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## The Town of Richmond Hill

P.O. Box 300  
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Richmond Hill, Ontario  
Canada L4C 4Y5  
(416) 771-8800

York

December 29, 1993

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990  
CHAPTER 0.18

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES  
IN THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO  
HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED

### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO:

*Nancy Smith*  
ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
10 ADELAIDE ST. EAST  
TORONTO, ONT.  
M5C 1J3

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill intends to designate the following property, including lands and building, as a property of historic or architectural value or interest, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18:

<b>Municipal Address:</b>	1045 Elgin Mills Road East
<b>Legal Description:</b>	West Half of Lot 25, Concession 2 Former Township of Markham
<b>Historical Reference:</b>	The David Eyer Sr. House

#### Reasons for the Proposed Designation:

The David Eyer Sr. House is recommended for designation for historical and architectural reasons.

The house was built in 1828 by David Eyer Sr., a Pennsylvania-German Mennonite settler who arrived in Markham Township with his parents in 1803. Eyer established an early sawmill on his property and was instrumental in the building of the Markham and Elgin Mills Plank Road.




The Eyer House is Richmond Hill's earliest Pennsylvania-German farmhouse. It is a substantial two storey timber frame structure built in the Mennonite-Georgian tradition.

Significant exterior features include the balanced arrangement of openings, window architraves, front and rear doorcases, gable roof with return eaves, gable end chimneys, remnants of the two-storey south verandah, and side-hill sitting.

Significant interior features include the centre hall layout, main and attic stairs, attic beam with date, six fireplaces, three remaining mantels, and original doors and trim.

A more detailed reasons for designation is attached for your review.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill before the 29th day of January, 1994.

  
David M. Calnan  
Deputy Clerk

sh/  
attach

**REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**  
**David Eyer Sr. House**  
**1828**  
**1045 Elgin Mills Road East**  
**West Half, Lot 25, Concession 2**  
**Former Township of Markham**

The David Eyer Sr. House is recommended for designation for historical and architectural reasons.

The house was built in 1828 by David Eyer Sr., the American-born son of John and Regina Eyer. The Pennsylvania-German Mennonite family emigrated to Markham Township from Franklin County, Pennsylvania, in 1803.

David Eyer Sr. established a sawmill on a branch of the Rouge River on the property as early as 1825. The business operated until destroyed by fire in 1881, in later years run by a son, Abraham, who had added a foundry and agricultural implement manufactory in 1868 in partnership with his brother Jacob.

David Eyer Sr. was instrumental in the founding of the Markham and Elgin Mills Plank Road Company in 1847. He served on the first committee of management, and the Eyer sawmill supplied some of the lumber for the actual road construction in 1850.

The building is architecturally significant as Richmond Hill's earliest example of a Pennsylvania-German farmhouse. It is a substantial two-storey timber frame structure built in the Mennonite-Georgian tradition, exhibiting details of late 18th century Pennsylvania-German rural domestic architecture.

Significant exterior features include the balanced arrangement of door and window openings, beaded window architraves, front and rear doorcases with wide 6-panel doors, sidelights and simple surrounds, low-pitched gable roof with return eaves, red brick gable-end chimneys, remnants of a two-storey south verandah, and side-hill siting.

Significant interior features include the centre hall layout, main stairway including simple newels with turned caps, moulded handrails and plain balusters, enclosed attic stairway with beaded plank walls, attic beam with date, six fireplaces, three remaining mantels, four-panel doors and original architraves, baseboards, and chair-rail mouldings.