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CULTURAL PROGRAMS  
HERITAGE & MUSEUMS UNIT

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMISSION  
*Clerk's Department*

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 29, PLAN  
65M-2761, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 12 ALEXANDER HUNTER  
PLACE, TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation  
Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9  
Attention: Ms. Nancy Smith, Sr. Administrative Clerk

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 12  
Alexander Hunter Place, 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 McKenzie-Gowland House is attached.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served  
on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days of December 24,  
1998.

Bob Panizza,  
Town Clerk  
The Corporation of the Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, Ontario  
L3R 9W3



## STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The McKenzie-Gowland House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical and architectural significance.

### Historical Reasons

The McKenzie-Gowland House was built c.1871 for Marshall McKenzie, his wife Martha and their family and stands as an excellent example of a Gothic Revival Style farmhouse.

Marshall McKenzie was a farmer who owned the land until 1884. He was married to Sarah McKenzie and had four children. Marshall McKenzie was the grandson of George and Mary Koepke, who arrived in Markham in 1793 with William Berczy. Given the style of the house and the increase in property value between 1871 and 1884, it appears that the house was built during the McKenzie's ownership of the land. The McKenzie family had been shown as tenants on the land since 1853 but they lived elsewhere (Con 5W, Lot 24). A building is seen on the property on the 1853 historic map, however, it appears to be located further to the north and west. The McKenzie family continued to appear as tenants on the property in the 1891 census, 7 years after their sale to Jonathan Gowland.

In 1884 the property was sold to Jonathan Gowland. Jonathan Gowland had been a resident of the area since 1843 when in the year of his birth, his father, Matthew Gowland purchased the western 50 acres of the east half of Lot 17, Concession 6, located south and opposite the McKenzie House. Until that time the family had been living in Vaughan Township. The Gowlands were original and active members of the Unionville Methodist congregation, which established a church at Hunters Corners (16th Avenue and Kennedy Road) in the 1840s.

Upon the death of Jonathan Gowland in 1891 the property at 9785 McCowan Road passed to his son Jonathan H. Gowland, while the family homestead went to his eldest son, James Gowland. James Gowland farmed the land for most of his life, he was an active participant in the community and served for a number of years on the Markham Fair Board of Directors. Jonathan H. Gowland passed away in 1935.

### Architectural Reasons

The McKenzie-Gowland House is an excellent example of a Gothic Revival styled farmhouse. Built of wood frame construction, with original tongue and groove board cladding, the house retains much of its original form and features.

The House is T-Shaped with a 3 bay facade and a central Gothic gable on the front facade.

The original windows on the house were segmental arched 2/2, double hung. These were replicated during the restoration of the house in the Markham Heritage Estates. The windows are surrounded by louvered wood shutters.

The wood front door is surrounded by sidelights.

In the gables there is elaborate gingerbread wood trim with a central decorative finial.

The house has a bell cast roofed front veranda which was restored according to an historic c.1930s aerial photograph and a marking in the wall.

On either end of the main gables are large corbeled top chimneys which have been restored to the proportions of the originals.

The house and verandas have wood shingle roofs.

The foundation is clad in fieldstone to represent its appearance in its original location on McCowan Road.