



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

File

Note: BK-LAW passed Dec. 13/05



Clerk's Department  
Corporate Services Commission

January 10, 2006

Cornell Rouge Development Corp  
Niomie Massey  
369 Rimrock Road  
Toronto, ON  
M3J 3G2

11-01-06

Dear Cornell Rouge Development Corp:

Re: By-law 2005-367- To designate certain properties as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest (William Forster House - 8882 Reesor Road)

This will advise that Council at its meeting held on December 13, 2005, passed By-law 2005-367, which designated "William Forster House", 8882 Reesor Road, as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest.

A copy of the by-law, with the pertinent registration data, is attached for your information.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sheila Birrell in cursive.

Sheila Birrell  
Town Clerk

Encl.

cc: The Ontario Heritage Trust  
R. Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning

✓ RC  
Feb 9/06



## BY-LAW 2005-367

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

---

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:

Cornell Rouge Development Corp.  
369 Rimrock Road  
Toronto, ON  
M3J 3G2

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate William Forster House, 8882 Reesor Road 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:

William Forster House  
8882 Reesor Road  
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  
13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2005.

"Patricia Miller"

\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRICIA MILLER  
DEPUTY CLERK

"Frank Scarpitti"

\_\_\_\_\_  
FRANK SCARPITTI  
DEPUTY MAYOR

**SCHEDULE 'A' TO  
BY-LAW 2005-367**

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

East half of Lot 13, Concession 9,  
designated as Part 25 on Reference Plan 65R-28440

**TOWN OF MARKHAM  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**

**SCHEDULE 'B' TO  
BY-LAW 2005-367**

**REASON FOR DESIGNATION – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**William Forster House  
8882 Reesor Road**

**c.1855**

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

**Historical Value:**

William Forster was born in Northumberlandshire, England, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne. In 1830, shortly after the death of his father in a coal mine accident, he came to Markham with his widowed mother, Rebecca (Robson) and seven sisters. Two brothers later joined the rest of the family in Canada. Rebecca's brother, William Robson, lived in Markham Township and helped the Forster family get settled here on one of his properties on the west half of Lot 13, Concession 9. William Forster and his older brother John ran a wood turning factory owned by their uncle north of Unionville. In the 1851 census, the business is described as a chair factory. William Forster became a farmer, possibly retaining an interest in the turning factory but apparently leaving the day-to-day operation to John Forster, who lived on the property. In 1841, he married Barbara Wurts and in 1844 established his own household on the east 100 acres of Lot 13, Concession 9. About 1855, the log house on the farm was replaced by the substantial fieldstone house that stands today. The Forsters were Methodist and in the early days, William Forster took turns with William Button welcoming neighbours into their homes for services with an itinerant preacher making his rounds. Forster was one of the original trustees when Reynold's Chapel at Locust Hill was dedicated in 1857. The farm remained in the ownership of the family well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the Forster family bible is a treasured artefact in the collection of the Markham Museum.

**Architectural Value:**

The William Forster House follows the symmetrical form of the Georgian architectural tradition, with a rectangular plan and a balanced 5 bay front. The front doorcase, with its elaborate multi-paned transom light and sidelights, is a focal point of the east façade, sheltered beneath a full-width verandah supported on simple turned posts. The walls, of local multi-coloured fieldstone, are coursed and accented with brick quoins and brick door and window surrounds. Original 6 over 6 windows, a Classical wood cornice with generous returns and a modified stone rear wing are other features of architectural interest. A distinguishing feature of this substantial stone house is the raised basement, which contains the original kitchen. The building is nestled into a gentle natural slope that makes it appear as a 1 ½ storey structure from the front, while at the rear and sides the house is revealed to be 2 ½ storeys. Over top of the rear wing is a frame sunporch, and on the south side at ground floor level, the ell has been infilled with a frame sunporch. These features appear to date from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Contextual Value:**

The William Forster House, built by the patriarch of the Forster family, is the homestead of an early Markham family of English immigrants. The substantial stone house is a tangible reminder of the success of the Forster family in their adopted Canadian home and its history is linked to the establishment of a Methodist congregation in nearby Locust Hill and to the development of a local furniture making industry that lasted through three generations. The home's dignified Georgian architecture and exceptional state of preservation make it a very good example of a fine stone farmhouse of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The siting of the house to take advantage of a natural slope and create well-lit basement level living space is a noteworthy feature.

*Start  
here*

**Significant Architectural Attributes:**

- overall form of the building;
- fieldstone walls with brick accents;
- siting into a natural slope;
- medium pitched gable roof with deep returned eaves;
- wood soffits, fascias, and bedmould;
- hip-roofed front verandah on turned wood posts, supported on brick piers;
- front doorcase with 4 panelled wood door, multi-paned wood transom light and multi-paned wood sidelights with moulded panels below;
- original wood 6 over 6 sash style windows with projecting sills, on all sides of the building;
- one storey stone and brick rear wing with early 20<sup>th</sup> century frame additions.

*Confirm  
✓ SAVE*

---