



## BY-LAW 2008-247

A by-law to designate a property as being of  
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest  
The Button House

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WHEREAS Pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage 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 historic and/or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

Aspet Allaverdian-Orumie  
186 Shorting Road  
Toronto, ON  
M1S 3S7

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate The Button House, 8977 Woodbine Avenue and has caused such notice of intention to be published once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designations are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;

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

1. THAT the following real properties, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law is hereby designated as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest:  
  
The Button House  
8977 Woodbine Avenue  
Town of Markham  
The Regional Municipality of York
2. THAT the Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the properties described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the property Land Registry Office.

READ A FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS  
25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008.

  
KIMBERLEY KITTERINGHAM  
TOWN CLERK

  
FRANK SCARPITTI  
MAYOR

**SCHEDULE ‘A’ TO  
BY-LAW 2008-247**

In the Town of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, property descriptions as follows:

Part Lot 14, Concession 4, as in MA22020; save and except part 1, 65R30383; Markham

TOWN OF MARKHAM  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

## **SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2008-247**

### **REASONS FOR DESIGNATION – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

## **Button House**

**8977 Woodbine Avenue, Buttonville**

The Button House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property having cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance:

#### **Description of Property**

The Button House is located on the east side of Woodbine Avenue, within the core of the historic mill village of Buttonville. The house is located close to the Woodbine Avenue frontage, and is one of a series of heritage buildings that comprise the village setting.

#### **Historical Value**

The Button House is of cultural heritage value or interest as a reminder of Buttonville's early history as a 19<sup>th</sup> century mill village, and for its connection with Major John Button, a significant figure in the district's settlement and development. John Button (1772-1861), a cooper from Connecticut, came to Upper Canada via New York State with his wife, Elizabeth Williams, in 1798. He was a founding settler of the Buttonville community that bears his name. Button served with distinction in the defence of Upper Canada during the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837. The Button farm, comprising parts of Lots 14 and 15, Concession 4, was on the east side of Woodbine Avenue, south of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. As early as 1842, working in conjunction with Robert Baldwin, he laid out village lots and streets on the front of his property near the Baldwin saw and grist mills. It is believed that the house was built by John Button c.1850, or perhaps a few years earlier, to serve as a catalyst for others to purchase property and build houses in his subdivision of village lots. It was owned by the Button family until 1870.

#### **Architectural Value**

Of all of the Pre-Confederation houses that remain standing in Buttonville, this one is the best preserved in terms of its original character and detailing. The Button House is a good example of a modest village dwelling rendered in a vernacular interpretation of the Classic Revival architectural style. The clapboarded house exhibits classic Georgian symmetry, with a centre door flanked by a window on either side. Classic Revival details include wide, flat pilasters at the front corners, a wide frieze board, and a door surround with a simple entablature and flat pilasters. The front windows are ornamented with a simple cornice moulding that echoes the treatment of the front door surround. Originally, the low-pitched gable roof had the eave returns typical of the style. The frieze board returns on the side walls as evidence of this early detail.

### **Contextual Value**

The Button House forms a significant component of the cultural heritage landscape of the mill village of Buttonville. As one of the earliest buildings standing in the village, it recalls the 'golden age' of the community's development as a milling community, when

the Baldwin family's Venice Grist Mill was newly constructed and the laying out of village lots and streets looked forward to a prosperous future.

### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

Character-defining elements that embody the cultural heritage value of 8977 Woodbine Avenue include:

- L-shaped plan, including the reconstructed rear kitchen wing;
- Fieldstone foundation under the rectangular front section of the house;
- One and a half storey height of the front section of the house;
- One storey height of the reconstructed rear kitchen wing;
- Wood clapboard siding, including the flat pilasters with their moulded caps; corner boards, water table board, and frieze.
- Front doorcase with wood, four panelled door, and wood Classic Revival door surround with its entablature and flat pilasters;
- Flat-headed, wood, sash style windows with 2/2 glazing, including the associated moulded architrave trim, and projecting wood sills;
- Cornice mouldings of the front window architrave trim;
- Low-pitched gable roof with projecting eaves and bedmould;
- Reconstructed side verandah with chamfered wood posts and its shed roof being a continuation of the roof of the reconstructed kitchen wing;
- Enclosed interior corner stairway with its winders, original wood treads, wood stringers, and second storey balustrade with turned newel post, moulded railing and plain pickets.