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CORPORATE SERVICES COMMISSION
Clerk's Department

CULTURAL PROGRAMS
HERITAGE & MUSEUMS UNIT

REGISTERED MAIL

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990,
CHAPTER O.18;

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES IN LOT 23, PLAN
65M-2761, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 20 DAVID GOHN CIRCLE,
TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation
Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation
77 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9
Attention: Ms. Nancy Smith, Sr. Administrative Clerk

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the
Town of Markham intends to designate the property,
including land and building, known municipally as 20 David
Gohn Circle, Markham, as a property of architectural and/or
historic interest or value under Part 1V of The Ontario
Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

A Statement of the Reasons for the Proposed Designation of
The John Ramsay House is attached.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served
on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days of December 24,
1998.

Bob Panizza,
Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, Ontario
L3R 9W3

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The John Ramsay House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical and architectural significance.

Historical Reasons

The John Ramsay House was built in two stages, firstly at about c.1850 as a 1 ½ storey workers cottage and then, approximately 50 years later a full second storey was added, giving the building its current form.

Originally located on Lot 19, Concession 5 and fronting onto Kennedy Road, the property was originally settled by Berczy Settler, John (Frederick) Stamm. John was 42 in the 1804 census, his wife Catherina was 38, and their children were John (9), Catherina (7) and Henry (6). They received the crown patent for the property on Lot 19, Concession 5 in 1816. John was one of those who worked on the clearing of Yonge Street in February 1795.

In 1821, John Hunter purchased the eastern 100 acres from Stamm. John Hunter was married to the Reverend Vincent Mayerhoffer's daughter, Charlotte.

By 1843, Charlotte Hunter was widowed and remarried on December 3, 1843 to John Dunn of Whitchurch Township. It appears that the couple resided in Whitchurch.

By 1875, Charlotte neé Mayerhoffer Hunter Dunn Thompson sold to John Eckardt who sold within a year to John Ramsay.

The 1881 Census lists John Ramsay (Ramsey) and his family (Catherine his wife, and children William, George, H. Lois L. and Lilly M.) at this site. According to this listing, all members of the Ramsay family were born in Ontario and belonged to the Canadian Methodist Church. John Ramsay was listed as a farmer and his eldest son, William, was listed as a school teacher.

A home is illustrated at this location on the 1853/54 Map as well as the 1878 York County Atlas Map of Markham Township. The architecture of the structure, appears to indicate that while it attained its current appearance in the late 19th or early 20th Century, the core structure was built at an early date, and then it was raised to a full second storey.

Architectural Significance

The John Ramsay House is an example of a modest vernacular Markham Township farmhouse, built c.1850, that was adapted and enlarged through the late 19th Century to meet the changing needs of the family which occupied it.

The house was originally 1 to 1½ storeys in height and was adapted later in the 19th or early 20th Century to a full two storeys. The house has a three bay facade on the first storey and has two paired windows on the upper storey.

The house is clad in vertical tongue and groove wood, which may date from the time that the second storey was added. The original 1½ storey structure may have been clad in board and batten, or horizontal wood as was typical for the 1850s period.

Evidence of the early date of construction for the original house was seen most clearly on the interior, where supporting beams for the second storey, on the right side of the house were clad in an ornate red cherry wood, which is a typical mid 19th Century, Germanic architectural feature.

The large wall boards also showed evidence of wallpaper being directly laid on top. Given the somewhat windswept original location of the house, the living conditions in winter, in the house can only be speculated

The house has a full front porch with a shed roof, evidence of which was provided in a stain in the woodwork, beneath the later 20th Century horizontal wood and aluminium siding.

The windows on the house are all double hung, and apart from the second storey windows at the front and sides, all have a 2/2 pane division.

The original front door was a simple, four panelled variety, typical of Markham Township. This feature has now been replicated on the restored home.

The glazed side doors, appear to have been converted solid 4 panel doors.