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December 19, 2001

✓ scanned Nov 8/02

[REDACTED]
8992 Woodbine Avenue
Markham, Ontario
L3R 0J7



Dear [REDACTED]:

Re: By-Law #2001-194 – To Designate Property as being of
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest
The George F. Kelly House - 8992 Woodbine Avenue

This will advise that Council at its meeting held on August 28, 2001 passed By-law 2001-194 to designate "George F. Kelly House", 8992 Woodbine Avenue, as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest.

A registered copy of the by-law is attached for your information.

Yours truly,


Sheila Birrell
Town Clerk

Encl.

SB/jik

c: The Ontario Heritage Foundation
Mr. R. Hutcheson, Heritage Planner
[REDACTED]



2001-194

A by-law to designate a certain property as being of
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest
The George F. Kelly 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:

8992 Woodbine Avenue
Markham, Ontario
L3R 0J7

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate The George F. Kelly House, located at 8992 Woodbine Avenue, Markham, and has caused such notice of intention to be published once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

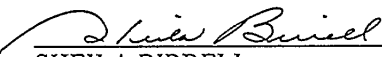
AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;


NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the following real property, 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:

The George F. Kelly House
8992 Woodbine 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 property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the property Land Registry Office.

READ A FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS
28TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2001.


SHEILA BIRRELL
TOWN CLERK


FRANK SCARPITTI
DEPUTY MAYOR

I, SHEILA BIRRELL, TOWN CLERK OF THE
TOWN OF MARKHAM, CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A
PHOTOCOPY OF THE ORIGINAL


SHEILA BIRRELL, CMO

**SCHEDULE 'A' TO
BY-LAW NO. 2001-194**

Part of Lot 14, Concession 3, Town of Markham, Regional Municipality of York and being composed of:

Premising that the bearings are astronomic and are referred to as the westerly limit of the road allowance between Concessions 3 and 4, in accordance with deposited Plan 65R-16211 having a bearing of north 10 degrees, 31 minutes, 50 seconds west and relating all bearings herein thereto;

COMMENCING at a point distant 270.15 feet northerly on a bearing of north 10 degrees 31 minutes 50 seconds west along the easterly limit of the lot from the south east angle of Lot 14;

THENCE south 80 degrees, 11 minutes, 30 seconds west a distance of 163.81 feet to a point;

THENCE north 9 degrees 29 minutes 50 seconds west a distance of 66.82 feet to a point;

THENCE north 80 degrees 16 minutes 40 seconds east a distance of 162.60 feet to a point in the east limit of Lot 14;

THENCE southerly on a bearing of south 10 degrees 31 minutes 50 seconds east along the east limit of said Lot 14, 66.58 feet to the point of commencement;

being the lands described in Instrument No. R746572.

PIN NO. 03046-0024(R)

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2001-194

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

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

Historical Reasons

The house at 8992 Woodbine Avenue was built in 1911 for George F. Kelly the local Veterinary Surgeon, his wife Elizabeth (nee Duncan) and their children George (Born 1888) and Drew (born 1898).

The Kelly's were one of the most prominent families in the Buttonville area. George's father, John Kelly was born in Tyrone, Ireland and came to Canada with his father at the age of seven or nine. They made their home at Dollar on the third concession of Markham Township. John's father had lost a leg in either the 'Battle of Brosso', or the 'Battle of Waterloo'.

John Kelly became a shingle maker, married Elizabeth McAdoo from Monaghan, Ireland and settled on a three acre lot, part of Lot 8 E on the fourth concession of Markham Township. The log house in which they first lived was replaced by a frame house which remained in use until Mary-Ann Kelly died in 1943. There was a small barn used to shelter a horse, a cow and some chickens. There was also a small shed which John used for making shingles.

John and Elizabeth Kelly were the parents of six sons and three daughters. There was John, who died aged two, Matthew, James who survived to twenty-four, George F. Simeon, Mary-Ann, Josephine, Jenny and Louis.

In 1884, George F. Kelly graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College and commenced practicing in the village of Buttonville. He lobbied hard for telephone service in the area. Cooperating with Dr. Langstaff of Thornhill, a telephone line was extended from Thornhill to Buttonville. He was also active in having hydro brought to the area. Always interested in the local school, he served as auditor for many years.

He married Elizabeth Duncan and their children George and Drew attended Brown's Corners Presbyterian Sunday School. The white rough cast house was replaced in 1911 by the red brick home which included an office and storage space for gallon's of medicine used in his practice. It was necessary to carry these remedies with him, because there were no convenient drug stores.

It is believed that the house was built for the Kelly's by George's brother in law, John Miller. John Miller was a prominent builder in the vicinity and is known to have constructed a number of similarly designed Edwardian style houses in the Unionville area at about the same time.

In addition to storage space in the house, it was also necessary to have a barn (now removed) to supply stalls for four to six horses, and a driving shed for buggies and cutters. Above this was a large loft where hay and oats were stored to feed not only horses but a jersey cow, a number of pigs and a flock of hens.

In 1910, George Jr. graduated as a veterinarian and joined his father in a practice that extended into the townships of Pickering, Markham, Whitchurch, Scarborough, York, Vaughan and King. Each went alone to their various visits until 1915, when they purchased their first car and decided to travel together.

By all accounts they enjoyed their practice together in spite of long, and often difficult drives and frequent night calls, when the only light was provided by coal oil lanterns. One of the highlights of their experiences was when they were called to a cattle farm north of Elgin Mills, following a major train accident on the Ontario Northland line, whereby a train had ploughed off the tracks into a herd of cattle.

George Jr. married Hilda Risebrough, daughter of Robert Risebrough of Newtonbrook in 1926, and in 1927, they moved to another home in the area built by Wm. Riddle.

George F. Kelly died in 1934 and his wife Elizabeth died in 1937. Both are buried in the Richmond Hill Cemetery. The house at 8992 Woodbine Avenue continued to be lived in by their daughter Drew and her husband Russell Boyington.

In earlier years, Drew completed Public School in Buttonville and then decided to stay at home to help run the family veterinary business. She soon relieved her mother of the task of answering the telephone and directing both George's to their various house calls.

Drew and her mother were regular attendants and members of Browns Corners Presbyterian Church. Drew was leader of the mission band and organist for a short time.

Mrs. Kelly was a member of the Women's Missionary Society. With the coming of Church Union in 1926, she and Drew joined Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church. In this church Drew served as president and pianist.

Drew was a life member of Buttonville Women's Institute and was a volunteer at York Central Hospital. Drew Boyington passed away in early 2000 at the age of 100, while still residing in the house at 8992 Woodbine Avenue. At the time, she earned the rare distinction of having resided in the community in the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries.

Architectural Reasons

The house at 8992 Woodbine Avenue is a good example of an early 20th Century, 2½ storey, brick, rural residence built in the Edwardian Classicism Style.

The house is believed to have been built by John Miller, who was a relative of the Kelly family and a prominent builder of brick, Edwardian houses in Markham Township during this period.

The house is 2½ storeys in height, built of red, pressed brick, with a three bay façade and a hipped roof with dormers. The house represents somewhat of a transition between 19th Century and 20th Century styling with its use of louvered wood shutters and fieldstone foundation. The house is built on the site of an earlier house from the 1840s period. It is believed that components of this earlier house are retained in the rear, frame tail of the building.

A dominant architectural feature of the house is its full width veranda, with simple wood columns, above high brick piers. A wood balcony, with simple posts and 2' x 1' pickets sits in the centre of the porch roof. Below the porch, the base of the veranda is decorated with framed, diagonal wood lattice. The sides of the veranda roof are clad in brackets. The original steps to the base of the veranda were made of wood.

The openings on the front elevation feature two symmetrical 1/1 windows on the lower level with coloured glass transoms, above the veranda the windows are 1/1 double hung, framed with green, louvered wood shutters. On the centre of both levels are two oak stained, partially glazed doors with two horizontal panels in each. In the centre of the elevation is a dormer window with two single pane windows. It is believed that at one time, these windows were either double hung or contained detail glass dividers.

The south elevation is asymmetrical and features a two storey bay window, made of wood, with horizontal siding on the left and two 1/1 windows, framed with green louvered wood shutters on the right. As with the front elevation, in the centre of this elevation is a dormer window with two single pane windows. It is believed that at one time, these windows were either double hung or contained detail glass dividers.

The north elevation is asymmetrical with irregularly spaced openings. On the roof level there is a dormer which is identical to the other dormer windows. On the second floor there are two double hung windows with a 1/1 pane division. At one time these were believed to be framed with shutters. Above all windows on the house, the bricks are angled as voussoirs. On the ground level there are two 1/1 windows, one of which is slightly smaller than the other windows on the house. To the right of these windows, there is a solid, oak stained, panelled door. The doorway is framed by a small porch

The one-storey rear tail is not consistent, architecturally with the Edwardian style of the main house, which gives some indication that this wing may either pre-date the main house, to as far back as 1840 or that it was made up of components salvaged from the original 1840s house. This addition is clad in narrow, horizontal clapboard. The windows on this level are predominately double hung, wood with a 6/6 pane division. On the north side, there is also a small detail window. On the rear side, there are no windows and on the south side there are two windows.

The rear wing of the brick house is asymmetrical with 1/1, double hung windows of consistent proportion and various sizes. Also on this elevation is a solid wood door, stained in oak. There are four windows on the rear elevation.

Contextual Reasons

The house at 8992 Woodbine Avenue is of contextual significance as one of the most important and visible buildings in the core of the hamlet of Buttonville. The scale of the house makes it a landmark for this community.