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June 26, 2001


4 Wismer Place
Markham, Ontario
L6E 1A8

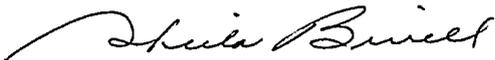
Dear :

Re: By-Law #2001-148 – To Designate Property as being of
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest
The John Robinson House - 4 Wismer Place

This will advise that Council at its meeting held on June 12, 2001 passed By-law 2001-148, to designate "The John Robinson House, 4 Wismer Place, 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

✓
sd.
July 13/01



2001-148

A by-law to designate a certain property as being of Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest The John Robinson 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:

[Redacted] AND [Redacted] 4 Wismer Place Markham, Ontario L6E 1A8

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate The John Robinson House, located at 4 Wismer Place, 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 John Robinson House 4 Wismer Place 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 12TH DAY OF JUNE, 2001.

[Signature] SHEILA BIRRELL, TOWN CLERK

[Signature] DON COUSENS, MAYOR

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

SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2001-148

In the Town of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, property description as follows:

LOT 9, PLAN 65M-2761
TOWN OF MARKHAM
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2001-148

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The John Robinson 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 4 Wismer Place, Markham Heritage Estates was originally located at 9924 Kennedy Road, where it is believed to have been built by John Robinson circa 1850. John Robinson was a farmer from Markham Township. He was born in 1799 and was married twice, first to Julia Ann Stiver and secondly to Margaret Telford. Robinson is documented as having eight children: Thomas, William, Elizabeth, Isabella, Margaret, Abigail, Hannah and Eleanor.

John Robinson may have had some connection with the prominent Robinson families of Markham Village and Thornhill, however, no direct link has been determined.

According to Markham 1793-1900, a John Robinson was a leading Reformer and supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie. On February 6, 1834 Robinson is listed among the attendees at a political meeting at Hunters Tavern on the 6th Line, Unionville who signed a petition in protest against the continued expulsion of MacKenzie from the legislature.

Robinson evidently took part in the Rebellion of 1837. Records show that on February 21, 1838, he was arrested by the authorities and tried. His sentence was three years confinement in Kingston Penitentiary and then banishment. As with many other rebels, the passage of time weakened the desire of the authorities for punishment and it is therefore likely that the banishment never occurred.

According to the 1851 Census, a John Robinson was operating a blacksmith shop in Headford, three lines immediately to the west of the Robinson Farm. Given the close proximity between the farm and the shop, it is possible that these John Robinsons are one and the same.

According to the Abstract Index of Deeds, Robinson purchased the property on Lot 20, Concession 5 in 1848 from William Whiteoak. Whiteoak had purchased it four years earlier from Frederick Koepke, one of the original Berczy settlers. It is believed that Robinson was actually renting and farming in the area earlier than 1848, since he is listed on Lot 20, Concession 6 (also acquired by Robinson) in the 1837 Commercial Directory.

According to the 1851 Census, and John Robinson's will, the Robinson Homestead, a one-storey brick home, was located on the eastern quarter of Lot 20, Concession 5. This house is believed to be the house at 9924 Kennedy Road. The structure appears in the 1853 and 1860 maps of Markham Township.

The property remained in the Robinson family until 1894 when it was sold to Peter and Evelina Harper.

In 1999, the house was saved from demolition by [REDACTED], who had the building moved to the Markham Heritage Estates Subdivision. The house is presently undergoing restoration.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 4 Wismer Place was originally built as a one storey, red brick regency cottage with a five bay facade, a low, hipped regency roof and set upon a substantial fieldstone base. The cottage is believed to have been built with 6/6 windows, with louvered wood shutters, painted green. Decorative yellow brick quoins are also found on the building. At some point in the late 19th Century, a full width veranda was constructed on the front facade. Although later removed, the house originally had sidelights and a transom around the central doorway on the front facade. The original roof cladding was likely wood shingles. A historical photograph of the house taken, c.1900 shows that the house originally had four substantial brick chimneys.

In about the 1950s the house was extensively modified. At that time an addition was built to the rear and it is assumed that the renovations were done to bring a consistent "modern" look to the house.

Modifications in the 1950s included: the addition of cement stucco cladding over the entire brickwork; the realignment of windows and doors on the Kennedy Road facade; the addition of a door on the north facade; and the cladding of the roof with asphalt shingles (originally these would have been wood). It is believed that the structure of the roof, although basically the same in shape to the original, was renovated at this time.

In 2000, the house was relocated to the Markham Heritage Estates Subdivision where Mr. Watt began the process of restoring the house to its original Regency Cottage appearance. Stucco was removed, windows re-opened and the roofline was reconfigured to the original specifications. Once fully restored, the John Robinson House will be one of the best examples of a Regency Cottage standing today in Markham.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 4 Wismer Place was originally situated at 9924 Kennedy Road in a typical rural Markham Township farmstead setting. The house was located in the immediate vicinity of the hamlet of Colty Corners. The Colty Corners schoolhouse is located at the immediate north-east corner of the property.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The owners of the property have agreed to allow the Town of Markham to designate the Alexander Brown House under the Ontario Heritage Act and register such title against the title of the lands.