

## **APPENDIX 'D': Research Reports**

## RESEARCH REPORT



### **David and Esther Grove House** **East Half, Lot 15, Concession 8** **12 Celebrity Place** **c.1915**

**Heritage Section**  
**City of Markham Planning & Urban Design**  
**2024**

#### **History**

The David and Esther Grove House is located on a portion of the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 15, Concession 8, in the vicinity of the historic community of Mount Joy. The subject property is a remnant of a farm that operated until the residential intensification of the area in the 1970s and 1980s.

In 1810, Daniel Tiers received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 15, Concession 8. He may be the same person as Daniel Tierce, one of the Berczy settlers who came to Markham in 1794. In 1811, Tiers sold to D'Arcy Boulton, a member of the social and political elite of the Town of York. D'Arcy Boulton was a prominent lawyer, merchant, and landowner, best known for his elegant Toronto home, The Grange (now part of the Art Gallery of Ontario).

In 1811, Boulton sold the property in two parts. The western 100 acres were sold to Abraham Lehman, and the eastern 100 acres were sold to Abraham Ramer. Both the Lehman and Ramer families were Pennsylvania German Mennonites that came to Markham in the early nineteenth

century. They were interrelated by marriage. The Ramer family are considered the founders of the community of Mount Joy, now part of the Markham Village Heritage Conservation District. In 1815, Abraham Lehman sold his portion to his father-in-law Abraham Ramer, which gave Ramer ownership of the entire 200 acres of Lot 15, Concession 8.

Abraham Ramer and Magdalena (Grove) Ramer resided on Lot 14, Concession 8. One of their sons, Peter Ramer, farmed Lot 15, Concession 8. In 1870, a right-of-way was sold through the farm to the Toronto and Nipissing Railway. This railway line is now the Stouffville Line of GO Transit.

John H. Ramer, one of the sons of Peter Ramer and Elizabeth (Byer) Ramer, took over the family farm and named it "Deer Park." In 1884, John H. Ramer and his wife Mary (Hoover) Ramer sold the eastern half of Lot 15, Concession 8 in two parts. The eastern 50 acres contained within the eastern half of Lot 15 were sold to Benjamin Hoover, and the western 50 acres of the eastern half of Lot 15 were sold to Tilman Ramer.

In 1885, Benjamin Hoover sold his property to Joseph Grove. Joseph Grove farmed the centre part of Lot 16, Concession 8. Like the Ramer, Lehman, and Hoover families, the Groves were part of the Pennsylvania German Mennonite community. Joseph Grove (1846-1914) was married to Diana Reesor (1851-1935). Photographic portraits of Joseph and Diana Grove appear on page 764 of *The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000*. They had four children: Adeline, David, Menno, and Amos. In 1893, Joseph Grove acquired the western 50 acres of the eastern half of Lot 15, Concession 8 from Tilman and Barbara Ramer, giving him ownership of the entire eastern half of the lot.

Joseph Grove died in 1914. In 1915, the property on Lot 15, Concession 8 was willed to David Grove (one of his sons). David Grove (1873-1949) married Esther Reesor (1874-1957) in 1895. They had three children: Russell, Louis, and Franklin. In approximately 1915, David and Esther Grove built a new farmhouse on their property in the American Foursquare style.

Louis and Franklin Grove received ownership of the family farm from their father's will in 1951. Louis received the eastern 50 acres and Franklin the western 50 acres. The house at 12 Celebrity Place stands on Louis Grove's property. Both brothers were farmers.

Louis Grove (1898-1978) married Myrtle May Burkholder (1899-1964) in 1922. In 1963, the larger portion of the farm was sold to their eldest son Jack Russell Grove who later sold to real estate investors in 1969. The last remaining part of the Grove farm was sold to a real estate investor in 1975. In 1985-1987, Larcastle Developments created a plan of subdivision that integrated the subject property into the surrounding suburban neighbourhood. The plan of subdivision showed the outline of the farmhouse and its associated outbuildings. The farmhouse was retained on its original site. Access to the dwelling is from Celebrity Place rather than Sixteenth Avenue.

## Architecture

The David and Esther Grove House is a two-and-a-half storey brick dwelling with a rectangular plan. The structure rests on a raised concrete foundation that provides a basement. There is a full-width enclosed veranda on the north (primary) elevation, and a flat-roofed addition on the rear elevation. The brick exterior is likely a veneer over a frame structure since the brick was laid in stretcher bond. The local red brick was painted dark grey in the late 1980s or early 1990s.

The steeply pitched hip roof has overhanging eaves with flat, enclosed soffits. There is a small dormer with a closed pediment on the front slope. Offset to the left of the roof ridge is a heavy, single-stack red brick chimney with a corbelled cap.

The primary elevation has a 3-bay configuration with a single-leaf door placed off-centre to the right flanked by a window on either side. The window openings along the ground floor of the primary elevation are larger in size than the window openings on other parts of the dwelling. The window openings have a slight camber, radiating brick arches, and projecting lugsills. These window openings, and all others on the oldest portion of the building, are rectangular in shape and contain modern replacement window units. Window openings are framed with decorative shutters in a rustic, modern style.

The front veranda, enclosed with glass panels in recent years, has a hip roof supported on tapered wood half columns that rest on brick pedestals with cast concrete caps. The columns are a stylized Classical design typical of the early twentieth century date of construction.



South and east view of 12 Celebrity Place.

The flat-roofed rear addition appears to date from the 1960s or 1970s based on its design. It may have replaced an earlier rear wing. The rear addition is not readily visible from Sixteenth Avenue and therefore has little impact on the appearance of the dwelling as seen from the street.

The David and Esther Grove is a representative example of an early twentieth century farmhouse in the form of an American Foursquare with a functional compact shape and deep front veranda with Edwardian Classical details. The red brick cladding (now painted), two-and-a-half storey height, full-width front veranda supported on stylized Classical columns atop brick pedestals, and steeply-pitched hip roof with a front dormer are representative features of the style. The house is typical of the practical, modestly detailed houses built on farms and within villages throughout Markham Township in the early twentieth century. Its architectural detailing reflects the Edwardian Classicism that was popular from the early 1900s through the 1920s. The enclosure of the front veranda is a reversible alteration.

### **Context**

The David and Esther Grove House originally fronted onto Sixteenth Avenue but is now accessed from Celebrity Place following residential intensification of the area during the 1980s. The view of the primary elevation is partially obscured by a privacy fence along Sixteenth Avenue. A detached garage was constructed behind the house in the early 2000s. As a heritage property embedded within a suburban residential neighbourhood, it illustrates the transition of the area from rural to suburban and stands as a remnant of once dominant agricultural character of Markham.

This property is one of three along this stretch of Sixteenth Avenue listed on the *Markham Inventory of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*. The others are the Reverend Peter Cober House at 6145 Sixteenth Avenue (c.1899) and the John and Sarah Pipher House at 6007 Sixteenth Avenue (c.1907).

### **Sources**

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 15, Concession 8.

Canada Census: 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Markham Township Directories: 1892 and 1918 Directories.

Maps of Markham Township: Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).

Property File for 12 Celebrity Place Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

*The Reesor Family in Canada 1804-2000*. Pages 765, 770, and 773.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 44, 50-52.

### **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 David and Esther Grove House has design value and physical value as a representative example of an early twentieth century brick farmhouse in the form of an American Foursquare with Edwardian Classical details.**

*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 David and Esther Grove House has historical value and associative value, representing the gradual division of large farms into smaller parcels as Markham's agricultural community matured. The property also has associative value as the home of David and Esther Grove, members of the historically significant Markham's Pennsylvania German Mennonite community, who owned the property from 1915 to 1951.**

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

**The David and Esther Grove House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it has stood since c.1915 in the vicinity of the historical community of Mount Joy.**

## RESEARCH REPORT



### **Reverend Peter Cober House** **West Half Lot 15, Concession 8** **6145 Sixteenth Avenue** **c.1899**

**Heritage Section**  
**City of Markham Planning & Urban Design**  
**2024**

*(Update of a 1989 Research Report)*

#### **History**

The Reverend Peter Cober House is located on a portion of the western half of Markham Township Lot 15, Concession 8, in the vicinity of the historic community of Mount Joy. The subject property is a remnant of a 6-acre parcel severed from the farm property of Jonas Ramer in 1892, east of the Toronto and Nipissing Railway line (now the Stouffville GO line).

In 1810, Daniel Tiers received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 15, Concession 8. He may be the same person as Daniel Tierce, one of the Berczy settlers who came to Markham in 1794. In 1811, Tiers sold to D'Arcy Boulton, a member of the social and political elite of the Town of York. D'Arcy Boulton was a prominent lawyer, merchant, and landowner, best known for his elegant Toronto home, The Grange (now part of the Art Gallery of Ontario).

In 1811, Boulton sold the property in two parts. The western 100 acres were sold to Abraham Lehman, and the eastern 100 acres were sold to Abraham Ramer. Both the Lehman and Ramer families were Pennsylvania German Mennonites that arrived in Markham Township in the early nineteenth century. They were interrelated by marriage. The Ramer family are considered the founders of the community of Mount Joy, now part of the Markham Village Heritage Conservation District. In 1815, Abraham Lehman sold his portion to his father-in-law, Abraham Ramer, which gave Ramer ownership of the entire 200 acres of Lot 15, Concession 8.

Abraham Ramer and Magdalena (Grove) Ramer resided on Lot 14, Concession 8. One of their sons, Peter Ramer, farmed Lot 15, Concession 8. In 1870, a right-of-way was sold through the farm to the Toronto and Nipissing Railway. This railway line is now the Stouffville Line of GO Transit.

John Ramer, one of the sons of Peter Ramer and Elizabeth (Byer) Ramer, took over the family farm and named it "Deer Park." A 50-acre portion of the property was sold to Jonas Ramer, another son of Peter and Elizabeth Ramer, in 1891. In 1892, Jonas Ramer subdivided the western portion of the property into 30 village lots, creating Elizabeth Street (Plan 1149). A 6-acre parcel to the east of the railway line was sold by Jonas Ramer to Obediah P. Ferrier in 1892.

Obediah Ferrier was the son of Markham Village butcher William Ferrier and his wife Cynthia (Brand) Ferrier. The undeveloped 6 acres were sold to a series of short-term owners until the parcel was purchased by Reverend Peter Cober in 1899.

Peter Cober was the son of John and Matilda Cober of Puslinch Township, Wellington County. He was born in 1853. At the time of the 1891 census, Peter Cober was married and living in Berlin (now Kitchener), Waterloo County, where he was a Mennonite minister. His wife was Martha Cober. From 1887 to 1888, Peter Cober was a minister at the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church, later known as the United Missionary Church, in Mount Joy (313 Main Street North). He also served congregations in Gormley, Dickson Hill, and Bethesda.

Peter Cober owned the subject property from 1899 to 1904. Based on a substantial increase in value from \$500 in 1899 to \$2,400 in 1904, the house was constructed sometime during that period. Reverend Cober resided on the property at the time of the 1901 census. Also in the household were his wife Martha and five children between the ages of 6 and 22. It is not clear if Reverend Cober was serving the church in Mount Joy while living locally. In addition to his calling as a clergyman, he later owned the general store at West Gormley from 1912 to 1916, and for a time was a merchant in Hespler, Waterloo County. At the time of the 1921 census, Peter Cober still resided in Hespler but by then his occupation was given as "Preacher."

An excellent archival photograph of the Cober store with its attached dwelling is found on page 245 of *Early Days in Richmond Hill* by Robert M. Stamp.

The Cober property in Mount Joy was purchased by John Porter in 1904, who sold to Phillip Cephus Wegg in 1906. Philip Cephus Wegg, commonly known as Cephus Wegg or Wagg, was a



son of John Wegg/Wagg and Sarah Johnson Wegg/Wagg. According to census records from 1911 and 1921, he was a farmer of the Methodist faith. Cephus Wegg married Mary Ann Summerfeldt in 1886. At the time of the 1911 census, there were three daughters at home between the ages of 8 and 17.

The Wegg family came to Canada from Norfolk, England in the mid-nineteenth century. They were originally German and spelled their surname “Weige” or “Weigel.” This family is not connected to the German-speaking Berczy settlers or Markham’s Pennsylvania-German community.

Philip Cephus Wegg sold the property to Cecil Cross in 1938. A series of owners followed. In the 1970s, much of the surrounding land was sold and developed for suburban housing. The house at 6145 Sixteenth Avenue stands on a remnant of the 6 acres severed from the Ramer farm in 1892.

### **Architecture**

The Reverend Peter Cober House is a two-storey frame dwelling with an irregular plan. The building rests on a raised fieldstone foundation that places the ground floor four steps above grade. The house has horizontal composition siding that resembles wide clapboard with mitred corners. Based on the treatment of other local houses of this time period, the original siding may have been vertical V-joint tongue and groove wood. The previous siding may underlie the present cladding.

The massing and roofline of the house is irregular. The steeply pitched hip roof is combined with projecting gable-roofed extensions on all four sides of the structure, creating a complex, picturesque roofline. Eaves are projecting and open. There is an exterior red brick fireplace chimney centred on the west wall of the west projecting gable end.

The principal entrance is located on the north (primary) elevation and consists of a single-leaf door to the right of a two-storey projecting bay and is sheltered by a wrap-around veranda. The existing door is a modern multi-panelled replacement. The veranda has a low-pitched hip roof supported on slender, chamfered wood posts. Spandrels in a repeating pattern of circles and fretwork brackets decorate the veranda. A simple wood railing has been added between the posts. Originally, the veranda wrapped around only the right side of the façade and the west wall, but since the first version of this research report was written in 1989, the veranda has been extended in the same style across the entire façade and wraps around a portion of the east wall. A broad, closed gable has been added to align with the front projecting bay. The spandrel pattern of the veranda is similar to that found on the Lunau House at 1 Heritage Corners Lane, c.1899 and 33 Peter Street, c.1893.

On the west side of the house is a deep, modern veranda with a curved end and a balcony. This veranda replaced a smaller veranda in a side-facing ell that was combined with a small, enclosed space, possibly a pantry, tucked into the corner. The restrained treatment of the

existing side veranda does not replicate the detailing of the front veranda. A single-leaf side door is sheltered by the veranda.

Window placement is regular. Window openings are flat-headed and rectangular in shape with plain frames and projecting lugsills. The old openings contain modern replacement windows. Non-functional louvered shutters frame many of the windows. These shutters do not form part of the heritage fabric of the dwelling. On the rear of the south projecting wing is a box bay with large plate glass windows, another feature added after 1989.

The Reverend Peter Cober House is a representative example of a frame dwelling rendered in the vernacular Queen Anne Revival style. The Queen Anne Revival style was popular in Markham Township in late nineteenth century with examples found in frame and brick. It was the most eclectic style of domestic architecture in the nineteenth century, originating in England and later adopted by American architects who created their own interpretation suited to American tastes. The American version of the Queen Anne Revival style influenced domestic architecture in Canada. Designs were offered in pattern books that featured spacious dwellings with picturesque irregular massing, tall hip roofs with dormers and multiple gables, projecting bays, deep verandas, and multiple textures in cladding materials. Some designs featured corner towers. The main design principle was balance rather than symmetry. Some examples in Markham had ornate fretwork decoration in gables and on porches and verandas as well as plate glass windows with stained glass transom lights.

The Cober House is a restrained example of Queen Anne Revival with the irregular massing, vertical emphasis, picturesque roofline and wrap-around veranda characteristic of the style, but without the applied fretwork decoration seen in some other local examples. The veranda, with its decorative woodwork, is a significant focal point of the façade. It is possible that the projecting bay may have once had ornamentation in its gable similar to the Fretz House at 36 Peter Street.



The Fretz House, 1904 at 36 Peter Street shares some design similarities with the Reverend Peter Cober House.

Renovations that have been undertaken on the exterior have been carried out with sensitivity to the historical character of the c.1899 building. Exterior materials have been updated, but the essential form and features remain readily discernable. The extension of the front veranda was done in such a way as to create the impression that it was always in this form.

### **Context**

The Reverend Peter Cober House faces Sixteenth Avenue but has access from Trothen Circle at the rear. A medium-sized barn is located behind the dwelling. The property is a remnant of the original 6-acre parcel severed from the Ramer Farm in 1892. As a heritage property embedded within a suburban residential subdivision of the 1970s, it illustrates the transition of the area from rural to suburban. This is one of three properties listed on the *Markham Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest* along this stretch of Sixteenth Avenue. One of the others is an early twentieth century house at 12 Celebrity Place that once fronted onto Sixteenth Avenue but is now accessed from an internal street within the 1985 subdivision, and the other is 6007 Sixteenth Avenue, an altered early twentieth century dwelling.

### **Sources**

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 15, Concession 8.

Canada Census: 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921.

Markham Township Directories: 1892 and 1918 Directories.

Maps of Markham Township: Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).

Property File for 6145 Sixteenth Avenue. Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design. Research, photographs and research report from 1989.

Family Files for Ferrier, Ramer, and Wegg/Wagg. Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 50-52, 150.

Milstead, Evelyn and Fern (Hoover) Keith. "Gormley." *More Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, 1985. Pages 88, 94-95.

Stamp, Robert M. *Early Days in Richmond Hill – A History of the Community to 1930*. Richmond Hill: Richmond Hill Public Library Board, 1991. Page 245.

*Built in This Place – Markham Missionary Church Centennial 1877-1977*. Pages 35 and 40.

### **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 Reverend Peter Cober House has design value and physical value as a restrained representative example of a frame dwelling rendered in the vernacular Queen Anne Revival style.**

*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 Reverend Peter Cober House has historical value and associative value, representing the gradual division of large farms into smaller parcels as Markham's agricultural community matured. The property also has historical and associative value as the home of Reverend Peter Cober, a Mennonite clergyman and entrepreneur, the original owner of the house from 1899 to 1904.**

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

**The Reverend Peter Cober House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it has stood since c.1899 within the historical community of Mount Joy.**

## RESEARCH REPORT



### **Brownsberger-Ham House** **East Half Lot 21, Concession 8** **6666 Major Mackenzie Drive East** **c.1906**

**Heritage Section**  
**City of Markham Planning & Urban Design**  
**2024**

#### **History**

The Brownsberger-Ham House is located on the eastern portion of Markham Township Lot 21, Concession 8, in the general vicinity of the historic community of Milnesville.

Jessy Holley received the Crown patent for the entire 200 acres of Markham Township Lot 21, Concession 8, in 1805. According to William Berczy's 1803 census of Markham settlers, "Joseph Holley" was absent from the property at that time. In 1809, Holley sold to Samuel Nash. Samuel Nash sold the property in several parts, beginning with the eastern 100 acres to Joshua Miller Jr. in 1823. The western half was sold in two separate parcels in 1826: the northwest quarter to James Devine and the southwest quarter to John Raymer. The subject property is within the portion of Lot 21 sold to Joshua Miller Jr., whose homestead was on Lot 22, Concession 8 to the north.

Joshua Miller Jr. was the son of Joshua Miller Sr., a United Empire Loyalist who came to Upper Canada from Fairfield, Connecticut in 1793. The family initially settled in Stamford, near Niagara Falls. Joshua Miller Jr. remained in the United States until 1798 when he joined the other

members of the family in Stamford. He petitioned the colonial government for a land grant based on his status as the son of a Loyalist and in 1801 was awarded Lot 22, Concession 8 in Markham Township subject to completing the required settlement duties. Joshua Miller Jr. and his wife Elizabeth (Darrer) Miller were married in 1798 and had nine children. Elizabeth Miller died in 1823. Joshua Miller Jr.'s second wife was Rachael (Shannon) Miller. They had three children together.

In 1847, Joshua Miller Jr. and his wife Rachael sold a one-acre parcel of Lot 21, Concession 8, to the trustees of First Markham Baptist Church and a brick church was built there in 1848. A cemetery was established next to the church. This property is at the north-east corner of Lot 21, on Ninth Line. The historic cemetery remains, but sometime after the church closed the building was taken down and re-erected at the Markham Museum.

In 1850, Joshua Miller Jr. and his wife Rachel sold the eastern 60 acres of the east half of Lot 21, Concession 8 to their son William S. Miller. According to the 1851 census, William S. Miller and his wife Elizabeth Ann (Skinner) Miller, along with their three young children, lived in a one-storey frame house on the property. William S. Miller was a farmer. The family followed the Baptist faith.

In 1854, William S. Miller sold to William J. Stark, a Scottish immigrant. According to the 1861 census, William Stark, farmer, lived in a one-and-a-half storey frame house with his wife Jean and their three children: Charles, David, and Jane. The family's religious affiliation was Presbyterian.

Charles Stark, one of the sons of William and Jean Stark, sold the property to Gideon Brownsberger in 1896. Gideon Brownsberger (1856-1938) was the son of Samuel Brownsberger (1825-1921) and Veronica "Fanny" (Burkholder) Brownsberger (1827-1884). The family homestead, established by Gideon Brownsberger's grandfather George Brownsberger in 1826, was located on the western half of Lot 2, Concession 8, Whitchurch Township, in the community of Ringwood. The family came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and were of the Mennonite faith.

George Brownsberger was married to Elizabeth Lehman, a member of another Pennsylvania German family. He was a blacksmith of some renown at Ringwood. In addition to shoeing oxen and horses, he made copper kettles and "betty lamps" which burned fat for fuel.

A Brownsberger family history in the collection of the Markham Museum states that Gideon Brownsberger married Mary Edith Elliot (1868-1951) and farmed Lot 21, Concession 8, where they built a house in 1906. The text goes on to say that they "retired to North Markham" and that "Gideon always enjoyed working with horses." The source of the information was Mrs. John Grove, Markham R.R. 2. Gideon and Mary Brownsberger were members of the Methodist Church. They had two children: Alice Viola Brownsberger (1896-?) who married Morley Etherington (1896-1975) and Walter Hawthorne Brownsberger (1900-1975) who married Martha Holt. Walter H. Brownsberger became a furniture salesman and lived in Toronto.

Gideon and Mary Brownsberger sold their farm to Lewis Ham in 1922. Lewis Ham (1895-1951) was the son of Joseph Ham and Elizabeth (Boyington) Ham. Joseph Ham emigrated from England in 1880 and was a farmer on part of Lot 20, Concession 5, Scarborough Township, which is in the Armadale community. Lewis Ham, born in Scarborough, married Ida Grace Muriel Dewberry (1900-1933) in 1922, the same year the former Brownsberger farm in Markham was purchased.

### **Architecture**

The Brownsberger-Ham House is a two-storey brick dwelling with an L-shaped plan. The structure rests on a raised fieldstone foundation with the ground floor placed several steps above grade. A basement window is visible in the front-projecting bay. There is a hip-roofed open porch in the street-facing ell, supported on slender metal posts. A gable-roofed one-storey rear wing extends from the eastern portion of the rear wall. A frame, shed-roofed enclosed porch/sunroom is located on the east wall of the rear wing.

The walls are of local red-orange brick laid in running bond, indicating that this is brick veneer over a frame structure. The source of this brick is noteworthy. According to *Markham 1793-1900*:

*“There was a red brick Methodist (probably Wesleyan) church on lot 22E1/2, conc. 8 (on the Batt farm), just north of the 9<sup>th</sup> Line Baptist Church. It was closed in 1906; the brick was used by Gideon Brownsberger in building his new home on lot 21, conc. 8.”* (page 158).

The cross-gabled roof has a medium pitch and projecting open eaves. Other than a robust shingle mould on the fascia, the gables are plain. There is a gable-roofed wall dormer on the front slope of the eastern portion of the roof, and a stout, single-stack brick chimney where the roof ridges intersect. The style of this house, compared with other examples of its type in Markham from a similar period, suggests that the front gable and dormer gable were once ornamented with decorative woodwork and this woodwork was removed at some point to modernize the exterior. The same situation may be true of the front porch, now supported on round metal posts rather than the more traditional wood posts with decorative brackets typical of the period of construction. No archival photographs are known that show the earlier appearance of the Brownsberger-Ham House.

The principal entrance is a single-leaf door on the south wall, offset to the left, within the ell. Window placement is generally regular. All window openings are flat-headed and rectangular, with radiating brick arches and projecting lugsills. Typical windows are single-hung with two-over-two panes. Two larger feature windows are located on the projecting bay on the west side of the building. They are “cottage windows” with a large single pane of fixed glass topped with a rectangular transom light in red-tinted glass. A tall, narrow window with one-over-one panes is tucked into the corner, above the entrance, on the second floor.

The Brownsberger-Ham House is a representative example of an early twentieth century farmhouse in a vernacular form that echoes the highly eclectic Queen Anne Revival style of the late Victorian period. Its L-plan form is also associated with the Gothic Revival style. As noted earlier, the form of the house suggests that it may have once had decorative woodwork in the gables and on the porch. The absence of this woodwork has created a vernacular dwelling that is restrained in its design and difficult to place within a single stylistic category. This is, however, sometimes the nature of vernacular architecture. A similar farmhouse is located at 8359 Reesor Road, the William Reesor Armstrong House, c.1905. It too has been simplified and modified by later renovations.



William Reesor Armstrong House, c.1905, similar to the Brownsberger-Ham House, 1906

### **Context**

The Brownsberger-Ham House is within a semi-rural setting immediately north of the Greensborough community, and west of the Rouge National Urban Park. The farmstead is next to the meandering route of Little Rouge Creek. There are a number of farm accessory buildings to the north of the dwelling. The historic cemetery of the Ninth Line Baptist Church is next to the north-east corner of the property, and north of that is the City of Markham's East Yard (Operations). Several heritage properties are in the vicinity: the Patrick Cooney House at 6418 Major Mackenzie Drive East, the Peter and Madeline Gibson House at 9940 Ninth Line, and the Abraham Strickler House at 60 Dame Gruev Drive (designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act – refer to By-law 2006-256).

### **Sources**

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lots 21 and 22, Concession 8.  
Markham Township Assessment Roll, 1860, Markham Museum Archival Collection.  
Canada Census: 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921 and 1931.  
Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860) and Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878).



Research Report on the Joshua Miller House by Marie Jones, Heritage Section, Town of Markham Planning & Urban Design, 2002. The history of the Miller family has been abbreviated for the purpose of this research report. Much more information can be found in the original report from 2002.

Brownsberger Family File, Brownsberger Family History by Mrs. John Grove, Markham R. R. 2, Markham Museum Archival Collection.

Ham Family Genealogy provided by Fred Robbins, Stouffville historian.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 73-74, 158, 161-162, and 285.

Barkey, Jean *et al* – Whitchurch History Book Committee. *Whitchurch Township*. Erin, Ontario: The Boston Mills Press, 1993. Page 84.

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*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 Brownsberger-Ham House has design value and physical value as a representative example of an early twentieth century farmhouse in a vernacular form that echoes the highly eclectic Queen Anne Revival style of the late Victorian period. Its L-plan form is also associated with the Gothic Revival style.**

*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 Brownsberger-Ham House has historical value as it is associated with the maturation of Markham's agricultural community as it transitioned from the nineteenth century into the early twentieth century and old farmsteads were updated with new buildings. The property also has historical value for its association with the Brownsberger and Ham farming families, Gideon Brownsberger being the builder of the house and the Lewis Ham and his descendants long-time second owners, and for its association with the Ninth Line Wesleyan Methodist Church, where the brick used in the construction of the house was salvaged from in 1906.**

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

**The Brownsberger-Ham House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it has stood and functioned as a farmhouse since 1906.**

## RESEARCH REPORT



### **Harold and Ruby Boyington House**

**West Half Lot 9, Concession 7**

**8205 McCowan Road**

**c.1935**

**Heritage Section**

**City of Markham Planning & Urban Design**

**2024**

#### **History**

The Harold and Ruby Boyington House is located on a small parcel at the south-west corner of Markham Township Lot 9, Concession 7, north of Highway 407. The property is bordered on three sides by the Milne Dam Conservation Park.

Lot 9, Concession 7 was a valuable property for a mill site as the Rouge River meanders through its eastern portion. A sawmill and a grist mill were established there by Nicholas Miller very early in the nineteenth century. In 1824, after a series of owners, the 200-acre lot, including the mills, was purchased by Peter Milne. Peter Milne established Markham Mills on this property near the Vinegar Hill neighbourhood of Markham Village. By the mid-nineteenth century, Thomas A. Milne, a son of Peter and Elizabeth Milne, was running the various industries around

the mill site. In 1879, Thomas A. Milne became the owner of the family's 200 acres on Lot 9, Concession 7 when his mother transferred it to him for a nominal amount.

The western portion of Lot 9, Concession 7 became another industrial site in approximately 1860 when John Snowball, a brick maker, moved his operation from Buttonville to a site half way between Unionville and Markham Village. He was likely attracted to this property for its clay deposits and for its proximity to the growing villages where building materials were in demand.

John Snowball was a tenant of Thomas A. Milne until 1890 when he purchased the western 75 acres of Lot 9, Concession 7. In 1892, he added 50 more acres with the purchase of the western quarter of neighbouring Lot 8, Concession 7 from Delos Crosby. John Snowball Sr. died in 1897, leaving the operation of Snowball Brick and Tile to his son William, and later to another son, John Jr. The brickworks house was located on Lot 8, Concession 7. It stood at 8135 McCowan Road until it was demolished in 2003 due to its poor condition. The property was owned by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

None of the historical maps of Markham Township illustrate a dwelling on the western part of Lot 9, Concession 7.

In 1923, the Snowball brickworks ceased operation. Confederation Life Association, the mortgage holder, was the property owner at the time. The 75-acre property was purchased by William A. Boyington, a local farmer who owned the eastern part of Lot 10, Concession 7, which he purchased in 1908. That property's northern boundary was the sideroad that became Highway 7.

William A. Boyington was born in Ontario. His father, William Boyington Sr., was born in England. At the time of the 1921 census, two years before the purchase of the property on the western half of Lot 9, Concession 7, William A. Boyington was listed as a farmer, 51 years of age. His wife Edith was 42. There were four children living in the household: Muriel, 21; William, 18; Myrtle, 16; and Harold, 13.

In 1935, if the MPAC date of construction is correct, a house was built on a parcel of the farm described as the "south 8 rods of the west 40 rods" in the deed abstracts for Lot 9, Concession 7. This house was likely built for William and Edith Boyington's son Harold and his wife, Ruby. A photograph of Harold Boyington as a member of the Markham Millionaires hockey team in 1947 appears on page 65 of *Markham 1900-2000*.

The Boyington properties on Lots 9 and 10, Concession 7 passed to Harold Boyington from his father's estate in 1945. That same year, the parcel containing the house at 8205 McCowan Road was sold to Robert Coulson who later sold to John and Harriet Gandier in 1952. In 1981, John and Harriet Gandier sold the property to The Trustees of the Markham Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses. A place of worship was built and the former Boyington House became the pastor's residence, its current use.

Harold Boyington contributed to the post-World War II growth of Markham Village by creating the Boyington Heights subdivision of 30 lots on part of Lot 10, Concession 7 in 1945. Plan 3252 included Ovida Boulevard, Erlane Avenue, and Riverview Road. This was the first modern-era subdivision in the vicinity of old Markham Village.

### **Architecture**

The Harold and Ruby Boyington House is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling with a T-shaped plan. The building rests on a raised concrete block foundation that provides a basement. There is an enclosed porch sheltering the front door. The flat roof of the porch provides a small balcony accessed by a door in the centre gable.

The reddish-brown brick was laid in common bond with header courses that indicate solid brick construction rather than brick veneer. Window and door openings have radiating brick arches with a slight camber.

The roof is a steeply-pitched gable with open overhanging eaves. A steep centre gable containing a door is located on the front roof slope. There is no brick chimney.

The house has a three-bay front with a central entrance within an enclosed porch. The details of the enclosed porch, with a concrete block foundation and brick apron, suggest that it is an original feature since the materials match those of the main block of the dwelling. The enclosed porch has a flat roof with a wood railing serving a second-floor balcony. There is a door on the north side of the porch and a series of windows with transom lights to create a sunroom. On either side of the porch are paired windows separated with a plain mullion. The earlier single-hung one-over-one wood windows were replaced in 2008 during the renovation of the building. Window openings have projecting concrete lugsills.

Window openings on the side walls are single units with replacement windows. They are asymmetrically placed.

The Harold and Ruby Boyington House is a locally unique vernacular dwelling that blends the form of an Ontario Classic farmhouse with details and materials characteristic of the American Arts and Crafts Movement. The one-and-a-half storey symmetrical centre gable design would have been very old fashioned in its day, a throwback to a historic style that had its heyday from the 1860s to the late nineteenth century. Perhaps the builder was taking a cue from the brick house on the former Snowball brickworks property next door which followed the same general design but had dichromatic patterned brick as its exterior treatment. The paired front windows, style of brickwork, and enclosed porch are stylistic features linked to the American Arts and Crafts Movement of the early twentieth century, and are characteristic of the mid-1930s date of construction.

### **Context**

The Harold and Ruby Boyington House is located on privately-owned land in the midst of the Milne Dam Conservation Park. To the immediate north is the City of Markham's Camp Chimo,

the location of summer recreation programs for children. The Jehovah's Witnesses place of worship is to the east of the pastor's residence. Because of the property's location, surrounded by parkland, an aspect of the semi-rural character of the site has been maintained in spite of the construction of Highway 407 and suburban development in the immediate vicinity.

### **Sources**

Deed abstracts for Lots 8, 9 and 10 Concession 7, Markham Township.

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

Markham Township Directories: Mitchell (1866), Nason (1871), 1892 Directory and 1918 Directory.

Maps of Markham Township: McPhillips (1853-54), Tremaine (1860), Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario (1878) and 1917.

Plan 3252 – Harold M. Boyington, 1945 (Part of Lot 10, Concession 7)

Information from Janet Whitely on the Boyington Heights subdivision – verbal, April 4, 2024. Her parents built a house there.

Property Files for 8135 and 8205 McCowan Road, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

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

Biographical Notice for John Snowball. *History of Toronto and County of York, Ontario* – Volume II: Biographical Notices. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson, 1885. Page 308.

Brydon, Catherine. *Markham 1900-2000 – Our Past Inspires Our Future*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, 2017. Page 65.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Page 260.

Champion, Mary B. (ed.). *Markham Remembered – A Photographic History of Old Markham Township*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, 1988. Pages 44 and 194.

### **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 examples of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.*

**The Harold and Ruby Boyington House has design value and physical value as a locally unique vernacular dwelling for its blending of the form of an Ontario Classic farmhouse with details and materials characteristic of the American Arts and Crafts Movement.**

*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 Harold and Ruby Boyington House has historical value as it is associated with the nineteenth century trend whereby building lots were severed from large farm properties for the use of family members, and for its association with Harold Boyington, who created the Boyington Heights subdivision in 1945, the first post-World War II subdivision in the vicinity, thus contributing to the modern-era growth of Markham Village.**

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

**The Harold and Ruby Boyington House has contextual value as being physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to the property where it has stood since 1935 as a remnant of the agricultural community that once existed in this part of Markham.**

## RESEARCH REPORT



### **Rigfoot Farm**

**East Half Lots 16 and 17, Concession 9  
9318 Reesor Road & 7484 Sixteenth Avenue  
Main Farmhouse 1839  
Pearse Bungalow c.1936**

**Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design, 2024  
(Update & Expansion of Research Reports, 1993.)**

## History

Rigfoot Farm is located on the eastern portion of Markham Township Lots 16 and 17, Concession 9.

George Miller (1797-1880), a native of Dumfriesshire, Scotland, emigrated to Upper Canada in 1832 and settled on Lot 16, Concession 9, Markham Township, where he was initially a tenant before he formally purchased the land. He named the property "Rigfoot Farm" after an estate in Cummertrees Parish, Dumfries, Scotland where he previously was a tenant farmer (the alternate spelling "Riggfoot" appears in some sources). Lot 16 was a Crown Reserve that was leased to John Schefer in 1813. In 1828, King's College (later to become the University of Toronto) received the Crown patent for the property. George Miller's presence on Lot 16, Concession 9 was noted in Walton's Directory of Markham Township, 1837.

In 1834, George Miller purchased a four-acre parcel of nearby Lot 17, Concession 10 from John Anderson. The Little Rouge Creek meanders through this property, causing the 10<sup>th</sup> Concession Road (today's Reesor Road) to curve to the west from the surveyed road allowance. In 1837, Miller purchased "water privileges to overflow" from the same owner. The water privileges relate to a sawmill that once existed in this location, shown on George McPhillip's Map of Markham Township, 1853-54. Based on the above primary source information, it appears that the sawmill was established by George Miller in the mid-1830s. By the time of Tremaine's map of 1860, the sawmill was no longer shown. According to the 1851 census, George Miller was described as a "Yeoman" rather than a sawyer (a yeoman, according to the Oxford Dictionary, "a man holding a small landed estate"). There were three unmarried men of Scottish origin residing in the Miller household at that time: William Ewart, James Dalziel, and James French. Their occupations are not noted in the census returns, but they may have worked at the sawmill or were farm labourers.

George Miller married Catherine B. Somerville (1820-1898) in 1840. She was also of Scottish origin. In a letter to her mother and brothers and sisters overseas written by Catherine (Somerville) Miller in 1840, many details about the family and their farm in Markham were recorded. In addition to describing their horses and other livestock, she confirmed that they owned a sawmill and described their home:

*"Our house is thirty by forty feet, two storeys above ground and a celler underneath. It was built last year [1839]. The cellar is built with stone and lime a foot and a half above ground, the rest of the wall is clay. There are eight rooms in the house and we have plenty both to eat and drink."*

Catherine (Somerville) Miller's letter contains an inventory of the farm's agricultural assets that indicates the prosperity of Rigfoot Farm at this early date:

- 310 acres, with 200 acres cleared, 140 acres in crops;
- A young orchard with about 200 trees;



- 5 horses;
- 46 head of cattle;
- 45 sheep;
- 26 swine;
- Sawmill.

A one-and-a-half storey red brick addition was made to the north side of the original farmhouse in the mid-1850s.

George Miller was noted for his interest in the improvement of farm stock. He imported Leicester and Cotswold breeds of sheep and Short-horned Durham cattle. Miller's journey back to Scotland in 1861 to purchase stock was documented in *The Canadian Agriculturalist and Journal and Transactions of The Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada*. The article noted that Miller had been absent from his native country for thirty years. In addition to livestock, George Miller also imported trees from Scotland for his farmstead. He helped organize the Provincial Exhibition, a forerunner of the Canadian National Exhibition, and received many awards for his stock at the Exhibition. He was also involved in the Home District Agricultural Society and served as a vice president. His accomplishments were chronicled in the book *History of Toronto and County of York, Ontario, Volume II – Biographical Notices*, published in 1885, and re-stated in *Markham 1793-1900*.

The Markham Museum has in its collection a stencil for marking apple barrels from this important Markham farm (Markham Museum photo):



In addition to his success in agriculture, George Miller also became a major landowner in this area of Markham. In 1839, Miller was finally able to purchase the easternmost 50 acres of his homestead on Lot 16, Concession 9 from King's College. This was the same year the family home described in Catherine Miller's letter was constructed. In 1847, Miller purchased an

additional 100 acres of Lot 16 to give him ownership of 150 acres. The eastern 150 acres of adjoining Lot 17, Concession 9 were purchased from King's College in two parts: 50 acres in 1840 and another 100 acres in 1847. In addition to the homestead, the following properties in the same general area were owned by George Miller by the late 1850s:

- East 100 acres of Lot 19, Concession 9: purchased in two parts - west 50 acres of east half, 1845, east 50 acres of east half, 1857;
- All of Lot 20, Concession 9, 1847, 200 acres;
- West 85 ½ acres of Lot 16, Concession 10, 1853;
- West 155 acres of Lot 19, Concession 10, 1845 (sold to his son John Miller in 1872).

George and Catherine Miller had ten children: John, Mary, Elizabeth, Robert, Euphemia, Jane, Margaret, George Jr., Katharine, and William. In keeping with their Scottish cultural background, the Miller family were Presbyterian in religion. According to Nason's Directory of Markham Township, 1871, George Miller was a Justice of the Peace.

In 1879, George and Catherine Miller sold the rear 80 acres of Lots 16 and 17, Concession 9, to their granddaughter Mary Beattie, who married William Grant in 1884. William and Mary Grant built a farmhouse on their property which still stands on its original site at 2667 Bur Oak Avenue (formerly addressed 7006 Sixteenth Avenue). In 1880, the larger eastern portion of the farm was deeded to George Miller Jr. (1856-1884), George Miller's youngest surviving son. He was married to Mary Ellen/Eleanor White (1857-1949). They had three sons, William, Archibald, and Benjamin. It may be that it was George Miller Jr. who updated the old adobe brick farmhouse with new windows fitted with two-over-two panes and Italianate "eyebrow" arches over the window openings on the south and east sides of the building.

George Miller Sr. died the month after the home farm had been deeded to his son. Catherine Miller moved into the household of James Collins on Lot 16, Concession 10, where she was noted in the 1881 census. At the time of the 1891 census, Catherine Miller was living in the household of Robert G. Armstrong and Euphemia (Miller) Armstrong. George Miller Jr. died in 1884. His wife, Mary E. Miller, remained at Rigfoot farm with her young sons William, age 9, and Archibald, age 8. Benjamin Miller had died in infancy.

After George Miller Jr. died in 1884, there were many transactions involving the ownership and mortgages held on the Miller lands. George Miller Jr. had bequeathed the property to his wife, Mary E. Miller, in trust for their sons William and Archibald, but when payment of George Miller Jr.'s life insurance policy was delayed, the family ran into financial difficulties.

In 1902, Mary E. Miller (by then remarried and named Mary E. Eckardt) and her two sons finally received clear title to the farm. In 1907, having defaulted on the mortgage, Mary E. Eckardt and William James Miller sold (under Power of Sale) to Jane Isaac, Alexander Russell, and William

Russell in trust for Katherine Bell Russell. Katherine Russell was the orphaned granddaughter of George Miller Sr. and niece to Jane Isaac. In 1911, Katherine Bell Russell, a resident of Markham Village, received clear title to the property. It is unlikely that either Katherine Russell or her aunt Jane Isaac and uncle John Isaac ever resided on Rigfoot Farm.

In 1934, the former Miller property was sold to Reuben Richard Pearse and Helen A. (Chester) Pearse. The Pearse family were of English cultural origin. Reuben Pearse was the son of James Pearse Jr. and Amelia (Stainton) Pearse of Hillside, Scarborough Township. The Pearse farm was located on Lot 4, Concession 3, and is now part of the Toronto Zoo property. The old Pearse House is a conservation centre operated by the Rouge Valley Foundation. In 1934 Reuben R. Pearse sold the farm to Dr. Robert Jackson, the owner of Dr. Jackson Foods Limited and originator of Roman Meal Bread. Dr. Jackson's Tudor Revival mansion, known as "Valley Halla," was constructed in the Rouge Valley in 1936.

A secondary residence was constructed on the Pearse family's Markham farm in the 1930s. It appears to have been built after 1936 since it is not shown on a detailed topographical map of that year. The MPAC date of construction for this house is 1952, which seems too late for a bungalow of this style. Perhaps the 1952 date represents when a change was made to the property.

In 1963, Reuben R. Pearse and Helen A. Pearse transferred the farm to their son Reuben Chester Pearse, who was known as "Chester." In 1988, Reuben Chester Pearse and his wife Emily Isabella Pearse deeded the property to their son Richard Chester Pearse, who remains the owner as of 2024. The farm is currently 134 acres in area, an irregular parcel resulting from the construction of the Cornell community and Donald Cousens Parkway.

## Architecture

### 1839 Farmhouse and 1850s Addition



South and west views of 9318 Reesor Road. Note that the windows on the west gable end lack the Italianate “eyebrow” arches.

The main farmhouse at Rigfoot Farm is a two-storey adobe brick structure with a smooth stucco finish. The main block is oriented southwards and has a rectangular plan. The building rests on a fieldstone foundation. A one-and-a-half storey red brick wing extends from the north wall, giving the building an L-shaped plan.

The main block has a medium-pitched gable roof with projecting, open eaves. There are no eave returns. A small window in the west-facing gable indicates that there is usable attic space. A single-stack chimney is located on the roof ridge toward the east gable end. Its small size indicates that it is a later chimney. The wide spacing of the window openings on both gable ends suggests that fireplaces were once located in the wall space between them.

The underlying construction of adobe brick is of particular interest. It is possible that brick veneer exists under the existing stucco finish given that the “eyebrow” arches over window openings on the south and east walls appear to be made of fired clay brick that has been covered with stucco. A detailed examination of the building would be required to address this question.

Adobe brick or “mud brick” is a locally rare type of wall construction. There are four known examples in Markham: The Heintzman House at 135 Bay Thorn Drive, Thornhill; the Eckardt-Stiver House at 206 Main Street, Unionville; the Summerfeldt-McKay House at 11242 Warden Avenue, and the George Miller House at 9318 Reesor Road. According to Thomas F. McIlwraith in *Looking for Old Ontario*:

*“Sun-dried brick or adobe, has occasionally been tried, principally in York County, where there is an abundance of heavy clay. It is an odd material for Ontario’s climate and requires the protection from rain provided by wide eaves, board siding or stucco, and a high stone foundation.”* Pages 88-89.

The placement of openings on the house is regular. The principal (south) elevation has a three-bay configuration with a centrally-placed single-leaf door flanked by windows. There are three evenly-spaced windows on the second floor. The window openings are rectangular with a slightly cambered heads, but the single-hung windows are flat-headed with two over two panes. These windows are in the style of the 1880s, and likely replaced windows with smaller pane divisions typical of the early nineteenth century date of construction. The window openings have projecting lugsills.

The west gable end wall has a two-bay configuration. On this wall, the window openings are flat-headed and do not have the decorative arches seen on the south and east walls. One small, multi-paned window, offset to the left, lights the attic.

The east gable end wall, facing Reesor Road, has a two-bay configuration with a single-leaf door positioned to the left. This door opening may be original or may have replaced a window in this location.

Stylistically, the 1839 farmhouse is a representative early example of a rural dwelling in the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition. This style of conservative, symmetrical dwellings followed a standardized system of design and proportion based on principles established by the sixteenth-century Italian architect Andrea Palladio and later interpreted by British architects in the 1700s. The Georgian tradition first came to North America via Britain’s New England colonies, then came to Canada via the Loyalists, and later by way of British immigrants. The influence of this style persisted in Ontario long after the Georgian period ended in 1830. The essential principles of restrained design with a sense of symmetry, balance and formality carried forward to influence domestic architecture for much of the nineteenth century. The main farmhouse at Rigfoot Farm is a restrained example that was updated in the early 1880s with larger-paned windows decorated with Italianate “eyebrow” arches. The principal entrance also received an update at that time. This type of window treatment was commonly used in brick or brick-veneered buildings in the eastern part of Markham Township in the late nineteenth century.

The one-and-a-half storey rear wing of the 1850s has a rectangular plan oriented to face Reesor Road. The foundation material is not easily visible. The red brick walls are in common bond with radiating brick arches over door and window openings. The medium-pitched gable roof is clad in corrugated metal. There is a single-stack brick chimney centred on the roof ridge.

The east or front wall of the brick wing has a three-bay configuration with its door placed off-centre to the left between two flat-headed, rectangular windows on the ground floor. The single-hung windows have six-over-six panes and projecting lugsills. On the second floor, positioned directly above the ground floor window to the left of the door, is a knee-wall window

with three-over-one panes. Similar windows are found on the north gable end. The brick wing follows the vernacular Georgian style of the main block, but with an informal asymmetry in the placement of openings.



Brick wing of 9318 Reesor Road, an addition of the mid-1850s

### **Pearse Bungalow**

The Pearse Bungalow is a one-and-half storey dwelling with an irregular plan. The building rests on a raised foundation of moulded concrete block. The walls are clad in red brick veneer in stretcher bond. There is a projecting brick porch centred on the primary (south) elevation and a projecting sunroom on the west gable end.

The house has a medium-pitched gable roof with projecting, open eaves. Centred on the front slope of the roof is a gable-roofed dormer containing a pair of single-hung windows with three-over-one panes, separated by a mullion. There is a tall single-stack chimney on the rear wall of the sunroom, and another single-stack chimney on the rear slope of the main roof.

The three-bay façade has a single-leaf door on the street-facing wall of the projecting brick porch. The gable roof of the porch projects forward to form a hood supported on plain, angled brackets. The wide fascia of the hood has a decorative curvilinear edge. Small windows light the sidewalls of the porch. On either side of the porch are large plate glass windows. These windows may have replaced a series of mullioned windows, consistent with the style of fenestration seen elsewhere on the building.

Window openings have cambered heads with radiating brick arches and projecting lugsills. Typical windows have three-over-one panes. Although the openings have segmental arches, the windows themselves are flat-headed.

The sunroom is a one-storey bump-out on the west gable end. It has a shed roof and contains a three-part window on its west wall. The large centre window is flanked by narrower windows,

separated by a mullion. There is a single-leaf door sheltered by a small gable-roofed hood on the south wall of the sunroom.

The Pearse Bungalow is a vernacular “Craftsman Bungalow” typical of the early twentieth century, displaying the influence of the American Arts and Crafts Movement in its general form and character, but designed in a restrained manner without some of the classic features such as casement windows, a deep front porch, and decorative rafter ends or bracketed eaves. Constructed in the mid to late 1930s, it is a late example of a Craftsman Bungalow. The Pearse Bungalow is a suburban house type rather than a farmhouse and may have been built according to a pattern book plan.

The Craftsman Bungalow, also known as the California Bungalow, was a popular style for suburban houses in the early twentieth century. It was a compact, efficient, and affordable type of housing. The style was popularized by furniture manufacturer Gustav Stickley, a major proponent of the American Arts and Crafts Movement, through his magazine, *The Craftsman*, published from 1901 to 1916. House plans were available from Stickley and others who produced designs in the same style. Craftsman Bungalows and other bungalows with an American Arts and Crafts influence in their design were widely constructed throughout the United States and Canada. Markham, primarily a rural municipality during the height of the style’s popularity, has only a few examples of bungalows that reflect an American Arts and Crafts influence, mainly in Thornhill, Unionville and Markham Village rather than in rural settings.

### **Context**

Rigfoot Farm is located in a semi-rural setting that borders the Rouge National Urban Park and the eastern limit of the Cornell community. Donald Cousens Parkway curves around the rear (west) of the property, providing views of the farm’s barns and other outbuildings. The original farmhouse, partially screened by mature trees, is visible from Reesor Road. The Pearse Bungalow, located near the north-west corner of Sixteenth Avenue and Reesor Road, is also in a well-treed area, but being close to the street, is readily visible.

The property is irregularly-shaped due to the route of Donald Cousens Parkway and the historic curve of Reesor Road due to the meandering position of Little Rouge Creek. The farm comprises approximately 134 acres in Lots 16 and 17, Concession 9. In addition to the barn complex, there are many smaller accessory buildings relating to the agricultural use of the property. Some of these buildings date from the nineteenth century and early twentieth century.



Barn complex at 9318 Reesor Road/7484 Sixteenth Avenue.

### Sources

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Assessment Rolls for Markham Township: 1860, 1870 and 1880.

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

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## RESEARCH REPORT



### **St. Philip's Old Rectory** **East Part Lot 17, Concession 5** **9418 Kennedy Road** **c.1850**

**Heritage Section**  
**City of Markham Planning & Urban Design**  
**1995 Report, Updated 2024**

#### **History**

St. Philip's Old Rectory is located on a portion of the eastern part of Markham Township Lot 17, Concession 5, north of old Unionville.

John Gotlieb Wichur, one of the Berczy settlers, received the Crown patent for Markham Township Lot 17, Concession 5, in 1803. He and his wife Hannah were noted as residing on the property in William Berczy's 1803 Census of Markham Settlers. At that time, John G. Wichur was 38 years of age, and his wife Hannah was 42. The larger west part of the property was sold to John Noye in 1805. The eastern or rear 70 acres was sold to Michael Dye in 1813. According to a report in the *Upper Canada Gazette* in 1817, Michael Dye was an inn-keeper in Thornhill. That same year, he sold to Isaiah Willmot, who in turn sold to James Hopkins in 1821. James Hopkins was among those who voted for William Lyon Mackenzie, the ardent Reformer, as York County Representative in the Upper Canada election of 1832.

In 1832, James Hopkins sold the 70-acre property to Reverend Vincent P. Mayerhoffer, the Pastor of St. Philip's Lutheran Church. The history of St. Philip's dates back to the arrival of the Berczy Settlers, the first European occupants of the area, in 1794. The settlers were mainly Lutherans of German and Danish origin. Their first pastor was Reverend George Sigmund Liebich, followed by Reverend Johann Dieter Petersen in 1819. The first church building was erected on Philip Eckardt's farm at the crest of the hill on Lot 17, Concession 6, in 1820. Reverend Mayerhoffer took over from Reverend Petersen in 1829 and would prove to be a most disruptive presence in the congregation.

Vincent P. Mayerhoffer was born in Hungary. He became a Franciscan monk and was later a chaplain with Napoleon's army during the campaign against Moscow. After arriving in the United States, he converted to Protestantism and served four congregations. Three were in the Buffalo, New York area and one was in Upper Canada. Based on favourable information from an Episcopalian clergyman, Mayerhoffer decided to settle in Upper Canada and become Anglican (Church of England). After being examined in the residence of Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Colborne, he took his Anglican orders.

With the arrival of Reverend Mayerhoffer at St. Philips, the church was nominally Lutheran, but the form of worship was Anglican. By the 1830s, the congregation included not only members of the original Berczy families but also families from outside of the group that had also settled in Markham Township. Around the tumultuous time of the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada, Reverend Mayerhoffer's Tory political position and support for the so-called "Family Compact" proved a divisive force in the congregation. Many of the Lutherans who had nominally conformed to the Anglican Church were sympathetic to the Reform cause and some were active participants in the uprising against the colonial government. The Reform-minded members decided to bar Reverend Mayerhoffer from the church.

At this point, Reverend Mayerhoffer took the Anglican members of the congregation and the name "St. Philips" and proceeded to establish a church on his property on the opposite side of the Sixth Line (today's Kennedy Road). A frame church in the Early Gothic Revival style was erected in 1839 to face the original Lutheran church. A cemetery was established adjacent to the new St. Philip's Church. In time, the Lutherans renamed their church "Bethesda Lutheran."

Reverend Mayerhoffer had and his wife deeded their property back to the Crown (and by extension to the Church of England) in 1835. Old maps mark it as "Glebe," an historical term referring to "land belonging or yielding revenue to a parish church or ecclesiastical benefice," according to Webster's Dictionary. The Glebe contained the church, cemetery, and a rectory (residence for the clergy and their family). The first rectory was likely the original Mayerhoffer residence on the property.

In 1848, Reverend Mayerhoffer left St. Philips and settled in Whitby. He was replaced by Reverend George Hill, and a new rectory (9418 Kennedy Road) was constructed for his use to the north of the cemetery c.1850.

According to census records, Reverend George Hill was born in East India. He became a leading figure in Markham Township, not only for his service at St. Philip's Church, but also for his service at other Anglican churches and as the Superintendent of Markham Township's public schools. He served in this position from the 1840s to the 1870s and was also Rector for Grace Church in Markham Village. In 1871, Reverend Hill received formal certification as Inspector of Public Schools and was appointed as a member of the board of examiners for examination and licensing of teachers in all counties and cities in the province. As the result of his long tenure with the public school system, Reverend George Hill was probably one of the most influential figures in the establishment of a high-quality education system in Markham Township.

Reverend Hill died in 1876. He was followed by Reverend John Fletcher, Reverend Henry B. Owen, Reverend W. J. Brain, Reverend Samuel Albert Lawrence, Reverend James E. Fleming, and Reverend George B. Johnson.

The new rectory served as the residence of this series of clergymen and their families until 1913, the same year the congregation relocated to a more convenient site in the village of Unionville where the church was rebuilt in brick, using some of the old materials from the 1839 building. Reverend George B. Johnson was the last to reside in St. Philip's Rectory. The congregation retained the land containing the cemetery, and the Glebe with the Rectory was sold to Wilson B. Markle in 1915, who in turn sold to Frederick and Ethel Deacon in 1916. The former Glebe became part of the Deacon's Glenburn Farms, which also encompassed the larger western part of Lot 17, Concession 5.

Col. Frederick Deacon, a Colonel in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1918 during World War I, was a stockbroker who lived at 2 Elm Avenue in Toronto. He established the firm of F. H. Deacon and Co. Ltd. His Markham property was a summer retreat for the family and a shorthorn cattle farm.

In 1957, Glenburn Farms Ltd. sold a parcel of land containing the old rectory to Dr. George F. Kelly, the well-known Buttonville veterinarian. In 1969, much of Glenburn Farms, including the former Glebe except the old rectory property, was sold to York Downs for a new golf course. That property is currently undergoing urban development.

In 1971, James and Dorothy Smith purchased the old rectory property from Dr. George F. Kelly's estate. Shortly afterwards, the property was granted to the Director of the Veteran's Land Act, who would hold title until 1986 when the property was granted back to James and Dorothy Smith. It is believed that the Smith family were tenants during that period. In 1987, the property was sold to William and Helen Clark. The current owner is Iain Stuart.

### **Architecture**

St. Philip's Old Rectory is a one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling with a rectangular plan, oriented to face Kennedy Road. The foundation material is not readily visible as the ground floor is set close to grade, limiting exposure, but the current owner advised that repairs have been made in concrete. There is a full-width veranda on the front wall, and a rear wing that

extends from the west wall. The ground floor of the rear wing has a fieldstone foundation and heavy framing visible in the basement, therefore it is likely the original kitchen wing. A second storey has been added to the rear wing and openings have been altered. A large stone fireplace chimney, a modern addition, is centred on the gable-end wall, and a shed-roofed side entryway has been added to the north wall, within the ell.

The current siding is recent board-and-batten. According to the building description in the 1981-1982 *Markham Inventory of Heritage Buildings*, the front wall was sided with narrow tongue and groove wood on the front wall and clapboard on the gable end walls. The clapboard may have been the original exterior finish.

The medium-pitched gable roof has projecting, open eaves without eave returns. Typically, a house of this period would have returned eaves, so this is a noteworthy variation from other extant mid-nineteenth century Markham houses. The flat soffits suggest that eave returns may have once existed but have been removed during renovations. Also noteworthy is the depth of the roof overhang, larger than usual for this style of dwelling. There is a single-stack stone chimney at the north gable end that is in a traditional position but is made of modern stone.

The primary (east) elevation is composed of three-bays, with the principal entrance centred between two windows. The doorcase has a single-leaf glazed and panelled door flanked by modern stained glass sidelights with simple panels below framed by a wood surround. The entry system is a modern unit installed in the early 2000s as a renovation, but a Neo-classical door surround with flat pilasters and a moulded entablature remains. The window openings are flat-headed and rectangular. They contain modern single-hung windows with six-over-six panes. Non-functional shutters frame the window openings. The front veranda has a hipped roof supported on slender turned posts. The veranda is a sympathetically-designed historical replica.

The north and south gable ends each have two regularly placed windows on the ground floor and another two windows on the second floor. The windows within the openings are modern units. Similar to the windows on the primary elevation, they are framed by decorative shutters.

St. Philip's Old Rectory is a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century country clergyman's residence in a vernacular rendition of the Georgian architectural tradition. The front doorcase, with its sidelights and decorative surround, hints at a measure of Neo-classical refinement in an otherwise modestly scaled and designed dwelling. The vernacular Georgian architectural tradition in Ontario persisted long after the Georgian period ended in 1830. The essential principles of uncluttered designs with a sense of symmetry, order, and formality carried forward to influence 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 in dwellings such as this one.

Although the exterior materials have 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 St. Philip's Old Rectory as viewed from the street and adjacent cemetery remains little altered.

### **Context**

St. Philip's Old Rectory is of contextual value as a reminder of the origins of both the Anglican and Lutheran congregations in Unionville. Together with the adjacent cemetery, the dwelling is part of a historic grouping of buildings that is enhanced by the presence of the c.1986 St. Philip's-on-the-Hill church which was constructed on the site of the 1839 church, and the historic Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery at 9423 Kennedy Road. The house is set back from Kennedy Road on a well-vegetated lot. It is visible from the street through an opening in the landscaping and serves as an important reference point to the early nineteenth century settlement that once existed on the crest of "Settlers' Hill."

### **Sources**

Abstract Index of Deeds for Markham Township Lot 17, Concession 5.

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

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 9418 Kennedy Road, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design including detailed research notes supporting the 1995 Historical Background Report. Historical Background, St. Philip's Anglican Church Rectory, by Michael Seaman. Heritage Section, Town of Markham, 1995. Pages 134-139.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 55-57, 164-165.

"St. Phillip's Unionville to Celebrate 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday." *The Evening Telegram*, October 12, 1929.

Site visit April 15, 2024.

### **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.*

**St. Philip's Old Rectory has design and physical value as a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century country clergyman's residence in a vernacular rendition of the Georgian architectural tradition. The front doorcase, with its sidelights and decorative surround, hints at a measure of Neo-classical refinement in an otherwise simple dwelling.**

*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.*

**St. Philip's Old Rectory has historical value for its association with Unionville's early Anglican congregation, and for its role in the spiritual, social, and political life of the community. It has further historical value for its association with the Reverend George Hill, who in addition to**

**servicing the Anglican Church, was Superintendent of Schools and an influential figure in the establishment of high-quality public education in Markham Township.**

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

**St. Philip's Old Rectory has contextual value because it is physically, functionally visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it has stood since c.1850, and for being an essential component of a historical grouping that includes St. Philip's Anglican Cemetery, St. Philip's-on-the-Hill Anglican Church, and the Bethesda Lutheran Cemetery.**

## RESEARCH REPORT



### **James and Lydia Scott House North-West Corner Lot 24, Concession 8 10579 Highway 48, Milnesville c.1891**

**Heritage Section  
City of Markham Planning & Urban Design  
2024**

#### **History**

The James and Lydia Scott House is located in the north-west corner of Markham Township, Lot 24, Concession 8, in the historic community of Milnesville. Lot 24, Concession 8 was leased by the Crown to Pennsylvania German immigrant Henry Wideman (originally spelled 'Weidman') in 1803, the year of his arrival in Markham Township. He was one of the first ordained Mennonite clergymen in Upper Canada, and the first in Markham Township. Tragically, Henry Wideman was killed by a falling tree while clearing the road allowance in front of his lot. The Wideman Church on Highway 48 is named for him.

Henry and Catherine Wideman's son Christian (known as Christian Wideman Sr.) arrived in Markham Township in 1805, two years after his parents. His wife was Maria (Kauffman) Wideman. Christian Wideman Sr. received the Crown patent for the family homestead in 1824. In 1843, he sold the south-east 65 acres of Lot 24, Concession 8 to his son Henry Wideman and in 1844, the larger portion of the farm to another son, Samuel Wideman. Samuel Wideman's



brick farmhouse still stands at 10541 Highway 48. Henry Wideman's farmhouse still stands at 10484 Ninth Line.

According to local history, Jacob Miller built a fieldstone blacksmith shop at the north-west corner of Samuel Wideman's farm. He was noted as residing on Lot 24, Concession 8 in Brown's Directory of 1846-47. A building and residence are shown in this location on George McPhillips' Map of Markham Township, 1853-54, and the shop is shown on Tremaine's Map of 1860, but not with an associated dwelling. The Historical Atlas of the County of York, Ontario, 1878, does not show the shop or a dwelling at the north-west corner of Lot 24.

William Blake was a blacksmith in the immediate vicinity during the 1850s-1860s. His location, according to the 1851 and 1861 census, was on Lot 25, Concession 7. In Mitchell's Directory of 1866, William Blake was listed as a blacksmith in Milnesville. Did he reside on Lot 25, Concession 7 and operate his business across the road in Jacob Miller's former blacksmith shop, or did Miller's shop fall out of use and William Blake worked in his own shop? Tremaine's map of 1860 seems to suggest the first scenario.

At the time of the 1871 census, Charles Ham, of English birth and formerly of Pickering Township, was a blacksmith residing on Lot 24, Concession 8. He was followed by Isaac Boadway in 1881. By the time of the 1891 census, Isaac Boadway had moved to the village of Stouffville where he continued in his trade. Miller, possibly Blake, Ham, and Boadway were all tenants on Samuel Wideman's property.

Samuel Wideman died in 1881. The 135-acre farm was willed to his wife Barbara (Heise) Wideman *et al.* Barbara Wideman died in 1891 and the farm was willed to Abraham Wideman *et al.* In that same year, John Koch *et al.*, Barbara Wideman's executors, sold a half-acre parcel at the north-west corner of Lot 24, Concession 8, to James Scott.

James Scott was an English-born blacksmith. At the time of the 1891 census, he was unmarried and resided in a two-storey frame dwelling. The architecture of the existing frame house at 10579 Highway 48 suggests it was built for James Scott c.1891.

It is not known how long Jacob Miller's fieldstone blacksmith shop of the mid-1840s stood on the property. The commercial building that is located to the north of the dwelling, formerly a flat-roofed structure, apparently is of recent date and wall construction.

James Scott continued in the business well into the twentieth century. By 1901, he was married. His wife was Lydia Scott. Based on the age of their eldest child, they married about 1893-94. At the time of the 1911 census, their son Russell was working as a blacksmith in the family shop. In 1921, James Scott was still working as a blacksmith at the age of 61. Another son, David Scott, was listed as a blacksmith in the same year. He purchased the property containing the family home and shop in 1936.

In 1960, Mary E. Scott, the executrix of David Scott, sold to Robert and Mary Kerr. Robert “Bob” Kerr operated a blacksmith shop at this location until 1978 when the property was sold to Thomas and Jacqueline McCulloch. In 1980, the property was purchased by Fred Bigioni, who leased it to Arrow Tire and Truck Farm Service Inc. in 1986. The current owner is Paolo Biasutti. A gable roof was added to the commercial building in 2009. At that time, it was a metal-clad structure.

### **Architecture**

The James and Lydia Scott House is a one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling with a rectangular plan oriented to face the road. It is sided in wood clapboard with corner boards. The raised foundation is of rock-faced concrete block that provides a basement under the front section of the building. The ground floor is placed several steps above grade. There is a full-width hip-roofed veranda on the west or primary elevation, supported on slender, turned wood posts. A one-storey kitchen wing extends from the northern portion of the rear wall with a south-facing ell that formerly contained an enclosed porch.

The medium-pitched gable roof has projecting, open eaves and plain fascia boards. There are no remaining old chimneys but a photograph from 2004 shows a tall, single-stack red brick chimney on the east gable end of the rear wing.

The house has a three-bay front with a single-leaf door centred on the façade. The door is flanked by flat-headed, rectangular single-hung replacement windows with two-over-two panes. The window trim is simple, and window openings have projecting lugsills. The window treatment is the same on the other sides of the building. The existing windows units replaced older windows with one-over one-panes.

On the south gable end, there is a single window centred on the wall, and two windows on the second storey. The south wall of the rear wing has a single-leaf door with a window to its right. On the north gable end, there is a small window offset to the right which appears to be a later alteration, and two regularly-sized windows on the second storey. There is a single small window centred on the north wall of the rear wing.

The James and Lydia Scott House is a modest vernacular building, without ornament, designed to serve the needs of a rural tradesman. The symmetrical plan and simple, formal design follows the long-lasting Georgian architectural tradition that continued to influence vernacular domestic architecture in old Ontario long after the 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. In recent years, the exterior has been restored through the removal of red insul-brick siding, the opening of the front veranda, and the removal of the enclosed porch in the south-facing ell.

### **Context**

The James and Lydia Scott House is located in a rural setting in the historic rural community of Milnesville, which is positioned approximately halfway between Mount Joy and Dickson Hill.

Milnesville's post office was established in Peter Milne Jr.'s general store at the north-west corner of Highway 48 and Elgin Mills Road East in 1852. The community was spread out over a wide area rather than being in the form of a distinct hamlet. A number of nineteenth century farmhouses remain in the vicinity. The Wideman Mennonite Church at 10530 Highway 48, with its associated cemetery, is a significant landmark in the area. Milnesville's blacksmith shop was one of the local industries, which also included a brickworks and pottery.

The commercial building municipally-known as 10619 Highway 48, which possibly incorporates the former blacksmith shop, is located at the north end of the property. The Samuel Wideman House, c.1855, designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (By-law 2009-21), is located well within the interior of the surrounding farm at 10541 Highway 48.

### Sources

Deed Abstracts for Markham Township Lot 24, Concession 8.

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

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

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

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

Property File and Research for the Samuel Wideman House 10541 Highway 48, Heritage Section, City of Markham Planning & Urban Design.

Champion, Isabel (ed.). *Markham 1793-1900*. Markham: Markham Historical Society, Second Edition, Revised, 1989. Pages 55-56, 147 and 277.

Watson, Trevor. "Milnesville." *Pioneer Hamlets of York*. Kitchener: Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, 1977. Page 146.

### 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 James and Lydia Scott House is a representative example of a rural tradesman's house designed in the long-lasting Georgian architectural tradition that continued to influence vernacular domestic architecture in Ontario long after the Georgian period ended in 1830.**

*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 James and Lydia Scott House has historical as it is associated with the theme of Industry, Innovation and Economic Development for its association with James Scott's blacksmith shop, which operated on the property from c.1891 to well into the twentieth century, and Jacob**

**Miller's blacksmith shop which was established in the mid-1840s on a corner of Samuel Wideman's farm.**

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

**The James and Lydia Scott House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it has stood since c.1891 as the home of the local blacksmith in the historic community of Milnesville. This function endured until the late 1970s.**

## RESEARCH REPORT



**Victoria Square United Church Manse  
East Half, Lot 25, Concession 3  
10724 Victoria Square Boulevard  
(formerly 10724 Woodbine Avenue)  
c.1936**

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

### **History**

The Victoria Square United Church Manse is located on the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 25, Concession 3, in the historic hamlet of Victoria Square.

The United Church congregation in Victoria Square dates back to 1832 when the Primitive Methodists first established what was then termed a “class” under the leadership of “Daddy” William Hatton, a local resident. This group built a church which once stood on the east side of Victoria Square Boulevard, north of Elgin Mills Road East. The historic cemetery associated with that church is located at 10769 Victoria Square Boulevard.

In 1845, a group of Wesleyan Methodists constructed a frame church on the present site of the Victoria Square United Church, where a cemetery was established, on land provided by James Stoutenburgh on the eastern half of Lot 25, Concession 3. Stoutenburgh, a merchant and farmer, was a prominent land owner in Victoria Square. His father, Martin Stoutenburgh, received the Crown patent for the western half of Lot 25, Concession 3 in 1842. Over time,

additional land was purchased from James Stoutenburgh and later owners of the Stoutenburgh farm to expand the church's property holdings as the congregation grew.

The frame church stood on the property known today as 10720 Victoria Square Boulevard. This modest frame building served until 1880 when it was replaced by a larger Gothic Revival brick church constructed by a Mr. Hall (Josiah Hall) of Unionville with brick from the Snowball brickworks.

The Wesleyan Methodists and Primitive Methodists of Victoria Square came together in 1884 to worship in the new brick church constructed in 1880. In 1925, the Methodists, the Congregational Union of Canada, and a segment of the Presbyterian Church in Canada joined to form the United Church of Canada. As a result of the union, Victoria Square's Methodist congregation became part of the United Church of Canada.

In 1935, the pastoral charge of Victoria Square was formed. Three United Church congregations consisting of Victoria Square, Headford (formerly Markham Township, now part of Richmond Hill) and Carrville (Vaughan Township) agreed to provide an annual salary for a resident minister that they would share. The Reverend Frank Gilbert was the first minister to serve the three congregations. When the next minister, the Reverend John MacDonald was called, it was decided that a minister's residence, or manse, was needed because he had a family.

A half-acre of land to the north of the church property was purchased from William B. and Ida A. Heise in 1936 for the site of the new manse. William and Ida Heise had owned the former Stoutenburgh farm since 1918, when they purchased the property from Levi and Alice Heise, who had been the owners since 1908.

A building committee was formed, consisting of church members Harvey F. Collard, Chairman, Louis G. Stoutenburgh, Angus Valliere, Frank (full name: Franklin) Brumwell, Herman Mortson, Harry Barber, and Stanley Boynton. The building was designed by Frank Brumwell and members of the congregation contributed their time, labour, and machinery toward the construction of the manse. Since the time of its construction, the manse has been home to a succession of church ministers, the names of which can be found in the centennial history, *Victoria Square United Church, 1880-1980*.

### **Architecture**

The Victoria Square United Church Manse is a two-storey dwelling, faced in red pressed brick, with a cubic form. The building rests on a concrete foundation with the main floor raised a few steps above grade. The hipped roof has a wide overhang with flat soffits. There is a heavy, single-stack brick chimney that is centrally placed. On the south side of the house there is a shed-roofed frame addition that provides a vestibule serving the side entry, facing the church. An open porch with a gable roof shelters the front door on the left side of the east wall. The porch has square, wooden, Tuscan half columns resting on brick pedestals with concrete caps. There is a simple railing with plain balusters. The gable end of the porch faces the street.

Door and window openings are in the shape of upright rectangles. They are flat-headed and have concrete lugsills. The heads of the openings do not have brick arches or stone/concrete lintels, a noteworthy deviation from the typical treatment of structural openings in brick veneer or solid masonry construction. The brick coursing continues over the openings, likely supported on metal lintels. The placement of openings generally follows an ordered pattern. Windows are single-hung, with 3/1 glazing. There are single, double, and triple window units. Double and triple windows are separated by plain mullions. The main entrance is a single-leaf door placed to the left on the front wall. To the right of the front entrance is a triple 3/1 window.

The Victoria Square United Church Manse is typical of the practical, simply detailed houses built on farms and in villages in Markham Township in the early twentieth century. Constructed in 1936, it is a late example of its type with a character that reflects the architectural trends of perhaps a decade or more earlier. Its architectural detailing reflects the Edwardian Classicism that was popular from the early 1900s through the 1920s. The house was constructed in the form of an American Foursquare with a functional, compact shape and deep front porch with Edwardian Classical details. The red pressed brick cladding, two-storey form of the house, and broad hipped roof are representative features of the style. The treatment of the door and window heads, without brick arches or stone or concrete lintels, is unusual.

### **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*.

The Victoria Square United Church Manse 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 Victoria Square. Its location next to the Victoria Square United Church clearly expresses the relationship between the church and the residence of its clergy members.

### **Sources**

Abstract Index of Deeds for Lot 25, Concession 3, Markham Township.

*Victoria Square United Church, 1880-1980*. A centennial history of the church and congregation. Pages 11 and 12.

Victoria Square Heritage Conservation District – Historical Background and Inventory, by Su Murdoch, Heritage Consultant, 2010, pages 32,33,96-100,101,102.

Property Research File, 10720 Victoria Square Boulevard. City of Markham Heritage Section. Somerville, Patricia and Catherine Macfarlane (editors). *A History of Vaughan Township Churches*. Vaughan: Vaughan Township Historical Society, 1984. Page 254.

## **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 Victoria Square United Church Manse is a representative example of a brick village dwelling in the form of an American Foursquare, with Edwardian Classical features.**

*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 Victoria Square United Church Manse served as the residence of the ministers of the Victoria Square United Church and their families since first constructed in 1936. The roots of the congregation in the community go back to the formation of a Primitive Methodist Church in 1832.**

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

**The Victoria Square United Church Manse 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 Victoria Square.**

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

**The location of the Victoria Square United Church Manse next to the Victoria Square United Church clearly expresses the relationship between the church and the residence of its clergy members. As such, the two properties are functionally, visually, and historically linked.**



## RESEARCH REPORT



### **Victoria Square United Church Manse**

**East Half, Lot 25, Concession 3  
10724 Victoria Square Boulevard  
(formerly 10724 Woodbine Avenue)  
c.1936**

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

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A building committee was formed, consisting of church members Harvey F. Collard, Chairman, Louis G. Stoutenburgh, Angus Valliere, Frank (full name: Franklin) Brumwell, Herman Morton, Harry Barber, and Stanley Boynton. The building was designed by Frank Brumwell and members of the congregation contributed their time, labour, and machinery toward the construction of the manse. Since the time of its construction, the manse has been home to a succession of church ministers, the names of which can be found in the centennial history, *Victoria Square United Church, 1880-1980*.

### **Architecture**

The Victoria Square United Church Manse is a two-storey dwelling, faced in red pressed brick, with a cubic form. The building rests on a concrete foundation with the main floor raised a few steps above grade. The hipped roof has a wide overhang with flat soffits. There is a heavy, single-stack brick chimney that is centrally placed. On the south side of the house there is a shed-roofed frame addition that provides a vestibule serving the side entry, facing the church. An open porch with a gable roof shelters the front door on the left side of the east wall. The porch has square, wooden, Tuscan half columns resting on brick pedestals with concrete caps. There is a simple railing with plain balusters. The gable end of the porch faces the street.

Door and window openings are in the shape of upright rectangles They are flat-headed and have concrete lugsills. The heads of the openings do not have brick arches or stone/concrete lintels, a noteworthy deviation from the typical treatment of structural openings in brick veneer or solid masonry construction. The brick coursing continues over the openings, likely supported on metal lintels. The placement of openings generally follows an ordered pattern. Windows are single-hung, with 3/1 glazing. There are single, double, and triple window units. Double and triple windows are separated by plain mullions. The main entrance is a single-leaf door placed to the left on the front wall. To the right of the front entrance is a triple 3/1 window.

The Victoria Square United Church Manse is typical of the practical, simply detailed houses built on farms and in villages in Markham Township in the early twentieth century. Constructed in 1936, it is a late example of its type with a character that reflects the architectural trends of perhaps a decade or more earlier. Its architectural detailing reflects the Edwardian Classicism that was popular from the early 1900s through the 1920s. The house was constructed in the form of an American Foursquare with a functional, compact shape and deep front porch with Edwardian Classical details. The red pressed brick cladding, two-storey form of the house, and broad hipped roof are representative features of the style. The treatment of the door and window heads, without brick arches or stone or concrete lintels, is unusual.

### **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*.

The Victoria Square United Church Manse 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 Victoria Square. Its location next to the Victoria Square United Church clearly expresses the relationship between the church and the residence of its clergy members.

### **Sources**

Abstract Index of Deeds for Lot 25, Concession 3, Markham Township.

*Victoria Square United Church, 1880-1980*. A centennial history of the church and congregation. Pages 11 and 12.

Victoria Square Heritage Conservation District – Historical Background and Inventory, by Su Murdoch, Heritage Consultant, 2010, pages 32,33,96-100,101,102.

Property Research File, 10720 Victoria Square Boulevard. City of Markham Heritage Section. Somerville, Patricia and Catherine Macfarlane (editors). *A History of Vaughan Township Churches*. Vaughan: Vaughan Township Historical Society, 1984. Page 254.

## **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 Victoria Square United Church Manse is a representative example of a brick village dwelling in the form of an American Foursquare, with Edwardian Classical features.**

*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 Victoria Square United Church Manse served as the residence of the ministers of the Victoria Square United Church and their families since first constructed in 1936. The roots of the congregation in the community go back to the formation of a Primitive Methodist Church in 1832.**

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

**The Victoria Square United Church Manse 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 Victoria Square.**

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

**The location of the Victoria Square United Church Manse next to the Victoria Square United Church clearly expresses the relationship between the church and the residence of its clergy members. As such, the two properties are functionally, visually, and historically linked.**

## RESEARCH REPORT



**Rolph Boynton House**  
**East Half, Lot 25, Concession 3**  
**10732 Victoria Square Boulevard**  
**(Formerly 10732 Woodbine Avenue)**  
**c.1937**

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

### **History**

The Rolph Boynton House is located on a part of the eastern half of Markham Township Lot 25, Concession 3, in the historic hamlet of Victoria Square.

Lot 25, Concession 3, was initially drawn by Berczy settler Henry Pingel in 1798. Pingel evidently did not complete the required process to obtain the Crown patent. The property remained in the ownership of the Crown as a Clergy Reserve Lot and was leased to Francis La Coulier in 1818. In 1830, John Heise, a member of a Pennsylvania-German settler family, received the Crown patent for the western 100 acres of Lot 25, Concession 3. In 1842, Martin Stoutenburg (sometimes spelled Statenburgh or Stantinburgh) received the Crown patent for the eastern 100 acres.

Martin Stoutenburgh was of Holland Dutch origin rather than Pennsylvania German (sometimes referred to as Pennsylvania Dutch). His son, James Stoutenburgh, became a successful and prominent member of the community that began as Read's Corners but later became Victoria Square when a post office was established there in 1854. James Stoutenburgh was a farmer, a store-keeper, the first postmaster, and a license inspector. The Stoutenburgh family provided land on the front of their farm for a Wesleyan Methodist Church and cemetery (now the Victoria Square United Church).

James Stoutenburgh died in 1894 and bequeathed the Stoutenburgh homestead to his son, Anson Franklin Stoutenburgh. When Anson Stoutenburgh died in 1908, his executors sold the farm to Levi B. Heise. In 1918, Levi Heise sold to William B. Heise all of the western half of Lot 25, Concession 3 except for the church property and another small lot that was sold to Abraham Horner in 1858.

William and Ida Heise contributed to the growth of the southwestern quadrant of the hamlet of Victoria Square by severing building lots from their property in the mid-1930s. In 1936, they sold a quarter acre lot to Markham farmer Rolph F. Boynton and his wife, Frances Louise (Lundy) Boynton. Rolph Boynton was the son of William George Boynton and Elizabeth (Bond) Boynton. Frances Louise Boynton was known as Louise. They married in 1913.

At the time of their purchase of the building lot at Victoria Square, Rolph and Louise Boynton farmed the western half of Lot 25, Concession 6, near the crossroads hamlet of Cashel. According to a newspaper clipping in the Boynton family file at the Markham Museum, they built a one-and-a-half storey house on their property in Victoria Square in the fall of 1937. In 1941, they enlarged their property through the purchase of an additional quarter acre to the south of their lot from George Mortson, a merchant. Rolph Boynton served for over 20 years as Superintendent of the Sunday School at Victoria Square United Church, and was also a church elder.

Louise Boynton died in 1961. Rolph Boynton married Nellie Burnham Duggan in 1965. Nellie was a school teacher in Orillia that was originally from Markham, with whom Rolph Boynton had been involved with in his youth. She was a widow at the time of her marriage to Rolph Boynton.

Nellie Boynton died in 1974, followed by Rolph Boynton in 1975. The executors of Rolph F. Boynton sold the property to Mary A. Johnson in 1975, and since that time it has passed through the ownership of several other families.

### **Architecture**

The Rolph Boynton House is a gable-fronted, one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling with a rectangular plan. The building rests on a concrete foundation with the ground floor set a few steps above grade. There is an open front porch on the left-hand side of the front (east) elevation (façade), sheltering the door. The brick is variegated in tones of red and brown, creating a colourful, textured effect. The low knee walls, broad, steeply-pitched gable roof with

hipped-roofed dormers, and heavy single-stack chimney give the dwelling something of the character of a country cottage.

The front porch has a medium-pitched gable roof with a closed pediment facing the street. The porch has simple, wooden Tuscan half columns resting on brick pedestals with concrete caps. The railing and base are of brick construction, matching the brick of the body of the house. The railing is capped with concrete copings.

Door and window openings are in the shape of upright rectangles. They are flat-headed and have concrete lugsills. The heads of the openings have simple brick arches. The placement of openings generally follows an ordered pattern. Windows are single-hung, with 1/1 glazing. There are double and triple window units. Double and triple windows are separated by plain mullions. The main entrance is a single-leaf door placed to the left along the dwelling's façade. A frame, gambrel-roofed garage with a loft is located directly behind the house. The garage is joined to the rear wall of the house by an enclosed breezeway.

The architecture of the Rolph Boynton House reflects the lingering stylistic influence of the American Arts and Crafts Movement that continued after the peak of its popularity early in the twentieth century (1900s-1920s). The building type is suburban in character with a compact form and simple plan outline.

The house is a representative example of an early twentieth century Craftsman-style home of brick construction, exhibiting a form and design elements associated with the American Arts and Crafts Movement, and also Edwardian Classicism in the design of the front porch. The design of this house is reminiscent of cottage-like house plans for suburban and rural dwellings promoted by Gustav Stickley in his popular journal *The Craftsman*, published in the United States from 1901 to 1916. Alternatively, the design could have been based on stock house plans offered by other companies during the same time period.

### **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*.

The Rolph Boynton 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.

### **Sources**

Abstract Index of Deeds for Lot 25, Concession 3, and Lot 25, Concession 6, Markham Township.  
Victoria Square Heritage Conservation District – Historical Background and Inventory, by Su Murdoch, Heritage Consultant, 2010, pages 32,33,109,110.  
Boynton Family File, Markham Museum Archives.

Victoria Square United Church West Cemetery Transcriptions by the OGS. Copy at the Markham Museum.

Victoria Square United Church 1880-1900, Centennial history.

### **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 Rolph Boynton House is a representative example of an early twentieth century Craftsman-style brick village dwelling with a form and detailing largely associated with the American Arts and Crafts Movement. The front porch is Edwardian in its design with classical elements.**

*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.*

**This cottage-like village dwelling was constructed as the home of retired farmers Rolph and Frances Louise Boynton in 1937. Rolph Boynton remained the owner until his death in the mid-1970s. The building lot was purchased from William and Ida Heise, who contributed to the growth of the south-western quadrant of the hamlet of Victoria Square by selling building lots off of their frontage of the former Stoutenburh Farm in the mid-1930s.**

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

**The Rolph Boynton 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.**