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*York*  
The Town of Richmond Hill ✓

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*Nancy Smith*

Proud Host of the 1996 Ontario Provincial Senior Games

Corporate Services Department  
Office of the Clerk

Registered Mail

July 24, 1996

Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
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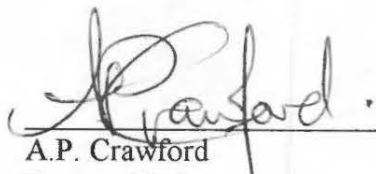
**Re: Notice of Passing of By-law No. 193-96**

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill, at its meeting held on the 15th day of July, 1996 passed the following resolution concerning 11715 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill:

"That Council receive Staff Report SRCSD.96.90 and enact proposed By-law No. 193-96 to authorize the designation of the George Forster Log House and Barn Complex as a property of historical or architectural value or interest under the *Ontario Heritage Act*."

A copy of By-law No. 193-96 is attached for your reference.

Yours truly,

  
A.P. Crawford  
Deputy Clerk

/sjc  
attach.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

**By-law No. 193-96**

A By-law to Authorize the designation of  
the George Forster Log House and Barn Complex  
under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

WHEREAS Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises known as 11715 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill, and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to so designate the aforesaid real property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto;

**NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That the real property located at 11715 Leslie Street, being part of Lot 32, Concession 3 in the Town of Richmond Hill in the Regional Municipality of York, (geographic Township of Markham, County of York), more particularly described as part 2 on Reference Plan 65R-18347, is hereby designated under part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, as being of historic or architectural value or interest.
2. That the Clerk is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served on the owner of the aforesaid property and on the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and to cause notice of the passing of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.
3. That the Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property in the Land Registry Office.
4. That the statements contained in Schedule "A" hereto are hereby declared to be the reasons for the aforesaid designation.
5. Schedule "A" attached hereto shall form part of this by-law.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME THIS 15th DAY OF JULY, 1996.

READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS 15th DAY OF JULY, 1996.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

## SCHEDULE "A"

### REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

**George Forster Log House and Barn Complex**  
circa 1830  
Lot 32, Con. III, formerly Markham Township  
11715 Leslie Street

The George Forster Log House and Barn Complex are recommended for designation for historical and architectural reasons.

George Forster, a farmer of Canadian birth, purchased the west half of Lot 32, Concession III, Markham Township from John Gretman, a Berezy settler, in 1830. It is likely that Forster built the existing log house at about the time he purchased the property, and began the construction of the first stages of the barn complex.

The spelling of the Forster name varies from source to source. "Foster" and "Forester" were commonly substituted, but the earliest sources consistently use the Forster spelling. The family originated in Pennsylvania, and descendants continue to reside in the area to the present day.

In 1934, George Forster's heirs sold the farm to Mary A. W. Rawlinson. Mary was the wife of Marmaduke Arthur Rawlinson, President and General Manager of M. Rawlinson Ltd., a Toronto-based cartage and warehousing company. The Rawlinson property was known as "Tentone Farm", where the family kept their horses. Marmaduke Rawlinson was a member of the Toronto and North York Hunt Club, an interest he passed on to his daughter, Phyllis Mary.

Phyllis Rawlinson was one of the first women in Canada to play polo, and was a champion 5-goal player. She also participated in steeplechases and fox hunts, and showed jumpers at the Richmond Hill Spring Fair and Royal Winter Fair. She was awarded an honorary life membership in the Toronto and North York Hunt Club. In later years, Phyllis raised thoroughbred horses and Hereford beef cattle at Tentone Farm.

In addition to Phyllis Rawlinson's equestrian interests, she was a graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, part of the University of London, England, and during World War II served in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

The George Forster Log House is the only known log building remaining in Richmond Hill from the early settlement period. Stylistically, it is a moderately-sized one-and-a-half storey hewn log building in the Georgian architectural tradition. Its currently exposed dovetailed log walls were covered with stucco on accordion lath at an early date. The offset kitchen wing to the rear appears to be an addition dating from the mid 19th century.

Significant exterior architectural features include the hewn log walls, small 6 over 6 sash windows on the ground floor, 6-paned second floor casement windows, 3 over 3 and 4 over 4 kitchen windows, paneled and glazed front door, 6 paneled rear door and plank kitchen door. Also significant are the low-pitched gable roof of the log house, and the low-pitched gable roof of the kitchen wing, with its eaves returns.

Significant interior features include the centre hall plan, pine plank floors, the staircase with its associated balustrade, 6 and 4 paneled doors with original spring latches, plank doors with original Norfolk latches, original door and window architraves, chair rails, baseboards, wainscoting, and beaded plank paneling.

The U-shaped barn complex consists of a gable-roofed central barn on a raised fieldstone foundation, which formerly had an earthen ramp leading to its north door, and two smaller flanking gable-roofed barns. Much of the vertical board siding on the barn complex replaces old material of a similar character, but the eastern barn retains its original clapboard siding on its south wall, indicative of an early date of construction. Other significant features of the barn

complex include the decorative ventilators in the east and west gables of the main barn, attached lean-to sheds and wooden windows of various sizes.