Classic farmhouse. The Ontario Classic is a vernacular house form that was popular from the 1860s to the 1890s with many examples constructed on farms and in villages throughout Markham Township. A design for a “cheap country dwelling house” of this type appeared in an edition of the journal *The Canada Farmer* in 1865. These vernacular dwellings were often decorated with features associated with the picturesque Gothic Revival style. In this case, a pointed-arched window in the front gable is the only decorative feature associated with the Gothic Revival style. Its height appears to have been shortened with a modified lower sash. It may be that other decorative features such as bargeboards and a front veranda decorated with fretwork were once present, but in the absence of an archival photograph, this is only speculation.

The house has a three-bay front characteristic of the Ontario Classic. Window placement is balanced and ordered, as is typical for this style of dwelling, but the windows are modern. The window openings are flat-headed and rectangular in shape. The window frames are simple and include lugsills with a slight projection. The single-leaf front door is centred on the south elevation with a flat-headed transom light above.

A one-storey wing is located along the rear wall which may incorporate a historic kitchen wing. It has been enlarged with a shed-roofed extension to the east. Further additions have been made to this rear area, including an attached two-car garage with a gambrel roof.

The medium-pitched gable roof of the Hilts-Ford House is characteristic of a third quarter nineteenth century period of construction. It has projecting open eaves. There is a modern single-stack brick chimney at the west end of the roof. Its size suggests that it serves a fireplace at this end of the house.

The roof form and window design suggest that either a significant remodelling of this frame house occurred during the Ford family’s period of ownership, 1875-1885, or the earlier Hilts house was replaced during that time. A site inspection, including the interior, is required to make the determination of which scenario is correct. The deep front veranda, with early twentieth century detailing, was likely added during the Scott family’s ownership. It has a hip

roof supported on tapered square wood columns in the Edwardian Classical style which rest on a masonry base faced with fieldstone.

Context

The Hilts-Ford House is located in a rural setting east of the historic crossroads community of Victoria Square. It is one of several heritage buildings in the vicinity of Schell's Corners that illustrate the agricultural heritage of the area. An early twentieth century gambrel-roofed frame barn is located to the north-west of the dwelling and completes the farmstead.



3450 Elgin Mills Road East. View from the east showing house, garage and barn.

Sources

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 4.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1901.

Markham Township Directories: Walton (1837), Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell (1866), Nason (1871) and 1892 Directory.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860) and Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).

Property File for 3450 Elgin Mills Road East, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Research Report on 3450 Elgin Mills Road East prepared by Su Murdoch Historical Consulting, 2017.

Ancestry: Hilts family genealogy.

Markham Museum Family Files: Walter Scott family genealogy.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 45, 53-54, 170-171, 174, and 208.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Hilts-Ford House has design value and physical value as a representative example of an Ontario Classic farmhouse updated with an Edwardian Classical style front veranda.

The property has historical value or associative value because it is associated with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Hilts-Ford House has historical value and associative value, representing the cultural and religious mosaic theme of Pennsylvania German Tunkers being attracted to Markham in the early nineteenth century, and the theme of improvements made to nineteenth century farmsteads as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase. The property has additional historical and associative value as the childhood home of Walter Scott III, long-time principal of Richmond Hill High School from 1924 to 1956.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Hilts-Ford House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally visually and historically linked to its surroundings as the farmhouse that has served this property where it has stood since c.1850.

RESEARCH REPORT



Samuel and Mary Hoover House Centre Part Lot 25, Concession 8 6325 Elgin Mills Road East c.1890

**Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023**

History

The Samuel and Mary Hoover House is located on the centre part of Markham Township Lot 25, Concession 8, east of the historic community of Milnesville, and south of Dickson Hill.

James McGregor received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 25, Concession 8, in 1801. In 1807, he sold to Henry Wideman who came to Markham Township from Bucks County Pennsylvania in 1803 and settled on Lot 24, Concession 8, the property to the south of the subject property. Henry Wideman was one of the first ordained Mennonite ministers in Upper Canada.

Henry Wideman owned Lot 25, Concession 8 for about one year before selling to Daniel Huber (also spelled “Hoover”) in 1808. Daniel Huber was a member of another Pennsylvania German

Mennonite family from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was the third son of Ludwig Huber and Margaretha Graff who came to Philadelphia from the Rhine Palatinate of Germany in 1764. Daniel Huber was born in Pennsylvania. He married Anna Stauffer and came to Markham Township in 1804 with four children. The family initially lived on Lot 23, Concession 8, which Daniel Huber had purchased in 1804. According to family tradition, a child drowned in a mill pond at their home in Pennsylvania and when Anna Huber saw her husband studying the Rouge River valley on their land in Markham Township, she assumed that he was planning to build a mill, and persuaded him to purchase Lot 25, Concession 8 and relocate there.

Daniel and Anna Huber had eight children. In 1836, the farm was sold to one of their sons, John S. Hoover. The first dwelling on the property is said to have been a log house. By the time of the 1851 census, John Hoover and his wife Elizabeth (Reesor) Hoover were residing in a stone dwelling with their nine children. Also at the time of the 1851 census, Scottish-born builder Hugh McPherson was living on the property in a frame house. An additional frame house on the Hoover farm was occupied by Hector Collinson, a labourer, who may have been Hugh McPherson's assistant, and William Pearce, a shoe-maker.

In 1870, John S. Hoover sold a right-of-way through his farm to the Toronto Nipissing Railway Company for their line between Scarborough Township and Coboconk. That line, which included stations in Markham Village and Unionville, eventually became part of Canadian National Railways and is now the Metrolinx-owned Stouffville Line.

The Hoover farm passed through successive generations of the family. John S. Hoover died in 1880. The western part of the farm, consisting of 79 acres where the stone farmhouse at 10701 Highway 48 stands, went to the youngest son Peter Reesor Hoover in 1881. The eastern part went to Jessie Reesor Hoover and Samuel Reesor Hoover in two separate parcels. Samuel R. Hoover received the northeast quarter of Lot 25, Concession 8 and 20 acres of the northwest quarter.

Samuel R. Hoover's name appears on the eastern half of Lot 25, Concession 8 on the map of Markham Township contained in the *Historical Atlas of York County, Ontario, 1878*. The map illustrates a farmhouse and orchard in the approximate centre of the lot, consistent with the location of the existing farmhouse at 6325 Elgin Mills Road East. Although a construction date of 1890 has been suggested for this house in previous research, the information on the 1878 map indicates that there was a dwelling standing on this property at least as early as that year, and probably earlier. It is possible that a farmhouse was constructed to accommodate a new household on the Hoover farm around the time when Samuel R. Hoover married Mary Elizabeth Barkey in 1867. The family was listed in a separate household from John and Elizabeth Hoover in the 1871 census. According to a note in the Heritage Section's property file, the property owner in 1996 was told by a Hoover family descendant that the house at 6325 Elgin Mills Road East was constructed in 1890. If that is the case, was an existing house enlarged at that date, or was it a completely new building?

In the 1881 census, the household included Samuel R. Hoover, Farmer, age 38, his wife Mary (Barkey) Hoover, age 35, and three children: Simeon, 13, Emma, 11, and Martha, 8. In addition to farming the centre part of Lot 25, Concession 8, Samuel R. Hoover was a minister at Wideman Mennonite Church in the rural community of Milnesville (10530 Highway 48). He took over as minister from Joseph Barkey in 1888.

Samuel Hoover's son Simeon Hoover took over the family farm, which he purchased from his parents in 1913. His wife was Josephine Stouffer who he married in 1890. Interestingly, that year coincides with the suggested year of construction of the house at 6325 Elgin Mills Road East. There is some indication in the architecture that the house may have once contained a "doddy house" as a separate dwelling unit for an older generation of the family.

Samuel Hoover died in 1916. His wife Mary (Barkey) Hoover lived in her son Simeon's household until her death in 1929. The farm later passed to Leonard W. Hoover, a farmer and minister of the Wideman Mennonite Church. He was Simeon Hoover's nephew, the only son of Peter Reesor Hoover and Mary (Williamson) Hoover. The last member of the Hoover family to farm here before the property was purchased by land speculators was Willis Eugene Hoover, the son of Leonard W. Hoover and Susannah (Wideman) Hoover.

Architecture

The Samuel and Mary Hoover House is a two-storey aluminum siding clad dwelling organized in a rectangular plan with a medium-pitched hip roof with boxed overhanging eaves. There is a full-width veranda on the north or primary elevation, and a one-storey addition along the east elevation. The foundation material is undetermined based on the available photographic images. According to the description of the building in the 1991 edition of the *Markham Inventory of Heritage Buildings*, the current siding covers pressed metal cladding. This cladding, in the form of rectangular panels, was shown in the photograph in the *Inventory*.



Photograph of 6325 Elgin Mills Road East from the 1991 edition of the *Markham Inventory of Heritage Buildings* showing north and east elevations

Pressed metal siding is a type of architectural treatment that was popular in the first decades of the twentieth century. It came in patterns that imitated either stone or brick. Pressed metal was a maintenance solution for frame buildings and a means of updating older structures. It was the forerunner of the insulbrick, aluminium, and vinyl sidings that were used in the following decades of the twentieth century. A local manufacturer of this material was The Pedlar People Limited of Oshawa. In addition to metal siding, they manufactured the ornamental pressed metal ceilings seen in numerous stores, schools and other public buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The James D. Harrington House at 9642 Ninth Line is the only example of this type of pressed metal siding remaining exposed to view in Markham.

The Samuel and Mary Hoover House has a five-bay primary elevation with an asymmetrical placement of openings on the ground floor (although a site inspection may reveal an additional window or door opening near the west end of the front wall, hidden by a shrub in the photographs in the files of the Heritage Section). There are two entrances along the north elevation, the easterly being a single-leaf door with a flat-headed transom light, and the westerly being a single-leaf door without a transom light. Window openings are flat-headed and rectangular in shape. In the *Inventory* photograph, they are single-hung with two-over-two panes. Door and window frames are simple in design. Windows have projecting lugsills. The front veranda has a hip roof supported on simple, slender wood posts ornamented with fretwork brackets. The design of the brackets suggests a date of 1860s-1880s rather than 1890, raising a question about the validity of the 1890 date of construction that has been suggested for this house.

The four window openings on the second floor of the front wall are symmetrically placed in contrast to the openings on the ground floor. They are not vertically aligned with the ground floor openings, a characteristic of the façade that is masked to some extent by the presence of the veranda. On second floor of the east elevation, there are two symmetrically placed window openings.

The single-storey addition on the east side of the house appears to be brick or brick-clad. It has a low-pitched shed roof and only covers a portion of the east elevation of the main block. There appears to be a bay window on the east elevation of the addition.

The Samuel and Mary Hoover House is a vernacular dwelling which is difficult to place in any particular stylistic category. Superficially the design displays some Georgian elements in its blocky, rectangular form but the asymmetrical distribution of openings on the primary elevation is not typical of Georgian architecture. The presence of two entrances may be an indication of a “doddy house” or separate dwelling unit for the older generation of the family in the Pennsylvania German Mennonite tradition. The veranda brackets, as noted earlier, are in the style of the 1860s to 1880s at the latest, and conflict with the 1890 construction date proposed for the building in some records. A site visit would be required to learn more about its

date of construction. It is possible that the house began as a one-and-a-half storey building and was altered into a full two-storey building in 1890.

Context

The Samuel and Mary Hoover House is one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses that are located in the general vicinity of the historic rural communities of Milnesville and Dickson Hill. It is historically linked to the John and Elizabeth Hoover House at 10701 Highway 48. The Samuel Wideman House, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, is located 10541 Highway 48, (By-law 2009-21) immediately to the south of the subject property.

The house is set well back from Elgin Mills Road East and is screened by mature trees and an accessory building that appears to be a garage. There are several additional accessory buildings on the property, which is bounded to the east by the Metrolinx-owned Stouffville rail line and a tributary of the Little Rouge Creek.

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Markham Township Lot 25, Concession 8.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860), Historical Atlas of the County of York (1878).

Hoover Family History by Muriel Hoover, 2003. Hoover Family File, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning and Urban Design.

Property Files for 6325 Elgin Mills Road East and 10701 Highway 48, Heritage Section, Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised. Pages 45-46 and 147.

The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000. Pages 530, 573, 589, 592-593.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Samuel and Mary Hoover House has design and physical value as a representative example of a vernacular Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmhouse.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Samuel and Mary Hoover House has historical value for its association with the Pennsylvania German Mennonite community of Markham Township, the trend by which nineteenth century farmsteads were improved by successive generations as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase, and for its association with Samuel Reesor Hoover, farmer and minister of the Widman Mennonite Church.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Samuel and Mary Hoover House has contextual value as one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses located in the general vicinity of the historic rural communities of Milnesville and Dickson Hill, and because it is historically linked to the farm property where it has stood since 1890 or earlier.

RESEARCH REPORT



John and Elizabeth Hoover House West Half Lot 25, Concession 8, Milnesville 10701 Highway 48

c.1848

**Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023**

History

The John and Elizabeth Hoover House is located on the western half of Markham Township Lot 25, Concession 8, in the historic community of Milnesville, south of Dickson Hill. The above photograph was taken in 1982 when the house was occupied.

James McGregor received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 25, Concession 8, in 1801. In 1807, he sold to Henry Wideman who came to Markham Township from Bucks County Pennsylvania in 1803 and settled on Lot 24, Concession 8, the property to the south of the subject property. Henry Wideman was one of the first ordained Mennonite ministers in Upper Canada (now Ontario).

Henry Wideman owned Lot 25, Concession 8 for about one year before selling to Daniel Huber (also spelled "Hoover") in 1808. Daniel Huber was a member of another Pennsylvania German Mennonite family from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was the third son of Ludwig Huber and Margaretha Graff, who came to Philadelphia from the Rhine Palatinate of Germany in 1764. Daniel Huber was born in Pennsylvania. He married Anna Stauffer and came to Markham Township in 1804 with four children. The family initially lived on Lot 23, Concession 8 which Daniel Huber purchased in 1804. According to family tradition, a child drowned in a mill pond at their home in Pennsylvania, and when Anna Huber saw her husband studying the Rouge River valley on their land in Markham Township, she assumed that he was planning to build a mill, and persuaded him to purchase Lot 25, Concession 8 and relocate there.

Daniel and Anna Huber had eight children. In 1836, the farm was sold to one of their sons, John S. Hoover. The first dwelling on the property is said to have been a log house. By the time of the 1851 census, John Hoover and his wife Elizabeth (Reesor) Hoover were residing in a stone dwelling with their nine children. According to a history of the area written by a local resident, the stone house was built in 1848. At the time of the 1851 census, Scottish-born builder, Hugh McPherson, was also on the property and living in a frame house. Perhaps he was the builder of the stone house and remained in the area to work on additional building projects. An additional frame house on the Hoover farm was occupied by Hector Collinson, a labourer, who may have been Hugh McPherson's assistant, and William Pearce, a shoe-maker.

Anna Huber died in 1836, and Daniel Huber, in 1840. They were interred in a small family cemetery on the hillside to the east of the farm buildings, along with a daughter, Susanna. A white marble marker mounted on a concrete pedestal marks the location. In the nineteenth century, it was traditional to fence farm cemeteries such as this one to keep farm animals out. In this case, no trace appears to remain of any historic fencing.

In 1870, John S. Hoover sold a right-of-way through his farm to the Toronto Nipissing Railway Company for their line between Scarborough Township and Coboconk. That line, which included stations in Markham Village and Unionville, eventually became part of Canadian National Railways and is now the Metrolinx-owned Stouffville Line.

There is an interesting piece of folklore associated with John S. Hoover found on page 38 of *Markham 1793-1900*:

"Tradition suggested that some Pennsylvania Germans seemed to be able to work charms or spells. Some spells were concerned with the control of fire. John S. Hoover had such control; a grass fire got out of hand at Deer Park, John Ramer's farm on Lot 15, conc. 8. They went for Mrs. Ramer's father, Mr. Hoover, on Lot 25, and brought him over. He walked in front of the fire and drew a line with his cane; the fire came that far and died down..."

The Hoover farm passed through successive generations of the family. John S. Hoover died in 1880. The western part of the farm, where the farmhouse at 10701 Highway 48 stands, went to

the youngest son, Peter Reesor Hoover, in 1881. The eastern part went to Jessie Reesor Hoover and Samuel Reesor Hoover in two separate parcels.

Peter R. Hoover married Mary Williamson. They farmed the family homestead. Peter R. Hoover died in 1903. In 1905, his widow, Mary Hoover, transferred the property to their only child, Leonard W. Hoover. Leonard W. Hoover was a farmer and a minister in Wideman Mennonite Church. He married Susannah Wideman. It was under Leonard Hoover's ownership that the old stone farmhouse was enlarged with a full second storey to create the appearance the building has today.

In 1957, the executors of Leonard W. Hoover's estate transferred ownership of the farm to Willis Eugene Hoover, the youngest son of Leonard and Susannah Wideman. Willis E. Hoover married Barbara Joan Reesor, who was known as Joan, in 1952. They farmed the family homestead until retirement at which point they moved to Newmarket. They had two children, Kenneth Peter Hoover and Carole Susanne Hoover, the sixth generation of Hoovers on this land.

The property was sold out of the Hoover family in the mid-1980s.

Architecture

The John and Elizabeth Hoover House is a two-and-a-half storey stone and concrete block dwelling with a rectangular plan. The house is oriented to face southwards rather than toward Highway 48. There is a full-width veranda on the south wall and a one-storey frame addition on the north wall. On the east wall is a one-storey stucco wing to which a one-storey accessory building is attached. There is a full-width veranda on the south wall of the stucco wing. The entire house has been enveloped by mature trees and other vegetation, making it difficult to see from the road, except during winter.



10701 Highway 48 showing context. The farmhouse faces south.

The house began as a one-and-a-half storey dwelling constructed of coursed, random rubble composed of multi-coloured split fieldstone: white limestone, grey and red granite, and black basalt. This material was transported to this region by continental glaciation during the Ice Age and was likely gathered from the land when it was cleared for agriculture. Some of the stone has been squared, and larger stones were placed at the building corners to form informal quoins. Door and window openings are flat-headed and trimmed with red brick arches and margins. When the house was raised to a full two-storey height in the early twentieth century, the upper portions of the east and west gable end walls were taken down, and the wall height built up with rock-faced concrete block.

The house has a medium-pitched hipped roof with deep overhanging, boxed eaves typical of the early twentieth century period of renovation. Pedimented dormer windows are located on the east and west slopes of the hipped roof. A heavy internal single-stack brick chimney is located on the south slope. It has a decorative corbelled cap.



10701 Highway 48 – west side from lane to Highway 48.

The south or primary elevation is composed of three-bays with the main entrance sheltered within the front veranda. It appears that a former window to the left of the central door was converted into a door topped with a transom light. The veranda has a hipped roof supported by square, tapered, full-height wood columns in the Edwardian Classical style. There is a simple railing and the veranda base has framed lattice. Above the veranda are three symmetrically-placed window openings.

The west wall is composed of two bays with symmetrically-placed windows, two on the ground floor and two above. The window openings on the ground floor are larger than those on the second floor. Although most window openings contain two-over-two single-hung windows, one of the windows on the west wall has an early twelve-over-eight window which likely was the

original window treatment on the ground floor of the stone house. The two-over-two glazing represents an update from a later period.

On the rear or north wall of the main block is a single-storey frame addition with a gable roof. This addition is offset on the west half of the rear wall. Without knowledge of the interior plan, it is not possible to say what the function was of this small frame addition.

On the east wall of the main block is a single storey stucco wing that may have functioned as a kitchen or summer kitchen. There is a heavy internal brick chimney at the eastern end of the roof that is large enough to have served a fireplace. Past researchers have speculated that this wing may have been a “doddy house” for the use of the older generation of the family, and that it may have started out as an earlier dwelling on the property. It has a full-width south-facing veranda formed by the extension of the gable roof. One slender turned post remains. The rest have been replaced with plain, square posts. There is evidence of eave returns on the east gable end wall. Further details about the construction material of this part of the house, and a better indication of its age, could be determined through a closer examination of the structure.

On the north side of the stucco wing is a long, single-storey accessory building that appears to be attached to the dwelling. The accessory building has a medium-pitched gable roof and is clad in narrow vertical tongue and groove wood siding.

The John and Elizabeth Hoover House is a vernacular dwelling that displays two distinct periods of development that as evidenced by the difference in building materials. The house has the form and some of the typical Edwardian Classical detailing of an early twentieth century American Foursquare, but the ground floor retains elements which indicate the dwelling’s earliest phase as a vernacular farmhouse designed with the influence of the Georgian architectural tradition. The stucco wing on the east wall, a kitchen or summer kitchen, alternatively may have functioned as a traditional Pennsylvania German “doddy house,” a separate dwelling unit for the older generation of the family.

Context

The John and Elizabeth Hoover House is part of a complete, unoccupied farmstead at the south-east corner of Highway 48 and Elgin Mills Road East. In addition to the dwelling there is a large barn complex and several other outbuildings. Based on its gambrel-roofed design, the barn appears to date from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. The Hoover family cemetery is on the hillside to the east of the farm buildings.

The John and Elizabeth Hoover House is one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses that are located in the general vicinity of the historic rural communities of Milnesville and Dickson Hill. The Samuel Wideman House, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, is located at 10541 Highway 48, (refer to By-law 2009-21) immediately south of the subject property.

A historic property relating to the John and Elizabeth Hoover House is located at 6325 Elgin Mills Road East, further east on Lot 25, Concession 8, near the centre of the lot. The Samuel

Hoover House, c.1890, was the home of Samuel Reesor Hoover, a son of John and Elizabeth Hoover. He was a farmer and a minister at the Wideman Mennonite Church.

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Markham Township Lots 23, 24 and 25, Concession 8.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860), Historical Atlas of the County of York (1878).

Hoover Family History by Muriel Hoover, 2003. Hoover Family File, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning and Urban Design.

Property Files for 10701 and 10541 Highway 48, Heritage Section, Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised. Pages 38, 45-46.

The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000. Pages 530, 573, 589, 592-593.

Mary Ann Mihorean. "Dickson Hill." *More Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario, 1985. Page 78.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The John and Elizabeth Hoover House has design and physical value as a representative example of a vernacular farmhouse that composed of two distinct elements: an 1840s fieldstone farmhouse in the Georgian architectural tradition that was later enlarged and remodeled as an American Foursquare in the 1910s.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The John and Elizabeth Hoover House has historical and associative value, representing the religious and cultural mosaic theme of Pennsylvania German Mennonites being attracted to Markham Township in the early nineteenth century, and the nineteenth century trend whereby farmsteads were improved as the agricultural community progressed past the early settlement phase.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The John and Elizabeth Hoover House has contextual value as one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses located in the general vicinity of the historic rural communities of Milnesville and Dickson Hill, and because it is historically linked to the farm property where it has stood since 1848.

RESEARCH REPORT



Percy and Mabel Wilson House

Centre Part, Lot 10, Concession 10

7819 Highway 7 East

c.1945

Heritage Section

City of Markham Planning and Urban Design

2023

History

The house at 7819 Highway 7 is located on a parcel of the centre part of Lot 10, Concession 10, east of the Little Rouge River.

Samuel Reynolds, United Empire Loyalist, received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Lot 10, Concession 10, Markham Township, in 1813. He also leased Lot 9, Concession 10, from the Crown in 1803. Lot 9 was directly south of Lot 10. Samuel Reynolds and his wife, Margaret Van Rensselaer, were from Dutchess County, New York. As Loyalists, they first went to New York City in 1777, and then to New Brunswick in 1783 having been displaced by the American Revolution. In the 1830s, Samuel Reynolds sold off different parts of Lot 10 to his sons Justice, William and Asa. Asa Reynolds purchased 50 acres, partly in the eastern half of the lot, and partly in the western half. In 1844, he sold his property to William Goodfellow Armstrong.

William Goodfellow Armstrong is often referred to as Captain Armstrong due to his service in the militia. He emigrated from Cumberland, England in 1817, and came to Upper Canada via New York. In 1823, William Armstrong purchased Lot 10, Concession 8, a property that

stretched from Main Street, Markham Village, to Ninth Line. It became known as Ash Grove Farm. At that time, the village was in its infancy. On this property he established an orchard, perhaps the first in Markham Township, and built the Wellington House hotel. The western end of the farm became the long-time site of the Markham Fair.

William Armstrong Jr., a son of Captain Armstrong and Esther (Reesor) Armstrong, moved to his father's property on Lot 10, Concession 10 in 1865. The property became known as Locust Hill farm, and this name was adopted for the local post office when it was established in 1885. William Armstrong Jr. was the first postmaster. He married Maria McCreight in 1866. The couple had eight children, one of whom was Robert Peter Armstrong. Maria (McCreight) Armstrong died in 1880. William Armstrong Jr.'s second wife was Jane McCreight. In 1868, 35 acres were added to the west side of the original 50 acres through a purchase from Chauncey and Phoebe Reynolds, extending the property to the eastern side of the creek. In 1875, William Armstrong Sr. sold William Armstrong Jr. his 50 acres.

The William Armstrong farm also included 150 acres of Lot 9, Concession 10 which was the adjacent property to the south. Captain William Armstrong purchased 50 acres of Lot 9, Concession 10, from William Johnston in 1844, the same year he had purchased 50 acres from Asa Reynolds. Then, in 1847, Captain Armstrong received the Crown patent for the eastern 100 acres of Lot 9, Concession 10, after having leased the property from the Crown. This 150 property was sold to William Armstrong Jr. in 1875, the same year the farm on Lot 10, Concession 10 had been sold to him. The farm was 235 acres in size, a substantial property.

After the death of William Armstrong Jr. in 1915, his sons Robert Peter Armstrong and Edwin Alexander "Alec" Armstrong carried on the farm. In 1922, Robert P. Armstrong and his wife, Wilhelmina, sold a building lot off the farm to George C. Dalby.

In 1941, George and Laura Dalby sold the building lot to Percy Roy Wilson, Locust Hill's Postmaster from 1924 to 1941, and a picturesque Tudor Revival style house was constructed in 1945. Percy Wilson owned the old Nighswander Temperance Hotel and Store from 1924 to 1945. He also ran the Locust Hill Lumber and Coal Co., next to the C.P.R. railway line, a business that was previously owned and operated by Albert C. G. Reesor and Frank Albert Reesor. A neighbor recalled that the interior woodwork of the house was particularly well done, attributed to the fact that the home owner was the owner of the local lumber yard.

In 1973, Mabel I. Wilson, the widow and executrix of Percy Wilson, transferred the property to the Province of Ontario in connection with the expropriation of land for the future Pickering Airport and the new community of Seaton. Evidently the property was not required after all, and was sold back to private owners shortly thereafter.

Architecture

The Percy and Mabel Wilson House is a one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling organized in a rectangular plan. Its ground floor is positioned close to grade. The exterior finish is wide, horizontal clapboard with narrow, plain corner boards. The gable roof has an exaggerated,

steep pitch and tight eaves. There is a shed-roofed dormer on the front roof slope containing a series of three windows, and there is a heavy, single-stack brick chimney at the west end of the building.

There is a shallow, projecting bay on the left side of the north (primary elevation) with a steep gable decorated with eaves that flare out slightly at the base. The projecting bay contains the front entrance which consist of a single-leaf door with a round-arched, moulded surround. There are small windows on either side of the door, and another in the gable wall above. To the right of the projecting bay is a series of four windows separated by heavy mullions. Window openings on the north elevation and elsewhere are generally in the form of upright rectangles and contain modern replacement windows.

The Percy and Mabel Wilson House was designed in a variation of the Tudor Revival style, one of the nostalgic revivalist styles popular for new dwellings immediately after the end of the Second World War. Tudor Revival and Colonial Revival houses were evocative of “simpler” times, and their traditional designs were especially popular in suburban developments after the war as soldiers returned to civilian life. The construction of these revivalist houses soon gave way to the modernism of the 1950s and the heyday of the ubiquitous bungalow.

The house almost has a storybook quality about it, with its compact form, steep gables, and projecting front bay with an arched door surround and tiny accent windows. This picturesque version of the Tudor Revival style differs in exterior appearance from the more common expression of the style which features false half-timbering combined with a brick or stone base. What is particularly interesting about the Percy and Mabel Wilson House is that it is nearly identical to a pair of houses built for brothers Charles and Harry Maynard at 36 and 38 Eureka Street in the village of Unionville, c.1946. The similarity of these three houses suggests that they were built from a stock plan. The Maynard family maintains that they were not pre-fabricated houses erected by local builders, as the design might suggest.

Context

The Percy and Mabel Wilson House is one of a grouping of late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences that contribute to and define the character and extent of the historic hamlet of Locust Hill.

Sources

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 10, Concession 10, and Lot 9, Concession 10.

Research file for 7889 Highway 7 (Locust Hill Farm), Heritage Section, City of Markham, for the history of the Armstrong family.

Conversation with Bryan Armstrong, with his recollections of houses in Locust Hill, April 20, 2023.

“A Centennial Farm in Markham,” *Stouffville Tribune*, June 15, 1967.

The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-1980, pages 188-191.

Armstrong, Mrs. J. R. in *Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario, 1977. Pages 63-65.
Champion, Isabel (ed). *Markham 1793-1900* (Revised edition). Markham: Markham Historical Society, 1989. Pages 58, 60 and 340.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction.

The Percy and Mabel Wilson House is a representative example of post-World War Two domestic architecture in the Tudor Revival style.

The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.

The Percy and Mabel Wilson House is a picturesque Tudor Revival dwelling that retains its original “storybook” house character.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community

The Percy and Mabel Wilson House has historical and associative value as the former residence of Percy and Mabel Wilson. Percy R. Wilson was Locust Hill’s Postmaster from 1924 to 1941. He ran the Locust Hill Lumber and Coal Co. next to the C.P.R. railway line, a business previously owned and operated by Albert C. G. Reesor and Frank Albert Reesor.

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The Percy and Mabel Wilson House is one of a number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences that contribute to and define the character and extent of the historic hamlet of Locust Hill.

RESEARCH REPORT



Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs Bungalow

East Part Lots 23 and 24, Concession 5

10476 Kennedy Road

c.1927

Heritage Section

City of Markham Planning & Urban Design

2023

History

This house is located on a portion of the eastern part of Markham Township Lots 23 and 24, Concession 5, south of the historic crossroads hamlet of Cashel. The building is more precisely located on the portion of the property within Lot 24.

Samuel Eakin, an Irish immigrant, came to Cashel (modern-day crossroads of Kennedy Road and Elgin Mills Road) in the early 1820s. In 1824, he purchased a 10-acre parcel of the eastern part of Lot 24, Concession 5 from Azal Wilson. In 1836, he added to his land holdings with the purchase of an adjoining 50-acre parcel on Lot 23, Concession 5, from Daniel Tipp. Samuel Eakin was a farmer. He was married to Elizabeth Pingle, a member of a Berczy settler family. The 1851 census described their residence as a one-storey frame building. In 1861, it was described as a one-and-a-half storey frame building. Two of their sons, William and George, were wagon makers at Cashel before they moved to Unionville in the mid-1850s. Both were to play significant roles in the economic, administrative and political development of Unionville.

Tremaine's Map of York County, dated 1860, indicates the wagon shop (with the letters W S) to the north of the Samuel Eakin residence.

In 1869, Samuel and Elizabeth Eakin retired to a small frame cottage in Unionville (151 Main Street). David Eakin, another son, purchased the farm south of Cashel from his father's estate in 1882 and the following year sold to Leonard Kester. Leonard Kester was a descendant of Leonard Caster and Maria Catherine (Keres) Caster of Mount Bethel, North Hampton County, Pennsylvania, who came to Markham in the early nineteenth century after living for about a year in Ancaster. They arrived in Upper Canada with their nine children in 1801 and petitioned the Colonial government for land grants, receiving property in the north-east corner of Markham Township. Later generations of the family changed the spelling of their surname to "Kester."

The Leonard Kester associated with the subject property and his wife Ellen Jane (Freel) Kester also owned a property on Main Street in Markham Village where they were living when Leonard Kester died in 1890. Melville Kester, the son of Leonard and Ellen Jane Kester, became the owner through his father's will. It is not certain if Melville Kester ever lived on the farm property near Cashel. In the 1901 census, his name appears as a resident of the village of Stouffville.

The next owner of the Kester farm was Arthur Wagg who in 1908 entered into a Memorandum of Agreement for the future purchase of the land from Melville Kester, subject to conditions. The Wagg family were associated with the property as occupants, and the name T. W. Wagg appears on this property on a map of Markham Township dated 1918. The Wagg family came to Markham Township from Uxbridge in 1874. The main family farm was the west half of Lot 24, Concession 6, on the opposite side of Kennedy Road. Arthur Wagg's son, Telfer William Wagg, whose name appears on the 1918 map, may have lived on the Kester property for a period of time before returning to the main Wagg farm to occupy the original farmhouse there after his parents Arthur and Hannah Wagg built a new home for their retirement around 1922 (10537 Kennedy Road).

In 1921, the Memorandum of Agreement concerning the Kester farm was transferred to Thomas Henry Hobbs, an English immigrant from Acton, Middlesex, England living in Toronto at that time and employed as a labourer. Hobbs had come to Canada in 1906. His wife, Elizabeth J. Morrish, came to Canada from England in 1919, the same year the couple were married in Toronto. She was employed as a nurse. In 1927, they were finally able to purchase the 60 acre Kester farm once all obligations relating to the Kester estate had been met. Based on the architectural style of the house at 10476 Kennedy Road, it appears that the Hobbs family built a new house to replace the old frame Eakin house c.1927 once they formally obtained the deed to the property. Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs were the owners until 1946. In more recent times, the property has been owned by Angus Glen Farm (2015) Ltd.

Architecture

The Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs Bungalow is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling with a square plan. The ground floor level is approximately two feet above grade. A brick and concrete porch provides access to the front door. The foundation material is not easily visible due to landscaping close to the wall.

The red brick walls are laid in common bond, suggesting that the brick is a veneer over frame, concrete block, or hollow clay tile based on the period of construction. Ornamentation is limited to radiating cambered brick arches over door and window openings.

The house has a steeply pitched hip roof with a wide overhang and flat soffits. On the front slope is a hip-roofed dormer containing a pair of modern single-hung windows with a six-over-six pane division. The presence of the dormer suggests that the attic space may provide a limited area of habitable space.

The three-bay façade has a centrally placed modern glazed and panelled single-leaf door. On either side of the door are paired, modern single-hung windows with a nine-over-nine pane division. Although the door and window openings have segmentally-arched heads, the door and windows are flat-headed. Window openings have projecting concrete lugsills.

The sunroom addition on the south side of the house has a medium-pitched gable roof and banked fixed windows with a three-over-one pane division. The sunroom is positioned between two windows on the south wall of the main block.

An archival photograph of the house while it was still in the ownership of Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs, included in a research report by Su Murdoch Historical Consulting (2017), shows the front door with three tall narrow vertical lights in its upper third, and paired six-over-one single-hung windows separated by a plain mullion.

Overall, the house has a sense of symmetry and rationality. Although the windows and the front door have been replaced with modern units, their design is quite compatible with the architectural character of the dwelling. The Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs Bungalow is a vernacular dwelling typical of its 1920s period of construction, displaying echoes of the American Arts and Crafts Movement in its general form and character but without some of the classic features such as casement windows, a deep porch, and decorative rafter ends. It may have been built according to a pattern book plan.

Context

The Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs Bungalow stands on its original site on an irregular parcel of land. It is located in an area that is presently semi-rural but is in the process of being redeveloped. It is one of a number of heritage buildings in the vicinity that relate to the agricultural history of the area. Rather than being associated with the nineteenth century, the Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs House is representative of the early twentieth century phase of

development in Markham Township where on some farms, older houses, many of them of frame construction, were replaced with more up-to-date brick residences.

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Markham Township Lots 23 and 24, Concession 5.

Canada Census: 1851,1861,1871,1881,1891,1901 and 1921.

Markham Township Directories: Walton (1837), Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell (1866), Nason (1871), 1892 Directory.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860), and Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).

Kester Family File, Markham Museum.

Caster/Kester Family Research by F. Robbins, Stouffville Historian, using Ancestry.ca and other sources.

Property File for 10476 Kennedy Road, Heritage Section, City of Markham.

Research Report on 10476 Kennedy Road by Su Murdoch Historical Consulting 2017.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition Revised, 1989. Pages 126, 233 and 303.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06 – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs Bungalow has design and physical value as a vernacular dwelling typical of its 1920s period of construction, displaying echoes of the American Arts and Crafts Movement in its general form and character.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs Bungalow has historical value and associative value, representing maturation of Markham's agricultural community as it transitioned from the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century and farmsteads were replaced new buildings.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The Thomas and Elizabeth Hobbs Bungalow has contextual value as one of a number of older buildings relating to the former agricultural community that was located in the general vicinity of the crossroads hamlet of Cashel, and is historically linked to the property where it has stood since c.1927.

RESEARCH REPORT



Reesor-Spears House

East Half Lot 4, Concession 8, Box Grove
7560 Ninth Line

c.1877 & c.1949

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023

History

The Reesor-Spears House is located on a part of the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 4, Concession 8, at the southern end of the historic crossroads hamlet of Box Grove.

Elijah Bently, an Anabaptist preacher, received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 4, Concession 8 in 1801. He also owned Lot 24, Concession 7 and the western halves of Lots 4 and 5, Concession 6 in the early nineteenth century. Bently was a sympathizer with the American forces that attacked Upper Canada during the War of 1812 and occupied the Town of York in 1813. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment by the colonial government. In 1805, several years before the events of the War of 1812, Elijah Bently sold his property on Lot 4, Concession 8 to Samuel Lawrence.

In 1806, Samuel Lawrence sold the eastern quarter, comprising 50 acres, to Peter Reesor. The Rouge River runs through this part of Lot 4, which provided the opportunity for the establishment of a mill. By the early 1850s, a sawmill operated by Abraham Raymer was located on the property. The larger portion of Lot 4 to the west was sold by Samuel Lawrence in 1809 and by the early 1820s was in the ownership of John Raymer.

Peter Reesor did not reside on this property. It was tenanted for many years by John Glen, a Scottish-born weaver. The earliest indication of his presence on this site is in Brown's Directory of Markham Township, 1846-47, but he may have been living here earlier than that. According to the 1851 census, John Glen resided in a one-storey log house with his wife Sarah and their five children.

In 1853, Peter Reesor sold the portion of his land east of the Rouge River to his son Josephus S. Reesor. This parcel contained 31 ¼ acres. John Glen and his family remained tenants on the property. According to the 1861 census, the log house they occupied was constructed in 1830. At that time, John Glen's occupation was given as "Farmer" rather than "Weaver." Perhaps his weaving was a secondary business by that time; however, in the 1871 census, his occupation was given as "Weaver" once again. In 1871, John Glen was 71 years old.

Josephus Reesor did not reside on the property purchased from his father in 1853. He farmed the western halves of Lots 3 and 4, Concession 9 in the same area, another property purchased from his father in 1853. His large stone house still stands at 15 Bewell Drive within a subdivision built in the 2000s. Josephus Reesor was married first to Susannah Baker and then to Elizabeth Pike Hoover. The 1861 Census listed him as "Doctor," while the 1871 Census listed him as "Farmer." Josephus Reesor was known as a skilled herbalist and many of his remedies reportedly learned from First Nations sources were passed down after his death. When Josephus Reesor retired from farming he moved into the hamlet of Box Grove.

The first public school in the Sparta/Box Grove community stood at the north-east corner of Lot 4, Concession 8. It was noted in this location in lists of Common Schools in Markham Township dating from 1831 and 1838. In 1831, the teacher was Terrance McKenna; in 1838 the teacher was James Philips. The one-half acre school site was formally purchased from Josephus Reesor by the Trustees of School Section No. 18 in 1857. In 1861 the teachers were Judith Jones and Julia Mins, who lived in the house next door to the north of the subject property, now addressed 7662 Ninth Line.

In 1871, Josephus Reesor sold the 31¼ acre property to Frederick K. Reesor, less the school site. Frederick K. Reesor was the son of Peter Reesor Jr. and Anna (Hamilton) Reesor, and therefore the nephew of Josephus Reesor. He was married to Mary (McCreight) Reesor. A photographic portrait of Frederick K. Reesor is found on page 194 of *Markham 1900-2000*. In 1877, the Trustees of School Section No. 18 decided to build a new schoolhouse out of brick on the opposite side of Ninth Line. That school still stands at 7651 Ninth Line and now forms part of the Box Grove Community Centre. At the time of the 1881 census, Frederick K. Reesor was the

teacher at the new school. It is not known how long he taught there. According to *The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000*:

“Frederick was a school teacher and warden of York County in 1900. He was also in the milling business with Glen Rouge Mills in Markham. Later in life, he was a real estate agent.” Page 382.

In 1877, the same year the new school was built, the Trustees of School Section No. 18, John McCaffrey (postmaster and general store owner) *et al* sold the old school site to Frederick K. Reesor. According to a history of Box Grove written by Paul Burkholder in 1966, the old school building was “moved away” once the new one was completed. In nineteenth century Markham Township it was common for old school buildings to be repurposed to become farm outbuildings, dwellings and chapels. The schools of frame construction were often moved to other locations in the same general area. Paul Burkholder did not provide any information about where the old Box Grove schoolhouse was moved to, but it is possible that it was relocated from the corner of Frederick K. Reesor’s property to a site to the south on the same property and converted into a dwelling to replace the log house once inhabited by John Glen. The first Box Grove school may therefore form the core of the existing house at 7560 Ninth Line. It is also possible that Frederick K. Reesor replaced the old log house on the property with a new frame dwelling at some point during his ownership from 1871 to 1884.

Frederick K. Reesor sold the property to Anne Raymer in 1884. She was the unmarried daughter of Abraham Raymer and Elizabeth (Byer) Raymer. Anne Raymer became Annie (Raymer) Steinhoff when she married. In 1919 she sold the property to her brother Abraham Raymer Jr., then in 1939 the executors of Abraham and Phoebe Raymer sold to Cameron Graham.

Cameron and Alice Graham sold their property in two parts in 1947 and 1948. The larger part of the property, which likely contained the dwelling at 7560 Ninth Line, was sold to Arnon W. Burt, who sold to Vernon and Bernice Spears in 1949. The old frame house on the property was added to and remodeled in the Colonial Revival style that was popular in the 1940s and early 1950s. The Spears family likely carried out the transformation that created the house seen today at 7560 Ninth Line.

Architecture

The Reesor-Spears House is a one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling with an irregular plan. The siding is wide mid-twentieth century style clapboard with mitered corners. The oldest part of the building is the north section which has a rectangular plan and a medium-pitched gable roof on an east-west axis. The structure rests on a fieldstone foundation set close to grade, but with at least a partial basement since there is a basement window on the front wall. This is possibly the first Box Grove Schoolhouse, converted to residential use in 1877 by Frederick K. Reesor. A site visit would be required to closely examine the structure to determine its age. The date of construction provided by MPAC is 1851. The gable end facing Ninth line has a balanced composition with two flat-headed single-hung windows with six-over-six panes on the ground floor and two smaller six-over-six windows vertically aligned above. An exterior single-stack red brick chimney runs up the middle of the wall. The north side wall has a single six-over-six

window positioned near the rear corner. The west wall has an asymmetrical arrangement of openings on the ground floor with a single-leaf door to the left of centre, a six-over-six window to its right, and a smaller one-over-one window to the right of that.

A side wing extends from the south side of the dwelling's northern section. Its roofline is set slightly lower than that of the north wing. The pitch of its gable roof changes to a lower slope on its east or front side, suggesting that this area of the house could be an infilled ell. There is a small, gable-roofed dormer near the intersection of the siding's roof with the roof of dwelling's north section. On the front wall is an exterior red brick fireplace chimney. To the right of that there is a single six-over six-window, set lower in the wall compared with the ground floor windows on the north section. On the south wall there is a single-leaf side door with a bracketed gable-roofed canopy positioned near the front corner, and a box bay window containing a three-part picture window. The door on this wall functions as the main entrance. It may be that before the ell was infilled the main door was on the east wall of the side wing.



Rear and north side of 7560 Ninth Line showing volume of the oldest portion of the house and a later one-storey addition.

There is a one-storey addition on the west side of the side wing. On its south wall is a sunroom, and on its west wall, an open veranda. The addition appears to date from a later phase of the dwelling's evolution.

The architectural character of this evolved building primarily reflects the alterations and additions of the mid-twentieth century. Its design is a unique variation of the Colonial Revival style, notable for its uncharacteristically asymmetrical form, including the absence of a prominent, centrally-placed entrance. The wide clapboard siding, rectangular, multi-paned windows, prominent fireplace chimney, and gable-roofed dormer are features typical of suburban post-war Colonial Revival residences constructed prior to the emergence of large-scale suburban development in the 1950s. The six-over-six windows in the north section of the

house may be nineteenth century windows that happened to be compatible with the renovations of c.1949 and were therefore retained when the house was altered to its current form.

The Colonial Revival style originated in the United States but was influential in Canada as well. The nostalgic style was derived from the Georgian houses of early New England and the Southern United States built during the 1700s to early the 1800s. The Colonial Revival style reflected a desire for tradition and a sense of continuity, particularly after the tumultuous times of the Second World War. In Markham, very few examples of this style were built in rural areas. Most remaining examples are in or close to historic village settings in Thornhill and Markham Village, and another just outside of Unionville.

If the north portion of the Reesor-Spears House is indeed the relocated and repurposed Box Grove Schoolhouse, the arrangement of window and door openings has been changed to suit its later residential use. It is unlikely that a schoolhouse would have an upper storey, so the windows in the gables would have been added, and perhaps the pitch of the roof was increased to create a higher ceiling when a second floor was added.

Context

The Reesor-Spears House is one of a grouping of nineteenth century buildings within or in the immediate vicinity of the historic crossroads hamlet of Box Grove. These buildings are important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the historic hamlet. This property is just south of the southernmost limit of Plan 19, the Tomlinson-Bebbee plan of village lots dating from 1850. Although modern residential infilling has occurred, enough of the older building stock remains for Box Grove to be recognizable as one of Markham's historic hamlets.

The property at 7560 Ninth Line is historically linked to the Part IV-designated Box Grove Schoolhouse at 7651 Ninth Line (refer to By-law 2005-78) and the Part IV-designated Josephus Reesor House at 15 Bewell Drive (refer to By-laws 2021-96 and 2003-239).

Sources

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 4, Concession 8.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921.

Directories of Markham Township: Walton (1837), Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell (1866), Nason (1871), 1892 Directory.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860) and Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).

Property File 7560 Ninth Line, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Research Report on the Josephus Reesor House, 15 Bewell Drive (formerly 7449 Reesor Road), Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000, pages 382, 470.

Brydon, Catherine. *Markham 1900-2000 – Our Past Inspires Our Future*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, 2017. Page 382.

Burkholder, Paul. "Box Grove." *Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener. Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario, 1977. Page 92.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 38, 161, and 169.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The Reesor-Spears House has design and physical value as a unique variation of the Colonial Revival style from the late 1940s.

The property has historical value and associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The Reesor-Spears House has historical value and associative value representing the theme of education, for its association with Frederick K. Reesor, a school teacher at Box Grove School Section No. 18, and for the property's association with the first schoolhouse in Sparta/Box Grove.

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The Reesor-Spears House has contextual value as one of a grouping of nineteenth century buildings that are important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the historic crossroads hamlet of Box Grove.

RESEARCH REPORT



George and Nellie Freeman House

West Half, Lot 1, Concession 9

6472 Steeles Avenue East

c.1901

Heritage Section

City of Markham Planning & Urban Design

2023

History

The George and Nellie Freeman House is located on a portion of the western half of Markham Township Lot 1, Concession 9, in the community of Cedar Grove.

William Carpenter received the patent from the Crown for Lot 1, Concession 9, in 1816. One year later, he sold the entire 200 acres to Michael Shank who sold the western 100 acres to David Eyer. The western half of Lot 1, Concession 9, passed through the hands of several other non-resident speculators until 1834 when Jacob Doner sold to Peter Milne Jr. Peter Milne Jr. was the son of Alexander Milne, the owner of Milneford Mills in East York, and Jane Gibson. He initially worked as a book-keeper in his uncle Peter Milne's mills near Markham Village then was a store-keeper, sawmill owner, and first postmaster in the hamlet of Milnesville (Highway 4, north of Major Mackenzie Drive). Like the previous owners of the western half of Lot 1 Concession 9, Peter Milne Jr. did not reside on the subject property. In addition to this property, Milne acquired considerable acreage on the eastern parts of Lots 1, 2 and 3 in the 8th Concession. He owned a sawmill on the Rouge River south of the hamlet of Sparta (later Box Grove).

Peter Milne Jr. was a noted Reformer and supporter of William Lyon MacKenzie. Following the Upper Canadian Rebellion of 1837, he was arrested for his role in the uprising and held at Fort Henry. He was later pardoned. His wife, Hannah McKay, is said to have ridden on horseback to Kingston carrying a young child to petition for the release of her husband.

Peter Milne Jr.'s property was occupied by tenant farmers and by employees of the sawmill. The 1851 census records several log houses present on Lot 1, Concession 9 at that time, the homes of William Stover, yeoman; Alex Blyth, farmer; John Hayden, farmer; and a number of unrelated labourers residing in one household. The labourers were likely connected with the sawmill operation. When the 1861 census was taken only the Stover name remained from 1851, this time listed as a labourer residing in a frame house. Joseph Hope, a farmer, and Benjamin Lehman, a sawmiller, were also listed. Lehman may have lived in the Stover household, while Hope was in a separate frame house. The Milne operation also seems to have included a shingle mill, as two shingle makers are listed in the 1871 census. By the time of the *Historical Atlas of the County of York* map of 1878, the sawmill was no longer shown.

Peter Milne Jr. died in October of 1878. The western half of Lot 1, Concession 9 was left to his daughter Helen. Helen Milne (1835-1918) married Joseph Gage Freeman (1827-1919) in 1858. It is not known where the couple resided when they were first married, but by the time of the 1881 census, they were living on the subject property with their children Hannah, Catherine, Helen, Peter, George M., and Eliza. Also in the household was Peter Milne Jr.'s widow, Hannah (McKay) Milne. According to family tradition, Joseph and Helen Freeman lived in a modest frame house on the property that was substantially enlarged in the 1880s at around the same time as the Ontario & Quebec Railway was negotiating the purchase of a right-of-way through the Milne-Freeman land holdings. While Joseph Freeman was in the process of building an addition to his existing house in 1885, a legal ruling in favour of the Milne-Freeman family resulted in sufficient financial resources to build a more commodious house than what was originally contemplated. The result was the substantial Italianate dwelling that we see today at 6470 Steeles Avenue. Construction for the home began around 1885 based on both the family history and the style and materials of the building. However, the building was probably not completed until some time after that year.

George Milne Freeman, a son of Joseph and Helen Freeman, married Nellie Ann Dimma in 1902. Family history records that in 1901, in expectation of the establishment of a new household, the original house that formed the east wing of Joseph and Helen Freeman's residence was removed and relocated a short distance to the east. A brick wing in the Queen Anne Revival style was added to its west end to create the house at 6472 Steeles Avenue East.

George M. Freeman's brother, Peter Freeman, established himself as a farmer on the family's holdings on the west side of Ninth Line. About 1907, he built a large Queen Anne Revival style house (6402 Steeles Avenue East) out of moulded concrete block. That house was demolished in 1997.

In the history book, *Markham, 1793-1900* (1989), it was noted that “*Peter Milne...owned a considerable acreage and a mill south of Sparta, where his descendants still live.*” In 2023 (the time of this report) that statement remains valid as Barry Glenn Little continues to farm a remnant of the Milne-Freeman farm. In the 2000s, this farm, known as Meadow Lawn, was one of the last dairy farms in Markham. The year 2008 marked the end of an era as the Jersey herd was sold.

The parcel of land containing the c.1885 house is currently owned by Remington Steeles 9 Inc., while the larger parcel containing the 1901 house and the farm buildings remains in the ownership of Barry G. Little (as of 2023).

Architecture

The George and Nellie Freeman House is a one-and-a-half storey brick and frame dwelling organized in an L-shaped plan. There is a large rear wing centred on the north elevation that cannot be seen from the street. The building has a fieldstone foundation.

The western portion of the house is brick veneered and is gable-fronted with a shallow frontispiece. The brick veneer is a deep red colour and laid in common bond. There is a projecting brick plinth and splayed brick arches over window openings. A raised brick border outlines the semi-elliptical arch over the ground floor front window opening, and there is a circular motif with a raised brick border high in the front gable. An external, single-stack chimney is located on the west elevation. The roof is a steeply-pitched gable with wide, overhanging, open eaves.

The gable front is the focal point of this house. On the ground floor there is a large, square parlour window with a semi-elliptical transom light. Originally, the window was a single fixed sash, but in recent years it has been replaced with a double casement window. On the second floor is a pair of tall, narrow, flat-headed windows that were originally single hung with one-over-one glazing. They are separated with a narrow brick column. The window openings have grey limestone or concrete lugsills. The gable is ornamented with elaborate fretwork and brackets, painted white in contrast to the dark red brick. On the west side of the house, there is a tall, narrow, flat-headed window.

The main volume of the eastern portion of the house is recessed from the front wall of the western brick portion. This part of the building is frame with wide, horizontal clapboard siding and has a medium-pitched gable roof. This is the older frame dwelling that was once attached to the east wall of the larger dwelling on the Freeman property at 6470 Steeles Avenue East. According to family tradition, this portion of the house was moved to this location in 1901 and added onto to become a separate household for George and Nellie Freeman. According to the current owner, in 1964, the height of this portion of the house was reduced after a fire. There is a shed-roofed dormer on the front roof slope, and an enclosed porch in the ell that contains the main entrance, which consists of a single-leaf door and an adjoining window. There is a modern picture window on the front wall, to the right of the enclosed porch.

It is possible that frame portion of the house was moved to this location prior to 1901. According to the 1891 census, the family of Joseph and Helen Freeman lived in a two-storey brick dwelling containing 12 rooms with Hannah Milne residing in a separate frame dwelling on the property. It may be that the frame dwelling had already been relocated onto a new foundation by that time, and then in 1901, the western, brick veneered portion was added to it.

The George and Nellie Freeman House is an unusual vernacular dwelling because of the visual disconnect between the eastern and western portions. The design of the western, brick veneered portion reflects the ornate, eclectic, High Victorian Queen Anne Revival style and is the most prominent aspect of the house. The eastern portion is a simple, gable-roofed rural dwelling of an earlier time period that has been altered from its original appearance. It is curious that the older portion of the house was not brick veneered to match the newer western portion when it was added in 1901.

This house shares a number of design features with the Raymer-Robb House in the nearby community of Armadale, now located at 70 Karachi Drive. That house began in 1853 as a simple brick farmhouse, then was extensively remodeled and enlarged in the Queen Anne Revival style c.1904. The Freeman House and Robb House could be the work of the same builder, possibly James Bishop, who built a house with similar characteristics to these two c.1895, at 183 Main Street North, Markham Village.

Context

The George and Nellie Freeman House is one of a number of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that are located in the vicinity of the historic hamlet of Box Grove and the community of Cedar Grove. It is historically linked to the Joseph and Helen Freeman House at 6470 Steeles Avenue East. The property remains in a rural context, and is adjacent to the Rouge National Urban Park. This house is located on an 8.5 acre parcel which includes a number of agricultural buildings.

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Markham Township Lot 1, Concession 9, and Lots 1, 2 and 3 Concession 8.

Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Markham Township Directories: Walton (1837), Brown (1846-47), Rowsell (1850-51), Mitchell (1866), Nason (1871), 1892 Directory, 1918 Directory.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860) and Historical Atlas of the County of York (1878).

Meeting Notes: Site Visit Meeting with Barry Little, December 3, 2003.

Property Files for 6470 and 6472 Steeles Avenue, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Designation Report on the Freeman House, 6402 Steeles Avenue East, Heritage Section, Town of Markham Planning & Urban Design, 1996.

Adler, Mike. "Last stand for dairy farmers." *The Markham Economist & Sun*, May 25, 2004.

McLean, Adam. "Dairy farm sends in the cows – Oldest Jersey herd in Canada sold off." *The Markham Economist & Sun*, April 17, 2008.

Genealogical and Historical Records of the Mills and Gage Families 1776-1926, Compiled by Stanley Mills, 1926: Descendants of Catherine Gage Freeman. Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 75, 76, 122, 123, 189-193, 249.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.

The George and Nellie Freeman House has design and physical value as a unique expression of vernacular domestic architecture, combining an older frame dwelling with a High Victorian Queen Anne Revival style addition to create a farm residence with a distinctive architectural “split personality.”

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.

The George and Nellie Freeman House has historical value and associative value for its association with the Milne-Freeman family, whose members played significant roles in the economic and political history of York County during the nineteenth century.

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The George and Nellie Freeman House has contextual value as one of a number of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that define the character and extent of the historic community of Cedar Grove.

The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.

The George and Nellie Freeman House has contextual value as a remnant of Cedar Grove’s agricultural community and because it is historically linked to the Joseph and Helen Freeman House at 6470 Steeles Avenue East.

RESEARCH REPORT



John and Elizabeth Hilts House

Lot 3, Plan 404

10756 Victoria Square Boulevard
(Formerly 10756 Woodbine Avenue)

c.1890

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2023

History

The John and Elizabeth Hilts House is located on Lot 3, Plan 404, which was subdivided from the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 3, in 1875.

John Kennedy (also known as John Canada) received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 3, in 1805. He was noted on this property in William Berczy's Census of Markham Settlers, 1803.

In 1805, John Kennedy sold the property to Jacob Heise. Jacob Heise and his siblings Christian, Joseph and Magdalene had arrived in Markham Township in 1804. Their parents were John Heise and Barbara (Yordy) Heise of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. The Heise family were members of a Christian sect related to the Mennonites, known by various names including Dunkards, Tunkards, or River Brethren. A number of families from Pennsylvania that followed

this faith settled in north-west Markham Township and in part of Vaughan Township in the early 1800s. Jacob Heise's older brother, Christian, was the first Deacon of the Tunker congregation in Markham. He lived on Lot 33, Concession 3, in an area that later became known as Gormley's Corners.

Jacob and Hannah Heise had four children, Barbara, Jacob, Abraham, and John. Jacob Heise II, born in Somerset, Pennsylvania, married Mary Steckley, the daughter of John Steckley Sr., Bishop of the Tunkard Church. They had several children, one of whom was Christian, also known as Christopher. Christopher Heise acquired the eastern 75 acres of his father's farm on Lot 26, Concession 3, in 1867. He and his wife Leah (Rhodes) Heise lived in a brick farmhouse further west on the property that still stands at 2730 Elgin Mills Road. Christopher Heise helped develop the northwestern quadrant of Victoria Square by selling lots and by building houses at the crossroads.

In 1875, Christian Heise had Public Land Surveyor Peter S. Gibson create Plan 404, a plan of building lots on a portion of the south-east corner of Lot 26, Concession 3. This plan of subdivision formalized the boundaries of a group of building lots that had previously been severed from the farm property. The lots contained several buildings, including a general store, blacksmith shop, carriage factory, temperance hall, and a series of dwellings. Some of these dwellings were developed as rental properties by the Heise family.

John Hilts Jr. purchased Lot 3, Plan 404, from Christopher Heise in 1892. There may have already been a dwelling on the property built for income purposes by Christopher Heise. The MPAC date of construction is 1890, but the building could be earlier than that. John Hilts was a member of another Pennsylvania-German Tunker family. His parents were John (Johan) Hilts Sr. and Magdalena Heise. Magdalena was the sister of Jacob Heise, one of the four siblings that came to Markham in 1804, as noted earlier in this research report.

Before moving to Victoria Square, John Hilts Jr. and Elizabeth (Horner) Hilts farmed the north-west quarter of Markham Township Lot 27, Concession 3. Their farm was located on the east side of today's Leslie Street, north of Elgin Mills Road, in an area that is now part of Richmond Hill. They sold the farm in 1899, a few years after they retired to Victoria Square.

John Hilts Jr. died in 1914. The property at Victoria Square was willed to John and Elizabeth Hilts' daughter, Martha Woodward. After Martha Woodward died in 1939, the property was purchased by her executors, after which it passed through a series of other owners.

Architecture

The John and Elizabeth Hilts House is a one-and-a-half storey, red-orange brick-veneered dwelling with a rectangular shaped plan. The building rests on a fieldstone foundation that has been parged with concrete. The house is oriented to face Victoria Square Blvd. The east, or main block, is rectangular in plan and one-and-a-half storeys in height. There is a single-storey frame addition across the rear or west wall, and a single-car frame garage abutting the north

rear corner of the main block. The roof is a medium-pitched gable, with open, overhanging eaves. The front or east wall has a three bay arrangement of openings, with a



10756 Victoria Square Blvd. East and north walls. Note outline of old veranda roof.
Front vestibule, masonry chimney and frame garage are modern additions.

centrally-placed door located within a small frame vestibule, flanked by a window on either side. The outline of a former, full-width veranda with a hipped roof is visible on the front wall. An exterior chimney, a later addition, is located on the north gable end, placed toward the rear of the wall in order to avoid intersecting with window openings. No historic chimneys remain.

Windows are in the form of upright rectangles, flat-topped, and single-hung style with 2/2 glazing on the ground floor, and 1/1 glazing on the second floor. The placement of window openings is ordered and balanced. Windows on the ground floor are larger in proportion to those on the second floor. The window openings have splayed brick arches and projecting lugsills. A small window has been inserted into the north gable end wall at the ground floor level.

The exterior of the John and Elizabeth Hilts House has been minimally altered from its historic condition. It is a vernacular building without ornament, designed for a village setting to meet the modest needs of a labourer, tradesman, or retired farmer. The symmetrical plan and formal design follows the Georgian architectural tradition that continued to influence vernacular architecture in Ontario long after the historic Georgian period ended in 1830. This is a late example of its type with a tall wall height and a medium-pitched gable roof without eave returns. The use of two-over-two and one-over-one window glazing is typical for the late nineteenth century period of construction.

Context

Victoria Square is a former Heritage Conservation District Study Area that contains 44 properties, 22 of which are listed on the *Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*. Of these 22 properties, two are individually designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The John and Elizabeth Hilts House is one of a grouping of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that contribute to and define the character and extent of the historic hamlet of Victoria Square. The garage, partially attached to the dwelling, is not of historical interest.

Sources

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 26, Concession 3, and Lot 27, Concession 3.
Abstract Index of Deeds for Lot 3, Plan 404, Markham Township.

Canada Census Records 1861, 1881, and 1901.

Family Files, Heritage Planning, City of Markham.

Property History File for 10756 Victoria Square Boulevard, Heritage Planning, City of Markham.

Victoria Square Heritage Conservation District – Historical Background and Inventory, by Su Murdoch, Heritage Consultant, 2010, pages 23 – 27, 124, 125.

Champion, Isabel, ed. *Markham 1793-1900*, second edition, revised. Markham: Markham Historical Society, 1989, page 45.

Compliance with Ontario Regulation 9/06, as amended – Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction.

The John and Elizabeth Hilts House is a representative example of a vernacular village dwelling in a late rendition of the Georgian architectural style.

The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community

The John and Elizabeth Hilts House has historical value or associative value as the former residence of John and Elizabeth Hilts, retired farmers that were part of the Pennsylvania-German Tunkard community of north-west Markham Township.

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

The John and Elizabeth Hilts House has contextual value as one of a number of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that help to define the character and extent of the historic hamlet of Victoria Square.