



By-law 2025-11

A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY AS BEING OF
CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST
“WIDEMAN-COBER HOUSE”
3812 NINETEENTH AVENUE

WHEREAS Pursuant to Part IV, Section 29, of the Ontario Heritage Act (the “Act”), the Council of a Municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest;

WHEREAS the property described in Schedule “A” to this By-law (the “Property”) contains the cultural heritage resource known as the Wideman-Cober House;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of Markham, by resolution passed on September 25, 2024, has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

1570128 Ontario Inc.
27 Risebrough Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M2M 2E3

and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, notice of intention to designate the Wideman-Cober House, 3812 Nineteenth Avenue, and has caused such notice of intention to be published digitally in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Act;

AND WHEREAS Council has described the Property, set out the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest for the Property, and described the heritage attributes of the Property in Schedule “B” to this By-law, which forms part of this By-law;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MARKHAM HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the following real property, more particularly described in Schedule “A” attached hereto and forming part of this by-law, is hereby designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest:

“Wideman-Cober House”
3812 Nineteenth Avenue
City of Markham
The Regional Municipality of York
2. THAT the City Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule “A” attached hereto in the property Land Registry Office.

Read a first, second, and third time and passed January 28, 2025.

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2025-11

In the City of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, the property municipally known as 3812 Nineteenth Avenue, Markham, Ontario, and legally described as follows:

PT W1/2 OF W1/2 LT 31, CON 5 MARKHAM AS IN MA57593 EXCEPT PTS 2 & 3, PL 64R7950 CITY OF MARKHAM

PIN: 03725-0388

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2025-11

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wideman-Cober House

3812 Nineteenth Avenue
c.1890

The Wideman-Cober House is recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance.

Description of Property

The Wideman-Cober House is a one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling located on the north side of Nineteenth Avenue, west of the historic mill hamlet of Almira. The house faces south.

Design Value and Physical Value

The Wideman-Cober House has design and physical value as a representative example of a vernacular Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmhouse of the late nineteenth century. The Wideman-Cober House, built for a Pennsylvania German Mennonite family c.1890, is a restrained vernacular farmhouse without any strong stylistic influences. Dwellings of this type are sometimes fittingly classified as "Ontario Vernacular." The building's L-shaped plan reflects a departure from the basic rectangular Georgian form that characterized domestic architecture in Markham Township during the first half of the nineteenth century. The L-plan relates to the emerging popularity of the picturesque Italianate and Gothic Revival styles that began to influence the design of farmhouses and village residences in Markham in the 1860s. The house may have been constructed in two phases, with the front-projecting easterly wing added in the early 1900s.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The Wideman-Cober House has historical value for its association with the early cultural and religious diversity of Markham Township, namely the Pennsylvania German Mennonite and Tunker communities, and more specifically for its early association with the Wideman and Cober families. The house stands on the western quarter of Markham Township Lot 31, Concession 5, a property purchased by Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmer Jacob Wideman in 1875 to add to his adjoining farm on Lot 32, Concession 5. The property on Lot 31 later became the home of his son, Simeon Wideman, who is believed to have constructed a modest frame farmhouse on the property in c.1890. Simeon Wideman and his wife Elizabeth (Burkholder) Wideman later moved to Markham Village and in 1906 sold their small farm to George Cober and Annie (Reesor) Cober. The Cober family had a Pennsylvania German Tunker cultural and religious background. According to local history, George Cober was well-known in the community as a market gardener. The Cober family may have enlarged the former Wideman House in the early 1900s. They resided here until 1952.

Contextual Value

The Wideman-Cober House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings as the farmhouse that served this agricultural property from c.1890 until recent times. It is one of a number of nineteenth century farmhouses in the vicinity of the community of Almira that makes legible the agricultural history of the area.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Wideman-Cober House are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06, criteria, as amended, below:

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design and physical value as a representative example of a vernacular Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmhouse of the late nineteenth century:

- L-shaped plan;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- The appearance of horizontal clapboard siding with narrow corner boards;
- Medium-pitched cross-gable roof with projecting, open eaves;
- Hip-roofed open front veranda in street-facing ell;
- Glazed and panelled wood single-leaf principal entrance door and secondary single-leaf door sheltered within the front veranda;
- Flat-headed rectangular and square window openings.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value for its association with the early cultural and religious diversity of Markham Township, namely the Pennsylvania German Mennonite and Tunker communities, and more specifically for its early association with the Wideman and Cober families:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of the Wideman and Cober families who historically resided on the property.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings:

- The location of the building on its original site, facing south, west of the historic mill hamlet of Almira where it has stood since c.1890.

Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value, or are otherwise not included in the Statement of Significance:

- Modern windows within original window openings;
- Modern siding;
- Timber veranda posts and braces;
- Rear additions;
- Barn and other accessory buildings.