



## BY-LAW 2008-190

A by-law to designate a property as being of  
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest  
George R Cowie 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:

1113529 Ontario Inc.  
P.O. Box 26575, RPO  
Markville, Markham, ON

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate George R Cowie House, 5933 14th 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:

George R Cowie House  
5933 14th 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  
9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2008.

  
KIMBERLEY KITTERINGHAM  
TOWN CLERK

  
FRANK SCARPITTI  
MAYOR

## **SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2008-190**

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

Pt Lt 5, Con 7 Markham as in R670076; Subject to R433259 Markham

TOWN OF MARKHAM  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

## **SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2008-190**

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

The George R. Cowie House is recommended for designation under Part IV 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 George R. Cowie House is a two and a half storey red brick farmhouse located on the south side of Fourteenth Avenue, just west of Markham Road. The property is situated within the Armadale community of Markham.

#### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

##### **Historical Value**

The Cowie House, c.1925, is located on east half of Township Lot 5, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Concession. It has associative value as a remnant of the area's agricultural community. This property was originally a Crown Reserve, transferred to King's College (the forerunner of the University of Toronto) in 1828. In 1913, the property was purchased by George R. Cowie (1880-1944), a farmer. He was a son of John W. Cowie and his wife, Mary Jane (Dolphin) Cowie, who lived on Wellington Street East in Markham Village. Cowie's children owned the property until 1951. It is possible that the present house incorporates the earlier brick house noted in the census records and shown in this approximate location on Township maps of 1860 and 1878. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century period in Markham's history, many older farmhouses were remodelled or replaced with more modern structures as the Township's agricultural community prospered with mixed farming and in particular, dairy production. The Cowie House is an excellent example of this trend of farm improvement, and of its early 20<sup>th</sup> century period of construction.

##### **Architectural Value**

The Cowie House is typical of the spacious, simply detailed farmhouses built in Markham in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Its architectural detailing reflects the Edwardian Classicism that was popular from the 1910s through the 1920s. The house was constructed in the form of an American Foursquare, with its functional, basically cubic shape ornamented with a spacious wrap-around verandah that features a curved corner and gables centred on both the north and east sides. The red pressed brick cladding and two storey form of the house, with a broad hipped roof and gabled attic dormers, is representative of up-to-date farm residences that were locally built in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

##### **Contextual Value**

The Cowie House is one of a small number of heritage buildings remaining in Armadale that still exist in the midst of modern development, a tangible reminder of the community's past as a prosperous agricultural area. The house illustrates the trend of farm improvement over time, and is a good example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse exhibiting features typical of Edwardian Classicism in Southern Ontario. The curving, wrap-around verandah is a noteworthy embellishment, uncommon in Markham.

### **Significant Architectural Attributes**

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the heritage value of the George R. Cowie House include:

- Overall form of the building;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Red brick walls with stone lintels over openings;
- Medium pitched hipped roof with gabled dormers and wide, boxed eaves;
- Curved wrap-around verandah with its closed concrete balustrade, tapered wood columns, wood lintel and decorative gables;
- Flat-arched one over one wood sash windows with projecting stone sills.