

APPENDIX 'D': Research Reports

RESEARCH REPORT



Joseph and Frances Hoover House **East Half Lot 27, Concession 7** **10982 Highway 48** **c.1895**

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2024

History

The Joseph and Frances Hoover House is located on the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 27, Concession 7, in the vicinity of the historic rural communities of Milnesville and Dickson Hill.

Samuel Pipher (also spelled Pfeiffer) received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 27, Concession 7 in 1810. His wife was Barbara (Labar) Pipher. They were Pennsylvania German Mennonites who came to Markham in 1801 and were noted as residing on this property in William Berczy's 1803 census of Markham settlers.

Samuel Pipher died in 1842 but Barbara Pipher and her unmarried daughter Catherine remained on the homestead at least until the time of the 1851 census. Their dwelling was of frame construction and was two-storeys in height. The executors of the Pipher estate sold off the land in two separate parts in 1857. The eastern half of Lot 27, Concession 7 (the subject property) was sold to Frederick Eckardt. The western half was sold to William Boynton.

Frederick Eckardt was one of the sons of Berczy settler Philip Eckardt. The commercial core of the village of Unionville was established on Frederick Eckardt's property in the 1840s. For most of his life, he was a farmer and resided on another property he owned north of Unionville. The purchase of the eastern 100 acres of Lot 27, Concession 7 was an investment.

In 1859, Frederick Eckardt sold to Christian Hoover, a member of a prominent Pennsylvania German Mennonite family who came to Markham Township from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania in 1804. Christian Hoover (1798-1882) was the son of Daniel Hoover and Anna (Stouffer) Hoover. He was married to Anna Barkey (1795-1876). The family lived on Lot 29, Concession 7, in the rural community of Dickson Hill, two lots north of the subject property.

Christian Hoover died in 1882. The subject property was willed to Susan (Susannah?) Hoover *et al.* In 1889, the northern 50 acres of the eastern half of Lot 27, Concession 7 were sold to John B. Hoover, a son of Christian and Anna Hoover. John B. Hoover lived on the western half of Lot 25, Concession 9, west of the crossroads hamlet of Mongolia, in an impressive stone farmhouse that still stands at 10691 Ninth Line. He was married to Susannah Hoover, a relative. In 1907, Susan (Susannah?) Hoover transferred ownership of the southern 50 acres of the eastern half of Lot 27, Concession 7 to Joseph H. Hoover. Joseph H. Hoover was one of the sons of John B. Hoover and Susannah Hoover. In 1912, John B. Hoover sold his portion of Lot 27, Concession 7 to his son Joseph H. Hoover, giving him ownership of the entire eastern half of the lot.

Joseph H. Hoover married his wife Frances c.1890. In the 1891 census their residence was described as a two-storey wood dwelling containing six rooms. The brick farmhouse that stands at 10982 Highway 48 was therefore constructed to replace an older frame farmhouse on the Hoover property sometime after the 1891 census. Its style suggests it was built in the mid to late 1890s. It is also possible that the frame farmhouse noted in the 1891 census was remodeled and brick veneered, but this cannot be determined without a detailed examination of the building through a site visit. The centre-gabled south wing may have been the first phase of construction.

By the time of the 1921 census, Joseph and Frances Hoover had retired from the farm and moved to Rupert Avenue in the village of Stouffville. In 1928, they sold the farm to Arthur Barkey. Arthur C. Barkey and his wife, Mabel, were the owners until 1954 when they sold to William and Hazel Barkey. In 1956, the property was sold to Murray A. Little. Murray and Clarissa Little were the owners of the property until 1965 when they transferred it to John R. Little, who in turn transferred it to Harvey J. Brown in 1969. In 1987, the property was purchased by real estate investors.

Architecture

The Joseph and Frances Hoover House is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling with a front-facing L-shaped plan. The building rests on a raised fieldstone foundation that provides a basement. The ground floor is set close to grade at the front, where the principal entrance was formerly located. The walls are clad in buff-coloured brick veneer laid in running bond, with ornamentation limited to a brick plinth and radiating brick arches over door and window

openings. This type of brick, historically referred to as “white brick,” came into use in Markham Township as early as the 1870s but became more common in the 1890s. In previous decades, most brick was locally produced and had a pink-orange variegated colour that was sometimes dyed a dark red to create a more consistent appearance. More research is required to determine the source of the buff and greyish-buff brick used in Markham Township in the late nineteenth century. Was it brought in from another area or was there a local clay deposit that produced a brick that differed from the pink-orange Markham standard?

The cross-gabled roof has a medium pitch with projecting eaves. Soffits are boxed and flat, which appears to be a later alteration to eaves that were originally open. There is a steep centre gable on the front wall of the recessed south wing which is positioned over a former door opening. There is no decorative work in the gables other than a narrow bedmould. If there ever were fretwork gable ornaments, no evidence remains of them. There is a stubby single-stack chimney at the west end of the roof ridge that runs east-west. This chimney may be a later version of a chimney that historically existed in this location. Centred on the south gable end wall is a later single-stack exterior chimney.

There is no veranda in the street-facing ell. In a house of this style, a veranda was a typical feature. In Markham Township there are a few examples of dwellings, in both rural and village settings, where a veranda or covered porch were intended but never built. In other examples, verandas were removed over time, but in most cases, marks on the wall remain to indicate the roofline and possibly the shape of the posts. Here, no markings can readily be seen to indicate the former existence of a veranda.



10982 Highway 48 showing south wing. Much of the primary elevation is obscured by mature vegetation.

Windows are regularly placed on the front and side walls, and asymmetrically placed on the rear wall. They are typically of wood construction, flat-headed, rectangular, single-hung, and

with two-over-two pane division. Window openings typically have rock-faced projecting lugsills. Currently, ground floor window openings are covered in plywood as the dwelling is unoccupied.

On the primary (east) elevation, the projecting bay at the north end has a frontispiece that contains a flat-headed, square-shaped fixed window on the ground floor, and a pair of single-hung windows with one-over-one panes, capped with a semielliptical transom light on the second floor. The radiating brick arch over the transom light has a projecting string-course border of rock-faced masonry. In the case of the ground floor window, a patch in the brickwork over the opening suggests that it once had a transom light and brick arch similar to that of the second floor window. The semi-elliptical window design is reminiscent of larger, more sophisticated urban examples of this house type in both Stouffville and Toronto. The large front window, with its semi-elliptical arched transom light, is characteristic of the work of Nathan Forsythe, a prominent builder based in the village of Stouffville. Forsythe may have therefore been the builder, but in the absence of documentation, this idea must remain within the realm of speculation.

The recessed front wall at the south end of the dwelling has a three-bay arrangement of openings, with a central door that has been bricked in. Flanking the former door are two-over-two paned windows. In the steep centre gable, there is a flat-headed window with a two-over-two pane division. An additional exterior door is tucked into the angle formed by the intersection of the two wings of the L-plan on the south wall of the front projecting bay. On the second floor of that same wall is a small square-shaped window which may be a later addition.



Rear or west view of 10982 Highway 48 showing patch in the brickwork, a possible indication that a rear wing has been removed.

The brickwork on the rear wall has a large patch in a different tone of buff that either indicates alterations have taken place in this location, or repairs have been made. One possibility is that a rear wing once existed and was removed, requiring a patch in the brick veneer. This wing would

have most likely been a kitchen or summer kitchen. Two small windows appear to have been inserted into the northern end of the rear wall.

The Joseph and Frances Hoover House is an altered representative example of a late-nineteenth century L-plan farmhouse designed with the influences of the Gothic Revival and the High Victorian Queen Anne Revival style in its form and steep centre gable as well as the treatment of the front projecting bay with its semi-elliptical headed window and projecting frontispiece. It is a vernacular building that may have been constructed in two stages, the first phase being the southern wing which was a centre-gabled farmhouse in the Ontario Classic style. The Ontario Classic is a vernacular house form that was popular from the 1860s into the 1890s, emblematic of the landscape of rural Ontario. The second phase was the addition of a projecting wing at the northern end of the original building in the High Victorian Queen Anne Revival style which was locally used in the design of larger rural and village residences during the 1880s-1890s. Alternatively, the building may have been constructed in its current form in the 1890s. An examination of the ground floor structure within the basement could reveal if construction took place in one or two stages.

The projecting bay, with its frontispiece and semi-elliptical arched window, is the dominant feature of the primary elevation. Its architectural integrity has been diminished with the apparent alteration of the ground floor window, but the restoration of this feature based on similar houses in Markham, and the detailing of the remaining second storey window, is possible. In addition, the re-opening of the principal entrance would restore a key feature of building's primary elevation.

Context

The Joseph and Frances Hoover House is one of a number of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings that are located within or in the vicinity of the historic rural communities of Milnesville and Dickson Hill. Most of the area's heritage buildings are farmhouses, many of them constructed by Pennsylvania German families who were the dominant cultural group in this part of Markham Township for much of the nineteenth century. The house is situated in a farm setting at the top of a gentle slope that drops off toward the west. The primary elevation is mostly obscured by mature vegetation that has grown up close to the building. A farm lane runs alongside the north wall of the house, providing access to an early twentieth century barn complex and other accessory buildings farther down the slope to the west.

The property is historically related to the John and Anna Hoover House at 11274 Highway 48, which was the farm of Joseph H. Hoover's grandfather, owner of this property from 1859 to 1882.

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Lots 27 and 29, Concession 7, and Lot 25, Concession 9, Markham Township.
Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921.
Directories of Markham Township: Nason (1871), 1892 Directory, and 1918 Directory.

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

Heritage Markham Building Inventory, 1981.

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

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 45-46.

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

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

The Joseph and Frances Hoover House has physical and design value as an altered representative example of a late-nineteenth century L-plan farmhouse designed with the influences of the Gothic Revival and High Victorian Queen Anne Revival styles. This is seen in its form and steep centre gable, both of which are indicative of the Gothic Revival style, and in the treatment of the front projecting bay with its semi-elliptical headed window and projecting frontispiece which are both typical of the Queen Anne Revival style. .

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 Joseph and Frances Hoover House has historical value as it is associated with the locally significant theme of Pennsylvania German Mennonites being attracted to Markham Township in the early nineteenth century, and for its association with the nineteenth century trend whereby farmsteads were improved as the agricultural community progressed well past the early settlement phase.

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

The Joseph and Frances 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 physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to the farm property where it has stood since c.1895.

RESEARCH REPORT



Abraham and Veronica Lehman House

West Half Lot 29, Concession 7

11287 McCowan Road

c.1854

Heritage Section

City of Markham Planning & Urban Design

2024

History

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman House is located on the western half of Markham Township Lot 29, Concession 7, in the general vicinity of the rural community of Dickson Hill.

John Edgell received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 29, Concession 7, in 1807. That same year, he sold the eastern 100 acres to Thomas Tivey, a member of the Queen's Rangers, who lived in Etobicoke. The western 100 acres were sold to Gideon Orton in 1808. Orton sold to Abraham Lehman in 1815.

Abraham Lehman II was a member of a Pennsylvania German family that trace their origins to Switzerland. His grandfather, John Hans Lehman, emigrated to America aboard a ship called *Charming Nancy*, which arrived in Philadelphia in 1737. His father, Abraham Lehman I, married Anna Burkholder. Four of their children came to Markham in the early nineteenth century. The

family are believed to have come from the same area of Lancaster County as the Ramers, a prominent Pennsylvania German family in Markham.

Abraham Lehman II and his brother John Lehman came to Markham Township in 1807 from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His wife was Susanna Grove Ramer, daughter of Abraham Ramer, founder of Mount Joy, which is located north of Markham Village. They had eight children: Anna, Jacob, John, Peter, Abraham, Susannah, Samuel, and Daniel. The family resided on the western half of the subject property, Lot 29, Concession 7. They were members of the Mennonite church.

At the time of the 1851 census, there were two households on the property. Abraham Lehman Sr. (Abraham Lehman II, 1785-1859), his wife Susan, Frederick Stam, a widower, and Daniel R. Lehman resided in a two-storey log house, likely the original Lehman family dwelling on the property. The second household consisted of Abraham Lehman Jr. (Abraham Lehman III, 1824-1900), his wife Veronica "Fanny" (Barkey) Lehman, their two young children, and Margaret Waggoner. They resided in a one-storey plank dwelling. The plank house may have been constructed for a new household in the mid-1840s based on the estimated year of marriage of Abraham and Fanny Lehman of c.1846.

By the time of the 1861 census, Abraham and Fanny Lehman had six children and lived in a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling. An increase in assessed value between the years 1853 and 1855 suggests an improvement to the property occurred in that interval, either the construction of a new house or the upgrading of an existing one. It is possible that the plank house was brick-clad and raised to one-and-a-half storeys in the 1850s since the brick on the main body of the building appears to be a veneer. If this is the case, a date of construction for this house would most likely be in the mid-1840s. A closer examination of the structure is needed to make this determination.

In 1874, Abraham Lehman II sold the farm to John Peach. John Peach was the son of Thomas and Catharine Peach of Lot 23, Concession 7. The Peach family were English immigrants who came to Canada in 1834. John Peach was an unmarried farmer at the time of his purchase of the Lehman property, which he appears to have acquired as an investment in addition to another farm he owned on the eastern half of Lot 26, Concession 6. According to census records of 1871, he lived in his parents' household. At the time of the 1881 census, John Peach still lived on the family homestead on Lot 23, Concession 7. He married Martha M. Lewis in 1884, a late marriage for both of them. There were no children.

John Peach sold the western half of Lot 29, Concession 7, to William Burkholder in 1915, one year before he died. After that, the property passed through the hands of many owners, including Samuel Carl Hoover and his brother Howard A. Hoover who owned the eastern half of the same lot by 1960. In more recent times, the property has been owned by real estate investors.

Architecture

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman House is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling that faces south. The main block is rectangular in plan. There is a one-storey rear wing offset to the west, and an open veranda in the north-facing ell. The building rests on a low foundation that places the ground floor level close to grade. The foundation material is not visible in photographs. The red local brick is laid in stretcher bond, suggesting that it is a veneer over a frame structure. Door and window openings on the main block have simple, radiating cambered arches in buff brick. Brick arches on the rear wing are in red brick to match the walls.

The medium-pitched gable roof has projecting eaves and eave returns. On the main block, there is a wide wood cornice and small gable-roofed dormers on the front and rear slopes. The dormers likely date from the 1940s. There are no historic chimneys remaining, but there is a heavy, single-stack exterior chimney that has been added to the west gable end wall which faces the road. The eaves of the rear wing are more simply treated, with eave returns but no cornice.

The south-facing primary elevation is composed of three-bays with a pronounced asymmetrical placement of openings. The single-leaf door, no longer in use, is significantly offset to the east, with a single-hung window with six-over-six panes located to its right, and another six-over-six paned window more widely separated from the door to the left. A wooden nailing strip on the front wall above the arches over the windows, wrapping around to the west gable end wall, is evidence of a former veranda.



West view of 11287 McCowan Road showing gable-end and one-storey rear wing.

Window placement on the gable end walls is regular, with two six-over-six paned windows on the ground floor and two smaller four-over-four paned windows above. The four-over-four glazing pattern is locally rare for the mid-nineteenth century period of construction. Window openings are rectangular in shape and have projecting lugsills.

The rear wing has a single leaf door and a four-over-four paned window on its west wall, and a modern sliding glass door and small window on its east wall. In the ell formed by the intersection of the main block and rear wing there is an open veranda. It has a shed roof supported on slender turned posts similar in style to others seen on some mid-nineteenth century farmhouses in Markham. Opening onto this rear veranda is a single-leaf door with a six-over-six paned window to its left.

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman House is a modestly scaled and detailed mid-nineteenth century farmhouse. Its rectangular plan, medium-pitched gable roof with eave returns, and six-over-six windows generally reflect the long-standing influence of the Georgian architectural tradition upon the design of vernacular dwellings in this area, but the informal asymmetry of its primary elevation stands in sharp contrast to balance and symmetry typical of Georgian architecture. The reason for the unconventional placement of openings on the front wall likely relates to the internal arrangement of rooms rather than a regard for exterior appearances. It is also a strong indicator of an old building having an influence over the implementation of later improvements as a cost-saving measure, if the house of c.1846 exists behind the brick veneer.

Context

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman House is located in a rural setting several township lots north of the Markham Fairgrounds. The farmstead is screened by mature trees and is well set back from the road. Only the west side of the dwelling is visible from the street view. There is a gambrel-roofed barn to the north of the farmhouse as well as a smaller outbuilding. A tributary of Little Rouge Creek runs through the property to the east of the farmstead.

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman House is one of a series of nineteenth century farmhouses on the east side of McCowan Road between Major Mackenzie Drive East and Nineteenth Avenue that represent the agricultural history of the north central part of Markham.

Sources

Deed abstracts for Lot 29, Concession 7 and Lot 23, Concession 7, Markham Township.

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

Markham Township Assessment Rolls: 1853, 1855, 1856.

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), Historical Atlas of the County of York (1878).

Property Files for 11287 McCowan Road and 10387 McCowan Road, Heritage Section, City of Markham.

Anderson Family File. Heritage Section, City of Markham.

Peach Family File, Markham Museum.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 49-52.

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 Abraham and Veronica Lehman House has design and physical value as a representative example of a vernacular Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmhouse from the mid-nineteenth century.

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 Abraham and Veronica Lehman House has historical value for its association with the locally significant Pennsylvania German Mennonite farming community who were an early European community in Markham Township, for its association with the Lehman family who owned the property from 1815 until 1874.

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

The Abraham and Veronica Lehman House has contextual value for being physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its site, where it has stood since c.1854.

RESEARCH REPORT



Watson and Jane Collinson House

**Lot 4, Block D, Plan 19
7801 Ninth Line, Box Grove
c.1876**

History

The Watson and Jane Collinson House is located on Lot 4, Block D, Plan 19, in the historic crossroads hamlet of Box Grove. This portion of Plan 19 is within Markham Township Lot 6, Concession 9.

In the mid-nineteenth century, a hamlet of tradesmen and labourers grew up around a cluster of industries on the banks of the Rouge River, near the crossroads of Fourteenth Avenue and Ninth Line. In the early years, the community was known as Sparta, named after the celebrated city-state of ancient Greece. By 1867, the year of Canada's Confederation, a local post office was opened with the name Box Grove.

The Tomlinson family, along with the Kirkhams, played a prominent role in the establishment of a sawmill, woolen mill, and shoddy mill (for recycling old cloth) in the Rouge River valley. These and other industries took advantage of the water power available from the creation of a dam and mill pond in the hollow. In time, modest houses for workers in the numerous local industries were built on village lots subdivided from the Tomlinson and Beebe farms. A general store, two taverns, two blacksmith shops, and a cooperage were built to serve the needs of local residents and the surrounding farm families.

In 1850, Joseph Tomlinson, owner of the eastern portion of Markham Township Lot 5, Concession 8, created Plan 19 in cooperation with William Beebe, a local blacksmith and tool maker that owned land on the western part of Lot 6, Concession 9. Through this plan, village lots were formalized in a series of blocks. Since the plan shows the outlines of buildings that were already standing at the time Plan 19 was created, many of these lots had been severed from the farm properties at an earlier date.

Lot 4, Block D, Plan 19 was sold by William Beebe to John Henderson in 1850. It was a vacant property as no building was illustrated in this location on Plan 19. Lot 4 passed through the hands of several owners before it was purchased for \$50 in 1873 by Charles Patton, a prominent local builder. *Markham 1793-1900* contains the following information about Charles Patton:

“Charles Patton was one of the finest builders in the community. Assisted by his crew, including the Bishop brothers Thomas, William and James, he put up many substantial houses and barns in the district.” Page 288.

In 1876, Charles Patton sold Lot 4 to William F. Patton for \$150. William F. Patton was the son of Charles Patton and Mary (Matthews) Patton. He was a carpenter by trade, according to the 1871 census. He purchased Lot 5, the adjoining property, from Simeon Tomlinson in 1880. Plan 19 illustrated a building on Lot 5 in 1850, but it is not certain if that structure was still standing in 1880. The purchase price of \$65 suggests it was a vacant property. Together Lots 4 and 5 comprised one half acre.

It is not known if William F. Patton and his wife Martha (Lamoreaux) Patton ever resided on this property. Their principal residence was located near the south-west corner of the crossroads (6731 Fourteenth Avenue). The house at 7801 Ninth Line was therefore likely constructed as a speculative venture by the Patton family.

In 1880, William F. Patton sold Lots 4 and 5 to Watson Collinson for \$550. The purchase price suggests an improved property, an indication that a substantial building had been constructed on the land. It appears that Charles Patton constructed the first phase of the house on Lot 4 at some point between 1873 and 1876 and that by the time the property was sold to Watson Collinson, the building and property had been improved to the extent that the value notably increased.

Watson Collinson (1826-1900) was an English immigrant. At the time of the 1851 census, he was an unmarried labourer who resided on the western half of Lot 1, Concession 9, as a tenant of Peter Milne. When the next census was taken in 1861, Watson Collinson had relocated to north-east Scarborough Township, had married, and changed his occupation to “Farmer.” His wife Jane (1828-1907) was also born in England. Both were members of the Church of England (Anglican Church).

Not long after Watson Collinson moved into the crossroads hamlet of Box Grove, he began to acquire more property. In 1881 he purchased Lot 9, Block C, Plan 19, a quarter acre village lot. In 1883, he purchased Lot 6, Block D, Plan 19, a half-acre property north of Lots 4 and 5, which increased the holdings containing his residence to one acre. In 1885 Watson Collinson purchased a small farm comprising 31 acres on the eastern half of Lot 6, Concession 8, across the road from where he resided. In 1890, five more village lots were purchased and were mainly rented to tenants.

Watson Collinson was a major landowner in the hamlet in the late nineteenth century. In the 1881 and 1891 census, Watson Collinson's occupation was listed as "Farmer." In the Assessment Rolls of 1880 and 1890, Watson Collinson was listed as "Gentleman," meaning a retired person. In 1900, he was listed as "Farmer." In his later years his farm may have been operated by a hired farmer, an explanation for why he was known as retired in the Assessment Rolls of 1880 and 1890. According to the 1891 census, a farm labourer named James Rolph lived in the Collinson household which was described as a two-storey wood dwelling containing eight rooms.

Watson Collinson died in 1900. His 31-acre farm on Lot 6, Concession 8 was willed to his wife. Jane Collinson died in 1907, and by 1919 the farm was owned by the Degeer family. Having made the change in religious affiliation to the Methodist Church by the time of the 1891 census, the Collinsons were interred at the Box Grove Methodist Cemetery. Their resting place is marked by a tall monument in pink granite, a testament to their standing in this community of labourers and tradesmen.

Watson and Jane Collinson did not have any children. In 1908, the executor of Watson Collinson's estate sold Lot 4, Block D, Plan 19, which contained the family home, along with other adjoining properties. From that point, the property containing the house at 7801 Ninth Line changed hands numerous times with periods of ownership ranging from one to twenty-six years. William and Alice Thomas owned the property for the longest period of time from 1943 to 1969.

Architecture

The Watson and Jane Collinson House is a one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling with a front-facing L-shaped plan with a veranda in the ell. A one-storey frame wing extends from the rear wall, offset toward the south. A site visit to examine the rear wing in detail would be required to determine if it is an original kitchen wing or a later addition. The ground floor is set close to grade, and the foundation material is not readily visible. The house is sided in aluminum board and batten which has been in place for some time, since it appears in a photograph taken in 1981.

The medium-pitched cross-gabled roof has projecting eaves. Centred on the front slope of the recessed southern volume is a gable-roofed wall dormer ornamented with a simple kingpost. The dormer contains a half-round headed feature window. An older photograph of this house shows that this window opening previously contained a segmentally-headed window. No

historic chimneys remain, but at one time there was a single-stack chimney at the south gable end.

The principal entrance is located within the ell near the corner where the front-projecting gable end meets the recessed southern volume. The single-leaf door has two half-round headed elongated lights in the upper portion, and two wood panels below. To the right of the door is a single, flat-headed rectangular window. The veranda has a shed roof supported on slender chamfered posts ornamented with fretwork brackets.

The gable facing the street has two flat-headed, rectangular window openings on the ground floor, and two smaller, narrower, flat-headed rectangular window openings on the second floor. The 1981 photograph shows these window openings with two-over-two paned single-hung windows. Currently all windows on the front and side walls are modern replacements within the original openings. The window openings have simple frames and projecting lugsills. A single-stack red brick exterior chimney is positioned on the right-hand side of the gable wall, and is an obvious later addition. Another modern red brick chimney serving a fireplace is located on the north side wall.

The Watson and Jane Collinson House is a late nineteenth century L-plan village dwelling with a picturesque form that generally reflects the vernacular Gothic Revival style. The front veranda and treatment of the gabled wall dormer hint at a Gothic Revival influence in combination with the front-facing L-shaped plan and cross-gabled roof. This house appears to be a simplified version of William F. Patton's c.1873 dwelling at 6731 Fourteenth Avenue which shares a similar form and has a gable-roofed wall dormer with a feature window within it as well as a similar principal entrance door.

Although much of the exterior material has been updated, the renovations have been carried out with sensitivity to the historical character of the building and therefore the overall form and character of the Watson and Jane Collinson House as viewed from the street remains little altered from its late nineteenth century appearance.

Context

The Watson and Jane Collinson House is one of a grouping of nineteenth century buildings within the historic hamlet of Box Grove. These buildings are important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the core of this nineteenth century crossroads community. Although modern infilling has occurred, enough of the older building stock remains for Box Grove to be recognizable as one of Markham's historic hamlets.

Several properties in the vicinity have been individually designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, including the James Bishop House at 7739 Ninth Line (By-law 2020-67), the Box Grove Schoohouse at 7651 Ninth Line (By-law 2005-78), and the Tomlinson-Gates House at 7790 Ninth Line (By-law 2016-135).

The Watson and Jane Collinson House is historically linked to the Patton-Sewell House at 6731 Fourteenth Avenue, another dwelling in Box Grove constructed by the Patton family of builders.

Sources

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 6, Concession 9 and Lot 6, Concession 8.

Abstract Index of Deeds for Lots 4, 5 and 6, Block D, Plan 19.

Plan 19 (1850).

Markham Township Assessment Rolls: 1880, 1890 and 1900.

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

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

Directory of Markham Township, 1892.

Property file and previous research on 7801 Ninth Line, Heritage Section, City of Markham.

Watson and Jane Collinson, Find-A-Grave Website.

Burkholder, Paul. "Box Grove." *Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, 1977. Pages 91-96.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Revised Edition, 1989. Pages 287-289.

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

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

The Watson and Jane Collinson House has physical and design value as a late nineteenth century L-plan village dwelling with a picturesque form that generally reflects the vernacular Gothic Revival style.

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

The Watson and Jane Collinson House has historical value and associative value representing the theme of urban development, specifically the nineteenth century development of the historic hamlet of Sparta/Box Grove around a cluster of industries at the crossroads of Fourteenth Avenue and Ninth Line, and for its association with Charles and William Patton, well-known local builders, and Watson Collinson, an important landowner in Box Grove in the late nineteenth century.

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

The Watson and Jane Collinson 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



Henry and Agnes Rowed House **Part Lot 10, Block D, Plan 19** **7871 Ninth Line, Box Grove** **c.1850**

Heritage Section
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design
2024

History

The Henry and Agnes Rowed House is located on the northern portion of Lot 10, Block D, Plan 19, which is within the western part of Markham Township Lot 6, Concession 9, in the historic crossroads hamlet of Box Grove.

In the mid-nineteenth century, a hamlet of tradesmen and labourers grew up around a cluster of industries located on the banks of the Rouge River, near the crossroads of Fourteenth Avenue and Ninth Line. In the early years, the community was known as Sparta, after the celebrated city-state of ancient Greece. By 1867, the year of Canada's Confederation, a local post office was opened with the name Box Grove.

The Tomlinson family, along with the Kirkhams, played a prominent role in the establishment of a sawmill, woollen mill, and shoddy mill (for recycling old cloth) in the Rouge River Valley. These and other industries took advantage of the waterpower available from the creation of a dam and mill pond in the hollow. In time, modest houses for workers in the numerous local

industries were built on village lots subdivided from the Tomlinson and Beebe farms. A general store, a Methodist Church, a school, two taverns, two blacksmith shops, and a cooperage were built to serve the needs of the local residents and the surrounding farm families.

William Ellis Beebe, an American-born blacksmith, established himself in the crossroads hamlet of Sparta after moving from the Buttonville area in the early 1830s. In 1833, he purchased the western 36 acres of Markham Township Lot 6, Concession 9 from Jacob Stover. Beebe's shop produced edge tools and agricultural implements. Evidently he was also interested in land development because in 1850 he created a plan of subdivision along with Joseph Tomlinson who owned land on the opposite side of Ninth Line. There was already a number of existing buildings on the Beebe property at the time that Plan 19 was laid out. Many of the lots were sold to people who laboured in the local cluster of industries that centred on the Rouge River Valley. These families built modest frame dwellings along the Ninth Line and Fourteenth Avenue frontages within the crossroads hamlet.

In 1848, prior to the formal creation of Plan 19, William Beebe sold Lots 8, 9 and 10, Block D, Plan 19 to Henry Rowed, an English-born carpenter. Henry Rowed was noted in this location in the 1851 census, living in a one-storey frame dwelling along with his wife Agnes (Melville) Rowed and their three children. Since the house was not illustrated on Plan 19, it must have been constructed shortly after the plan was created in 1850. Nearby to the Rowed family lived John and Catherine Melville, possibly Agnes Rowed's parents. They resided in a one-storey frame house. Next door to them was George and Nancy Self, also residing in a one-storey frame house. Both John Melville and George Self were weavers. Since the combined area of Lots 8, 9 and 10 was one acre, all three frame houses were likely on Henry Rowed's property (his own residence was located on Lot 10, the Melville residence on Lot 9 and the Self residence on Lot 8). Although the dwellings were described as each being one-storey, they may have been one-and-a-half storeys because the half storey was not always taken into account by the census enumerators. The existing frame house at 7871 Ninth Line is one-and-a-half storeys in height.

In 1855, Henry Rowed sold the property for twice what he paid for it to Uriah Young. Uriah Young didn't reside there. The house on Lot 10 was rented to Jonathan Tomlinson, a shoe-maker, as noted in the Markham Township Assessment Roll for 1860, who was also noted in this location in the 1861 census. In 1861, the property reverted to the ownership of William E. Beebe, the original property owner, who sold to Ruth Demott in that same year. Meanwhile, Lots 8 and 9 had also reverted back to William E. Beebe and were sold to Margaret Whaley in 1867.

Ruth Demott was a widowed shop-keeper. She was living on the east side of Ninth Line when she sold Lot 10 to her son Robert F. Demott in 1870. In 1874, Robert F. Demott sold to Robert Davis, who in the same year sold to John M. Caffrey, the owner of the Box Grove General Store and local Postmaster.

In 1876, John M. Caffrey sold Lot 10 to William Jones. In that same year, William Jones purchased Lots 8 and 9 from Margaret Whaley, resulting in a parcel one acre in size. William

Jones' occupation in the 1880 Assessment Roll was "Labourer." At that time, he owned one-and-a-half acres which comprised Lots 8, 9 and 10 and another half-acre in the same area. In the 1890 and 1900 Assessment Rolls, his occupation was listed as "Carpenter." William Jones was Ontario-born of English descent. The 1891 census described his dwelling as wood, one-and-a-half storeys, and containing seven rooms. William Jones became a farmer after acquiring Watson Collinson's 31-acre farm across the road on Lot 6, Concession 8 in 1900. In 1919, the farm was transferred to William Jones' married daughter Mary E. Degeer.

In 1924, William Jones transferred the property comprising Lots 8, 9 and 10 to his daughter Mary E. Degeer for the nominal sum of \$1.00. She was married to Avery Degeer, a carpenter. At the time of the 1901 census, Avery and Mary Degeer shared a household with William and Maria Jones. The Degeers (alternate spelling Deguire or De Guerre) were an early Markham settler family of Huguenot origin from New York State. In the early nineteenth century, a number of brothers or cousins came to Markham Township after living for a short time in Stamford Township, Niagara. Avery Degeer was a descendant of one of the early Degeers that arrived in Markham Township in 1803.

Mary E. Degeer sold to William E. Anthony in 1931. His executors sold the northern 98 feet of Lot 10 to the Directory of the Veteran's Land Act in 1946, and in the same year sold the southern 34 feet of Lot 10 to Thomas and Gwendolyn Rimmer. The Rimmer family purchased the northern part of Lot 10, Block D, Plan 19 containing the old frame house in 1956, then sold both the northern and southern portions to Kay and Elvira Schmidt in the same year. In 1965, Elvira Schmidt sold all of Lot 10 to Gordon and Gelsomina Howells who remained the owners until 1977 when the property was again split into two parcels. The house at 7871 Ninth Line is on the larger, northerly portion of Lot 10 and has since passed through a series of owners.

Architecture

The Henry and Agnes Rowed House is a one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling that faces westwards. The main block is rectangular in plan with a full-width veranda on the front. There is a one-storey rear wing offset to the north. The building is sided in horizontal vinyl and rests on a fieldstone foundation that places the ground floor two steps above grade. The medium-pitched gable roof has projecting, open eaves but no eave returns. No historic chimneys remain.

The primary (west) elevation is composed of three bays with an asymmetrical placement of openings. The single-leaf door is slightly off-centre to the left, flanked by flat-headed rectangular window openings which are unevenly spaced on either side. The existing door is a glazed and panelled modern replacement. Trim around the door opening is plain. The front windows, as well as the windows on all other walls, are modern replacements with multi-paned grilles and narrow, plain trim. Previously, the windows were single-hung wood windows with two-over-two panes. Given the age of the house, those windows were likely late nineteenth century replacements for multi-paned sash units. The replacement windows are somewhat smaller in size than the original window openings.

The full-width veranda has a low-pitched hipped roof supported on slender turned wood posts accented with fretwork brackets. Between the posts is a wood railing with turned balusters. This veranda is a replacement for the previous veranda that had heavy, square wood posts. That veranda likely dated from the early twentieth century.

On the south gable end, window placement is regular. There are two windows on the ground floor and two above. On the north gable end there is only one window on the ground floor, spaced toward the left, and two regularly placed windows above.

The single-storey rear wing, the original kitchen, was at some point extended with a lean-to addition on its south side. The lean-to may have replaced a veranda in this location. The modified gable roof formerly had a single-stack brick chimney on its ridge, positioned toward the eastern end. Placement of door and window openings on the rear wing is asymmetrical, and the size and location of some window openings has likely been altered. A tall, narrow window opening on the north wall marked the former location of a pantry next to the kitchen.

Overall, although the exterior materials have been updated, the historical character of the dwelling has remained in terms of its form as well as the shape and placement of the principal entrance and window openings on the main block, the portion of the building most visible from the street.

The Henry and Agnes Rowed House is a modestly scaled frame dwelling designed for a village setting to meet the needs of a tradesman or labourer. It is a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century worker's cottage in frame, with its design reflecting the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition. The asymmetrical placement of openings on its three-bay primary elevation accentuates its vernacular nature. Although dwellings designed with Georgian principles were typically characterized by formality, balance and symmetry, variations were constructed that did not fully conform to standard Georgian design practice. The reason for the asymmetrical placement of openings in this example likely relates to the internal arrangement of rooms rather than a strict regard for the appearance of the exterior.

The influence of the Georgian style continued long after the end of the Georgian period in 1830. Its essential principles influenced domestic vernacular architecture for much of the nineteenth century. In a rural community such as Markham Township, the design principles of the Georgian architectural tradition were stripped down to their most basic elements, as seen in the Henry and Agnes Rowed House.

Context

The Henry and Agnes Rowed House is one of a grouping of nineteenth century buildings within the historic hamlet of Box Grove. These buildings are important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of the core of this nineteenth century crossroads community. Although modern infilling has occurred, enough of the older building stock remains for Box Grove to be recognizable as one of Markham's Townships historic hamlets.

Several properties in the vicinity have been individually designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, including the James Bishop House at 7739 Ninth Line (By-law 2020-67), the Box Grove Schoohouse at 7651 Ninth Line (By-law 2005-78), and the Tomlinson-Gates House at 7790 Ninth Line (By-law 2016-135).

Sources

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 6, Concession 9 and Lot 6, Concession 8.

Abstract Index of Deeds for Lots 8, 9 and 10, Block D, Plan 19.

Plan 19 (1850).

Markham Township Assessment Rolls: 1855, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890 and 1900.

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

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

Directories of Markham Township, Rowsell (1851), 1892 Directory.

Property file for 7871 Ninth Line, Heritage Section, City of Markham.

Burkholder, Paul. "Box Grove." *Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, 1977. Pages 91-96.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Revised Edition, 1989. Pages 65-66 and 287-289.

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

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

The Henry and Agnes Rowed House has physical and design value as a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century worker's cottage in frame, with its design reflecting the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition.

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

The Henry and Agnes Rowed House has historical value and associative value representing the theme of urban development, specifically the nineteenth century development of the historic hamlet of Sparta/Box Grove around a cluster of industries at the crossroads of Fourteenth Avenue and Ninth Line.

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

The Henry and Agnes Rowed 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



Isaac and Emma Reesor House **East Half Lot 1, Concession 9** **6742 Steeles Avenue East**

c.1890 & 1922

History

The Isaac and Emma Reesor House is located on part of the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 1, Concession 9.

William Carpenter received the Crown patent for the 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 1, Concession 9, in 1816. One year later, he sold the entire 200 acres to Michael Shank who soon sold the western 100 acres to David Eyer while holding onto the eastern 100 acres for ten years. In 1827, Michael Shank sold the eastern half of Lot 1, Concession 9 to Thomas Whaley. This same Thomas Whaley leased Lot 2, Concession 9, from the Crown in 1832, where a sawmill was established on the Little Rouge Creek at an early date.

Thomas Whaley sold the eastern half of Lot 1, Concession 9 to Richard Harrison in 1833. A Robert Harrison was listed as residing on this property in Walton's 1837 Directory of Markham Township. He may have been the son of Richard Harrison. In 1840, Richard Harrison and his wife sold to Robert Harrison.

In 1845, Robert Harrison and his wife sold the eastern 50 acres of their property to John Eby Reesor. John Eby Reesor farmed Lot 1, Concession 11, at the south-east corner of Markham Township. He was a prominent member of Cedar Grove's Pennsylvania German community and an Old Order Mennonite minister.

The Little Rouge Creek meanders through the surveyed road allowance for 10th Line (today known as Reesor Road) just east of the subject property, causing the road to jog to the east. In the 1820s, a sawmill was established in this area by Robert Milroy. According to Reesor family history, John Eby Reesor purchased the Milroy mill and some adjacent land for his son, Simeon Reesor, in 1850. At the time of the 1851 census, Simeon Reesor was newly married to Susannah Nighswander, resided in a one-and-a-half storey frame house on Lot 1, Concession 9, and was a neighbour to Robert Milroy on Lot 1, Concession 10.

In 1856, John Eby Reesor sold the eastern half of Lot 1, Concession 9 to his son, Simeon Reesor. Simeon Reesor acquired the western part of the eastern half of Lot 1, Concession 9 from the Harrison family in 1867, giving him ownership of the entire 100 acres of the eastern half of Lot 1, Concession 9.

Regarding Simeon Reesor (1829-1909), according to *The Reesor Family in Canada 1804 - 2000*: “He was very gifted as a woodworker and acted as coffin-maker and undertaker for a number of years in the community. He was one of those who accompanied a group of Russian Mennonite families to Western Canada in the 1870s.” Page 236.

Simeon Reesor relocated his family to Lot 7, Concession 5, Scarborough Township sometime after his son Tilman Reesor was born in Markham Township in 1855. This farm was on the south-west corner of the 10th Line and the Markham-Scarborough Town Line (today known as Steeles Avenue). A new frame house was constructed there in 1857.

Simeon Reesor retained ownership of his property on Lot 1, Concession 9, Markham Township and continued to run the sawmill. The sawmill operated with a muley saw, a Pre-Confederation sawmill technology where the saw blade moved in an up-and-down motion while the timber was moved along on a horizontal bed as the cut progressed. In time, the mill operation was taken over by his son David N. Reesor, assisted by his son Alvin E. Reesor. The business was known as Glen Willow Mills and evolved to contain a sawmill and grist mill. Glen Willow Mills endured until it was consumed by fire in 1926 or 1927.

Isaac Reesor (1865-1934) farmed his father’s property in Markham. Like his father, Isaac Reesor was a skilled woodworker. A new frame farmhouse was constructed on the property in 1890, the year he married Emma Alice Rittenhouse (1864-1958). This house forms the first phase of the existing dwelling at 6742 Steeles Avenue East. An excellent archival photograph of the Isaac Reesor House is featured on the *Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000 Commemorative Calendar*.

The house was expanded and achieved its current form in 1922, the year Simeon Reesor (1896-1988), one of the sons of Isaac and Emma Reesor, married Annie Wideman (1898-1986). Simeon Reesor, known as “Sim,” carried on the woodworking tradition of his father and grandfather. He was known for his skill in wood carving and was a founding member of the Markham District Historical Society, formed in 1969. Sim Reesor was very interested in local history and was involved in the establishment of the Markham Museum. According to *The*

Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000, he attended the St. Lawrence Market in Toronto for 30 years (1929 to 1960). A very detailed account of Sim Reesor was written by a neighbour, Pat McClennan, in the 1970s (“Simeon Reesor – A Man of Mark,” in *Pioneer Hamlets of York*, published by the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario in 1977).

Murray Wideman Reesor (1926-2013) was the next generation of the family on the farm. He married Dorothy Anna Diller in 1953. One of their sons, Paul Eugene Reesor, born in 1955, presently runs the family farm, one of the last family-owned farm operations in Markham. Paul Reesor married Annita Marlene Roth in 1986. In addition to farming, he has served on the Reesor Reunion Committee and as a director of the Markham Fair and the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario.



6742 Steeles Avenue East, showing original dwelling of 1890.
The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000 Commemorative Calendar.

Architecture

The Isaac and Emma Reesor House is an evolved building of wood frame construction with a fieldstone foundation. The building is sided in vertical tongue and groove wood.

The main portion of the house has a front-facing L-plan. The western end is two-and-a-half storeys with a one-storey sunroom addition on its west wall. The main roof is hipped, with a steep slope and projecting, boxed eaves. There is a hip-roofed dormer on the front or south slope. An internal, single-stack brick chimney is located above the dormer, near the peak of the roof. An open veranda extends across the front wall, with a low-pitched hipped roof supported on square posts. The house has a three-bay primary (south) elevation with a single-leaf door

placed off-centre to the left. The windows are single-hung, flat-headed, and rectangular in shape, with two over two panes.

The eastern end of the house is recessed, with the ell infilled with a shed-roofed enclosed veranda. This enclosed veranda occupies the former location of an open veranda with a hipped roof supported on slender turned posts and decorated with fretwork brackets, as seen in the archival photograph. A secondary exterior door was sheltered by the veranda. This part of the house retains the roofline of the original dwelling dating from 1890 with a steeply-pitched gable roof with projecting, open eaves and a steeply-pitched centre gable. A flat-headed two-over-two window is in the centre gable. At the rear of this part of the house is a kitchen wing and woodshed. The combination of the various portions of the house creates an irregular plan.

Based on the archival photograph, it appears that the western end of the 1890 dwelling was extended to the west and reconfigured from a one-and-a-half storey height to two-and-a-half storeys in 1922.

In its original form, the Isaac and Emma Reesor House was a good representative example of a late nineteenth century L-plan farmhouse in frame. The building's form reflected the vernacular Gothic Revival style but it did not have some of the specific decorative features characteristic of that style such as bargeboards in the gables and a pointed-arched window in the centre gable.

In its present evolved form, the Isaac and Emma Reesor House blends two distinct periods of development, each with its own architectural form and stylistic features. The dominant architectural form is an American Foursquare, typical of the early twentieth century period of its construction. The recessed eastern portion of the house reflects a restrained version of the vernacular Gothic Revival. Along with the sunroom addition and enclosed veranda, the house illustrates the changing needs and tastes of the several generations of the Reesor family that have resided here and left their mark on the configuration of the building.

Context

The Isaac and Emma Reesor House is one of a number of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings within the historic rural community of Cedar Grove in southeastern Markham. The house is set somewhat close to the road, east of a tributary of Little Rouge Creek. The subject property is a complete, active farmstead with barns and numerous outbuildings located to the north of the dwelling.

Most of the surrounding properties are now within the Rouge National Urban Park and some of the land is still being actively farmed. The absence of urban development has preserved the rural context of this heritage house and others in the area.

Sources

Deed Abstracts for Markham Township Lot 1, Concession 9.

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

Directories of Markham Township: Walton (1837), Rowsell (1850-51), 1892 Directory, 1918 Directory.

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

Property File for 6742 Steeles Avenue East. Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Reesor Family File. Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000. Pages 236, 246-247.

The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000 Commemorative Calendar. November 2000 and January 2001.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 123-124.

McClennan, Pat. "Simeon Reesor – A Man of Mark." *Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario, 1977.

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 Isaac and Emma Reesor House has design and physical value as a unique example of an evolved vernacular farmhouse that blends two distinct periods of development, each with its own architectural form and stylistic features. The dominant architectural form is an American Foursquare, typical of the early twentieth century period of its construction. The recessed eastern portion of the house reflects a restrained version of the vernacular Gothic Revival, dating from the late nineteenth century.

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 Isaac and Emma Reesor House has historical value as it is associated with the Pennsylvania German Mennonite community who arrived in Markham Township in the early nineteenth century, and for its association with several generations of Reesors, a locally prominent Pennsylvania German Mennonite family.

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

The Isaac and Emma Reesor 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 community of Cedar Grove.