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APR - 9 2001

CONSERVATION REVIEW  
BOARD

COPY

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMISSION  
Clerk's Department

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, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS  
101 CLARK AVENUE, TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation  
400 University Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9  
Attention: Ms. Rita Caldarone

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 101 Clark Avenue, 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 Hoover House is attached.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days, or before 4:30 p.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2001.

Town Clerk  
The Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

March 27, 2001

RE

DESIGNATION PROPOSAL



THE JOHN HOOVER HOUSE  
101 Clark Avenue  
Thornhill  
Formerly 11990 Leslie Street  
Concession 2, Lot 34 Markham Township

Prepared For: Heritage Markham

Prepared By: Michael Seaman  
Planner: Heritage and  
Conservation

Based on research by:  
Su Murdoch  
for The Town of  
Richmond Hill

## STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

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

### Historical Reasons

The John Hoover House was built c.1855 by John Hoover whose family were among the earliest Pennsylvania German families to arrive in Markham Township. In 1999 the house was relocated to the Town of Markham where it was restored by [REDACTED].

The house was originally located on Lot 34, Concession 2, Markham Township (now the Town of Richmond Hill). The two hundred acre parcel was patented from the Crown in 1807 by Peter Anderson. Within months, Anderson sold to Uzel Wilson for one hundred and fifty Pounds. In 1809, Willson transferred the west half to George Bond for one hundred Pounds. On September 3, 1811, Joseph Tomlinson and others (presumably on behalf of Wilson) sold the east half to John Hoover for £87. John also acquired the east half of lot 35 for an equal amount.

The Hoover family left Germany sometime in the middle of the eighteenth century and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, United States. There is conflicting evidence regarding their date of arrival in the U.S. and the name of the patriarch. The earliest known account was written by a descendant, Samuel Hoover, on January 25, 1873.

My great grandfather Ludwig Hoover, came from Germany sometime about the middle of the last century, and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, United States, where my grandfather, Martin Hoover, was born in December, 1760....In the year 1804, my grandfather Martin and his family, in company with two of his brothers, John and Daniel, and their families, left the United States and settled in Canada, in the Township of Markham, County of York...

According to Isabel Champion in the publication *Markham 1793-1900*, "Ludwig Huber, originally of Switzerland and later of the Rhine Palatinate, arrived in Philadelphia in 1764. He had four sons - John, 1756-1843, Martin, 1760-1849, Daniel, 1764-1840, and Christian - the first three of whom came from Lancaster County to Markham in 1811, according to John's gravestone in the Heise Hill Cemetery."

The following account of the family is inserted in a Hoover family Bible in possession of the Daniel B. Hoover, Jr., family.

'Record of the Old John Hoover Sr. And his wife Elizabeth'  
Who came to Canada in the year 1811 settled on Lot 34, Conc. 2, farming concession 3, Markham Township, York Co., Province of Ontario. John Hoover died in the year 1843, his age was [blank] years. His wife Elizabeth (Keufer) Hoover died in the year 1812, being 52 years old. Being members of the

Mennonite [*sic*] faith. It is supposed that the said John Hoover was a son of the Old Abraham Huber of Liditz, Lancaster County., PA., whose father's name was Hans Ulrich Huber late from Germany. John Hoover Sr. had four sons namely Martin, John, Daniel and Christian, also two daughters, namely, Elizabeth and Christina. All had sons and daughters excepted the last mentioned had only one daughter.

It is presumed that "Ludwig" and "Old Abraham" is the same individual. "Ludwig" had four sons, John (1756-1843), Martin (1760-1849) who was a Mennonite Bishop, Daniel (1764-1840), and Christian. According to the Samuel Hoover account, John Hoover (I) arrived in Markham with his brothers Daniel and Martin in 1804. This date also is noted in a family record written by Anna Burknolder in 1899. The date 1811 is reported to be on John Hoover's gravestone in the Heise Hill Cemetery.

John I married Elizabeth Keufer (Keffer) who was born in 1760 and died in 1812 at age fifty two. In September 1811, he purchased the east half of lot 34, concession 2, £87, 10d. He also acquired the east half of lot 35 for an equal amount. John I and Elizabeth's children were John II, Martin, Daniel, Christian, Elizabeth and Christina(Christian).

John II (1789-1879) married Barbara Heisey (Heise), the daughter of Christian Heise, in 1814. Barbara was born in the United States about 1789 and died on October 17, 1853. They both were of the Tunker (Dunkard) faith. They are believed to have had six children, including John III (married Sophia (Sophiah) Brillinger), Barbara (married George Shafer), Christ (married Sarah Heisey), possibly Fanny, and two others of unknown names. In October 1820, John I sold lot 34 to John II for £37, 10d. He sold the east half of Lot 35 to Martin. John I died in 1843.

The 1851 census profiles the family as John Hoover (II), farmer, born in the United States, aged sixty three, and of the "Tunkards" faith. His wife, "Barbary," aged sixty four, also a Tunker, was born in the U.S. Living with them was Elizabeth Hoover, aged thirty, born in Canada, single. Listed on the census immediately before the entry for John II is "Martain" Hoover, a "Mennonist, " aged sixty-six with his wife Barbary, sons Christopher, twenty-four and "Martain," twenty-three, and Philip Grant, a labourer, aged fifteen. Their likely location was lot 35 to the north. The enumerator described both dwellings as two storey, log, single family structures.

Listed on the 1851 census as nearby but in a separate household were John Hoover, a labourer, aged twenty seven, Fanny, aged twenty five, Barbary, twenty-two, and Melkiah Eater (not a family member), aged eleven. They were all born in Canada, were single and of the Tunker faith. Their residence was recorded as a one storey, log house. It is likely that these were the children of John II and Barbara living in what was perhaps the first house on lot 34.

The 1852 tax assessment roll for Markham Township (1852 is the earliest available) lists John Hoover, a farmer, aged thirty, as the owner of the east half of lot 34 concession 2. An alternate name for the owner was given as "J.Hoover Senior." The parcel was valued £650 plus £100 in personal property. By comparison, Christian Hoover (alternate name of the owner was Martin Hoover), aged twenty-seven, occupied the ninety acres of the east half of lot 35, concession 2, with a value of £630 plus £100. Both dwellings were two-storey log structures.

In 1853, the value of each parcel declined to £500. John Hoover, Senior (II), aged sixty-three, was listed as the owner. The values return to Six Hundred and Fifty and Six Hundred and Thirty Pounds in 1855, maintaining these up to and presumably including 1859 when the value was first given in dollars as \$2600 plus \$4000 in personal assets for John's site and \$2520 plus \$4000 for Christian's parcel. John's assessed value remained constant for several decades.

In 1861, the census recorded John Hoover (II), aged seventy-two as a farmer born in Pennsylvania and married in 1814. In the household were John Hoover (III), a farmer, aged thirty three, born in Upper Canada, and his wife Sophia (Brillinger), twenty-nine. John III and Sophia were married in 1860. Living with them was Elizabeth, aged thirty (incorrect), single, born in upper Canada. Their residence was a one storey frame house.

In March 1877, John II, a "yeoman" and widower, transferred the ownership of lot 34 to his son, John III, for £5000. John II died in 1879.

The children of John III and Sophia were David (married Salina Steckley) and Levi (married Catherine Doner). In 1888, John III, a Markham farmer and widower, transferred the south-east quarter of lot 34 to David, a farmer, and the north-east quarter to Levi, also a farmer. The remuneration for each was \$5 and "natural love and affection."

In December 1897, Levi of Whitchurch Township and his wife, Catherine Doner sold the north-east quarter to David and Selina of Markham for \$2000. In 1905, 5.8 acres were deeded to the James Bay Railway Company in order to construct a rail line across the property. David and Selina mortgaged lot 34 in November 1929 to Samuel Heise for \$4500.

Following David Hoover's retirement from farming, he and Selina sold lot 34 to Samuel N. Doner, a Markham merchant. They sold on July 27, 1934 for \$600 plus the Heise mortgage of \$5934. Samuel and his wife, Ada, transferred the ownership in September 1937 to Earl Norman Doner for \$1434 plus the remaining mortgage.

The Donors came from the Rhine Palatinate and settled in Lancaster county Pennsylvania. In 1806, John Doner and his wife, Anna Breakhill, arrived in Markham and settled on lot 35, Concession 3.

Earl Doner and his wife Mabel held lot 34 until December 1945 when it was acquired by Fred J. Ward, a butcher, Gordon T. Ward, a furrier, and Douglas H. Ward, an investment broker, all of the City of Toronto. The price was \$6000 plus \$2 and the \$3000 mortgage. Grants of Interest were registered on March 22, 1956, by Douglas H. and his wife June A. Ward, Frederick J. and Eloise Ward, and Gordon T. and Winifred Ward. Each transferred their interest to Paul H. Mills, trustee. In January 1957, Paul Mills and his wife Cara J., granted the parcel to Oscan Farms Ltd. for \$1.00 Oscan farms is a corporate name used by the Ward family, the name "Oscan" being the middle name of their father, William Ward.

The Wards are believed to have used the dwelling as a vacation home and rented the land to local farmers for cultivation. Over several decades, Douglas Ward with the assistance of Fred and

Clifford Ward, accumulated a significant collection of horse drawn vehicles. Over 1984-85, the collection was donated to the Markham Museum by Douglas Ward, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. C.W. King. Mrs. King is the daughter of June and the late Douglas Ward.

In 1996 the site was managed by Hugh King and Company, Ltd. of Toronto. The land was being cultivated by John Doner Ltd. of Gormley as a tenant. The Hoover residence was vacant.

Threatened with demolition on its original site in Richmond Hill, in 1998 the Hoover House was dismantled and relocated to a site at 101 Clark Avenue, Thornhill where it was painstakingly restored to its historic appearance.

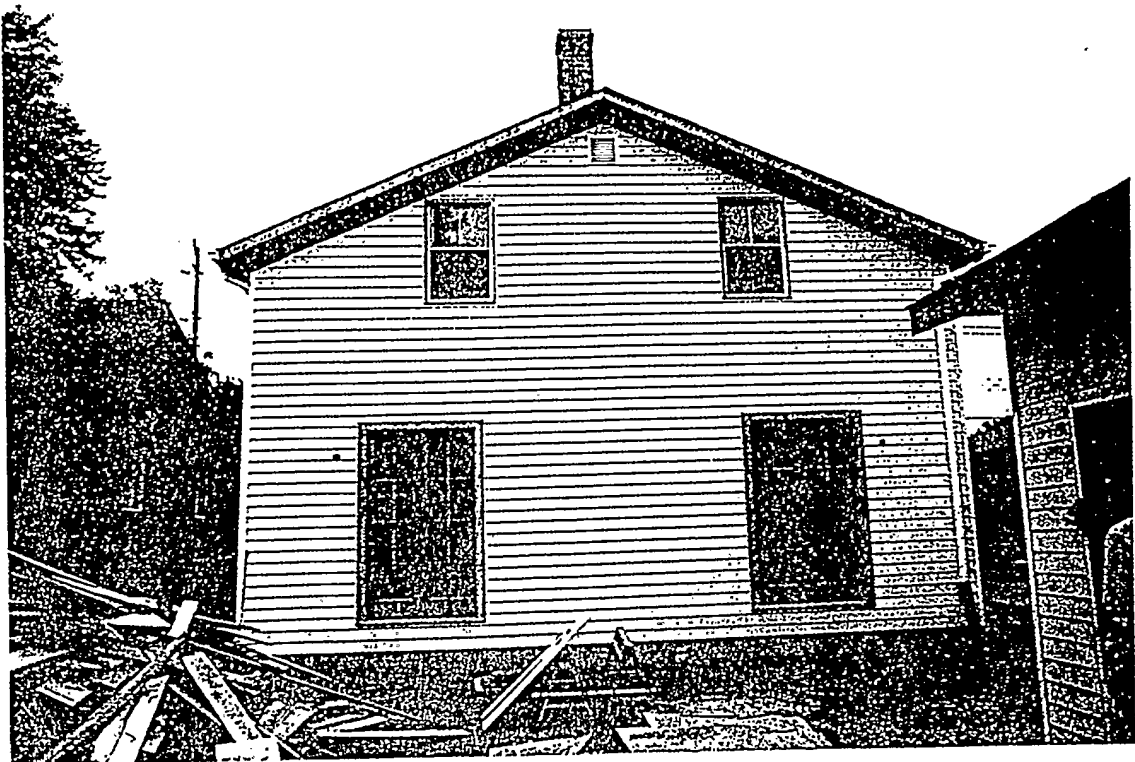
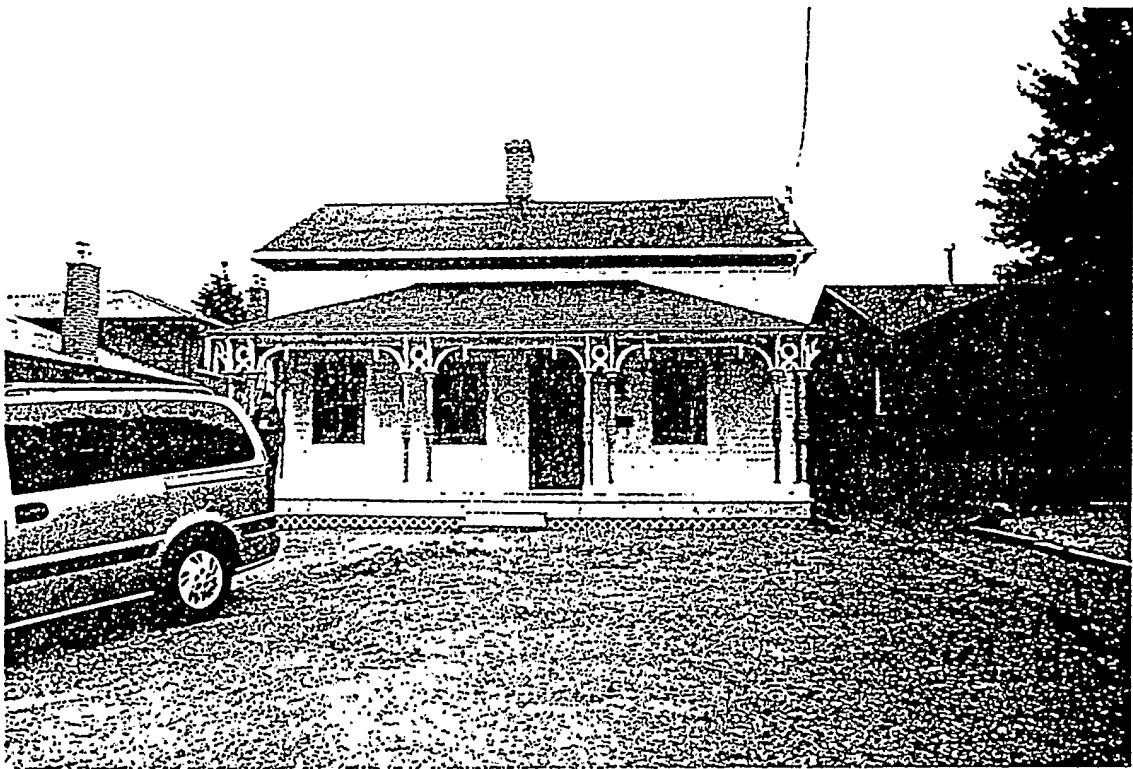
#### Architectural Reasons

The John Hoover House is an good example of an early Classic Revival styled farmhouse, with an asymmetrical four bay front built by one of the first settlers in Markham. The house is clad in narrow clapboard and features an ornate veranda of a later vintage. The house features a rectangular plan and a gable roof with a simple moulded soffit and returned eaves. The asymmetrical placement of the openings on the four bay facade and the central centre chimney are features rooted in the Pennsylvania German tradition of architecture. The off set door and flat window openings with lugsills have plain mouldings. The use of 2/2 sashes may be original. According to historic sources, the veranda posts were relocated by the Ward family from a home in the hamlet of Nashville in Vaughan township. Now fully restored, the house represents a good example of Pennsylvania German house construction from the early years of European settlement in Markham.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF  
THE JOHN HOOVER HOUSE, 2000





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