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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 , KNOWN  
MUNICIPALLY AS 7085 14TH AVENUE, TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE  
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Trust  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3  
Attn: Catherine Axford, Chairman's Executive Assistant

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 7085 14th Avenue, Markham, as a  
property of architectural and/or historic interest or value under Part  
IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

A Statement of the Reasons for the Proposed Designation of  
Abraham Koch 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 30<sup>th</sup>  
day of June 2008

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

May 29, 2006

## REASONS FOR DESIGNATION – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Abraham Koch House**

Centre Part, Lot 5, Concession 9

7085 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue

c. 1845

The Abraham Koch 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 Abraham Koch House is a two storey red brick farmhouse set well back from the south side of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, east of the Little Rouge River. It is located with the Box Grove Secondary Plan area of Markham, and was historically associated with the Cedar Grove Mennonite community.

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

The Abraham Koch House is of historical value as a farmhouse built by an early Markham family of Pennsylvania German Mennonite background. Abraham Koch was the Canadian-born son of Pennsylvania German immigrants. As early as 1845, he was living on Lot 5, Concession 9, according to a Township Directory of the period. According to the 1851 census, Abraham Koch, his wife Elizabeth Hoover, and their two young children were living in a two-storey brick house on the property, which they purchased in 1847. It is possible that this house is a brick-clad hewn log structure constructed by the Reesor family prior to Koch's residency. The Koch family sold to Samuel Reesor, son of Peter Reesor and Esther Eby, in 1855. The Reesors are a locally significant family considered to be among the founding families of Cedar Grove. In the early 1880s, Lewis Reesor (Samuel's son) and Susannah Weber farmed the property. They moved to St. Mary's, Ontario, where Lewis was a pioneer in the electric light business, purchasing the local power plant in 1890.

**Architectural Value**

The Abraham Koch House is an early example of a brick farmhouse in Markham, locally rare for its full two storey form. The house possesses the classic simplicity and balance of the vernacular Georgian tradition. This conservative style of domestic architecture was widely adopted by the Pennsylvania Germans while living in the culturally diverse state of Pennsylvania during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and was brought to Markham with the early settlers in the early 1800s. The proportions of the house and its door and window openings suggest that the underlying structure may be a hewn log building that was later updated with a cladding of brick veneer. The front door, with its integral sidelights, is a feature associated with early 19<sup>th</sup> century dwellings in Ontario. The proposed c.1845 date of construction, based on the first documented record of Abraham Koch's occupancy of the property, is a conservative estimate. If a hewn log structure is found underlying the

brick veneer, the house could be as early as c.1830 and attributed to the Reesor family, the initial owners of the property following the Canada Company.

### **Contextual Value**

The Abraham Koch House is of contextual significance for its association with the rural farming community in the south east area of Markham. It is one of several heritage buildings within the Box Grove Secondary Plan, however, historically this property would have been considered part of the Cedar Grove community. The Koch House is a reminder of the early settlement of Markham by Pennsylvania German Mennonites such as the Reesor and Koch families.

### **Significant Architectural Attributes**

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the heritage value of the Abraham Koch House include:

1. Rectangular , 2 storey block of the original house;
2. Fieldstone foundation;
3. Red brick cladding, potentially over a hewn log structure;
4. Medium pitched gable roof with wide overhanging eaves and wood cornice, and the associated wood mouldings;
5. Single stack chimney at the east gable end;
6. 2/2 wood sash-style windows with their associated wood brickmoulds and projecting sills;
7. Front doorcase with its sidelights and wood door.