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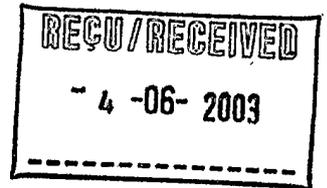


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RECEIVED  
JUN 11 2003  
CONSERVATION REVIEW  
BOARD

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 14,  
CONCESSION 10, WEST ½, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 9035 REESOR  
ROAD, TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Foundation  
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 9035 Reesor Road, 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  
Christian Reesor Homestead, is attached.

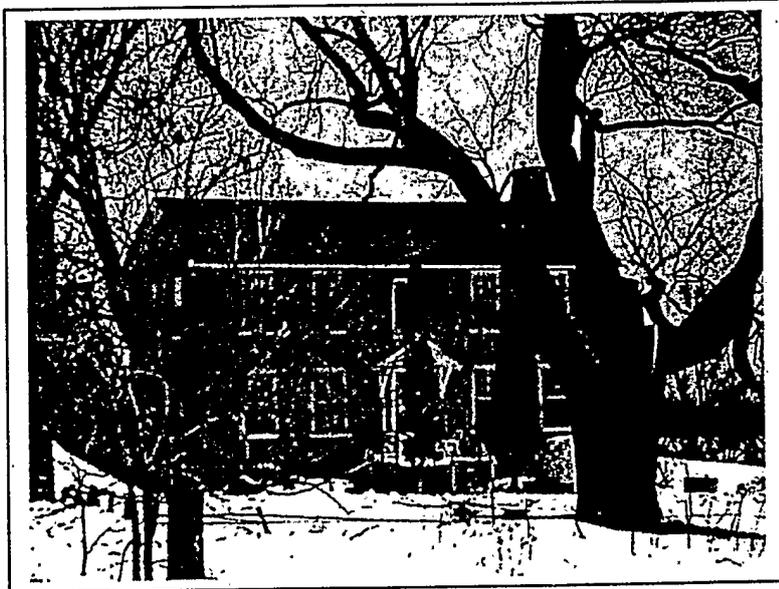
NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served on the  
Town Clerk within thirty (30) days, or before 4:30 p.m. on the 3rd  
day of July 2003.

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

June 3, 2003



DESIGNATION REPORT



**THE CHRISTIAN REESOR HOMESTEAD**  
9035 Reesor Road  
Lot 14, Concession 10, west 1/2

Prepared For: Heritage Markham

Prepared By: Michael Seaman &  
Marie Jones

## STATEMENTS OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The Christian Reesor Homestead is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value and interest containing the following heritage attributes:

### Historical Attributes

The Christian Reesor Homestead was built c.1840 for Christian Reesor and is located on the west half of Lot 14, Concession 10. Isaac Westbrook received the original Crown grant to the 200-acre lot in 1801. In 1805, he sold the lot to Christian Reesor Sr.

The Reesor family originates from Berne, Switzerland, where Peter Reesor was born in 1713. Peter immigrated to Philadelphia and then settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania where he died in 1804. Peter Reesor brought from his homeland and Zurich Bible dating from the 1570s. This Bible which bears Peter Reesor's (1713-1804) signature is still in the family's possession.

Peter Reesor, Christian's son and grandson to the original Peter Reesor who emigrated from Switzerland, had journeyed to Upper Canada in the late 1790s in search of good farmland and had explored the Rouge River area in Markham. In 1804, Christian and Veronica Reesor and six of their 10 children left Lancaster County in Pennsylvania in four Conestoga wagons. Their voyage to Markham Township took 6 weeks.

Christian Reesor Sr. settled on Lot 14, Concession 10 but was tragically killed by a falling tree in 1806, only two years after his arrival. Christian Reesor was buried on a knoll, overlooking the Rouge River in the Reesor family burial. This cemetery was used by the Reesor family for over 90 years. In 1931, Christian Sr's grandsons John, Arthur Edward and Frederick Ernest Nelson, made repairs to the cemetery and enclosed it with an elaborate cement balustrade.

Christian Reesor Sr. Property passed to the eldest son, Peter. In 1818, Peter conveyed Christian Reesor's original homestead to his youngest brother, Christian (1794-1877), who had only been 12 years of age when his father, Christian Sr. died. Christian Reesor married Elizabeth Cornell of the family that founded Cornell University. Together they had 6 children before Elizabeth's death in 1832. Christian remained a widower for 34 years until, at the age of 74 he married his first wife's niece, Melissa Ann Cornell, who was 19 at the time. Christian and Melissa had another 5 children.

The stone house located at Lot 14, Concession 10 was built by Christian Reesor in 1840 and the barns on the property date from the same period. A dam, sawmill and carding mill were also on the property.

In 1877, Christian Reesor bequeathed the property to his son Frederick Ernest Nelson with a life lease for his widow Melissa. It appears from photos that there was once a brick addition, built in the High Victorian or Picturesque style, made to the original stone structure, likely to convert the single detached dwelling into a doody house. As Frederick was married in 1897, it seems probable that the addition was constructed c. 1897. An 1934 photo of the property however does not include this brick addition indicated that it had disappeared, likely due to fire.

In 1905, Frederic E. N. Reesor sold Lot 14, Concession 10 and moved to Locust Hill where he operated the Locust Hill Creamery for the next 35 years. Frederick was a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge and was the President of 2 Reesor Family reunions and Honourary President for the 1950 Reunion. He also attended several Reesor reunions in Pennsylvania.

In 1930, Frederick E.N. Reesor, Benjamin Hoover Reesor and Frederick Reesor James organized the erection of the Reesor Cairn on the north side of Highway 7 just east of Reesor Road.

#### Architectural Attributes

The large Georgian style dwelling was built c.1850 for Christian Reesor Jr. and his family of six children. The main two storey house has undergone little change in its history and still retains its original form. The structure is 5 bays x 2 bays constructed of semi dressed fieldstone with cut stone quoins. The medium pitch gable roof has a plain boxed cornice with returned eaves. The rectangular windows have 12/12 pane division, plain wood trim with a flat brick arch above and wood lugsills. The centrally located front entrance has plain wood trim with side lights and flat transom. At one time there existed a 2 storey front verandah with a door above entering onto a small deck. This has since been replaced with a large front stoop with a pedimented hood supported by brackets. The door above has been replaced with a 1/1 window. There is one double brick chimney located mid right.

There is a 1 ½ storey red brick addition at the rear with buff brick accents and quoins, which appears to have been constructed in the 1880's as a doody house. The windows on this section are rectangular with 2/2 pane division, segmental arches and wood lugsills.

### Contextual Attributes

The Christian Reesor homestead is of contextual significance for its association with the rural farming community in the east part of Markham. The house is a reminder of one of the earliest Mennonite families, the Reesors, who settled in this part of Markham in 1804 and acquired vast holdings of land.

### Significant Heritage Attributes

1. All wood double hung windows on all elevations;
2. All original exterior doors and storm doors on the west, east and south elevations;
3. The fieldstone foundation;
4. The original roofline;
5. The original footprint of the front and rear part of the dwelling;
6. The brick chimney;
7. The original stone and brick wall construction.

## IDENTIFICATION

<u>Property:</u>	The Christian Reesor Homestead 9035 Reesor Road
<u>Legal Description:</u>	Lot 14, Concession 10
<u>Owners:</u>	Ontario Realty Corporation
<u>Inventory Number:</u>	K5- 12
<u>Assessment Roll Number:</u>	257-518-000
<u>Date of Construction:</u>	c.1840
<u>Style of Construction:</u>	Georgian – 5 bay façade – two storey
<u>Type of Structure:</u>	Farm house
<u>Number of Storeys:</u>	2
<u>Exterior Wall Material:</u>	Fieldstone