



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

---

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **[www.heritagetrust.on.ca](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca)**.

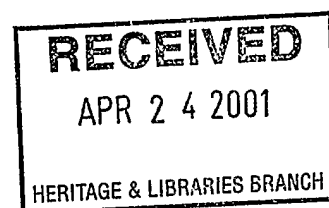
REGISTERED MAIL

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990,  
CHAPTER O.18;

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS  
12 WISMER PLACE, TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation  
400 University Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9  
Attention: Ms. Rita Caldarone



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 Wismer 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 Reesor-Jarvis House 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2001.

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

April 24, 2001

HERITAGE DESIGNATION PROPOSAL



**THE REESOR-JARVIS HOUSE**

12 Wismer Place, Markham Heritage Estates

Original Location: 8192 Reesor Road

Part lot 9, Concession 9

Hamlet of Cedar Grove

Prepared For: Heritage Markham

Prepared By: Michael Seaman  
Planner: Heritage and  
Conservation

## **STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

The Reesor-Jarvis 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 12 Wismer Place, Markham Heritage Estates was originally located at 8192 Reesor Road, where it is believed to have been built for Abraham and Martha Reesor circa 1855.

The Reesor family are among the most prominent of the Pennsylvania German Mennonite families which settled in Markham in 1804, when Peter Reesor (1775-1854) came to Markham. Peter was a descendant of Peter Risser, who arrived in Philadelphia, after travelling from the Canton of Bern, Switzerland, via the Rhine and the north-sea ports of one of the German states. After making the decision to move to Upper Canada, a majority of the Reesor family settled in the vicinity of the present day hamlet of Cedar Grove, which is centred at Reesor Road and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The property at Lot 9, Concession 9 was originally granted to James Hamilton in 1801. In 1826, Hamilton sold the 200-acre lot to Cyrus Badgerow. Badgerow sold half the lot to John Reesor in 1826 and the other half in 1831. In 1853, John Reesor Sr. sold the east half to John G. Reesor who sold to Abraham B. Reesor in 1867. In 1888, A.B. Reesor bequeathed the east half lot to Frank A. Reesor.

8192 Reesor Road was likely built c.1865 as the first house for Abraham and Martha Reesor. Abraham and Martha were married in 1863 and John Reesor, who lived in the house now known as 6937 Highway 7, sold this property to Abraham in 1867.

In 1875, Abraham Reesor built the red brick house now known as 7265 Highway 7 after acquiring the land (Lot 10, Concession 10) in 1874.

The 1881 Census lists Jonathan and Agnes (Reesor) Jarvis and their two children along with Albert and Agnes Jarvis at Lot 9 (east half), Concession 9. Agnes (Reesor) Jarvis is Abraham Reesor's cousin. They likely moved into 8192 Reesor Road when Abraham and Martha Reesor moved in to 7265 Highway #7.

The first confirmed identification of the house appeared in the 1878 Illustrated Atlas of York County.

The house remained in the Jarvis-Reesor Family for some time into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

From the 1940s to the 1960s the property was occupied by the family of Mrs. Lina Dimma. In the 1970s, the property was acquired by the province of Ontario as part of its acquisitions for the future Highway 407. In 2000, with the construction of the eastern section of Highway 407 through Markham, the house became threatened with demolition. The house was rescued and

preserved by [REDACTED], who had the house moved by Charles Matthews Ltd. to the Markham Heritage Estates subdivision, to restore it.

### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 12 Wismer Place is a 1½ storey, Gothic Revival Style, L-shaped farm residence built circa 1865.

The house is relatively narrow with a three bay front facade. It has segmental arched windows and a central peak with a standard, segmental arched, wood, double hung window. The windows on the house are of a 2/2 pane division.

At the time of the restoration of the house in 2000, the house was clad with horizontal vinyl siding. This was applied c.1990s over c.1940s insulbrick siding. At the time of the application of the insulbrick, the original siding was removed. According to Mrs. Dimma, owner of the property from the 1940s to the 1960s, the house was clad in stucco, over the original siding. The pattern seen on the exposed wall boards provides evidence that the original siding on the dwelling was a narrow, feather-edged clapboard siding. The original roof cladding on the house is believed to have been wood shingles.

The original front door is missing, however, this was likely originally a solid wood, four panel door. According to local, historical tradition, the house originally featured gingerbread in the front gable.

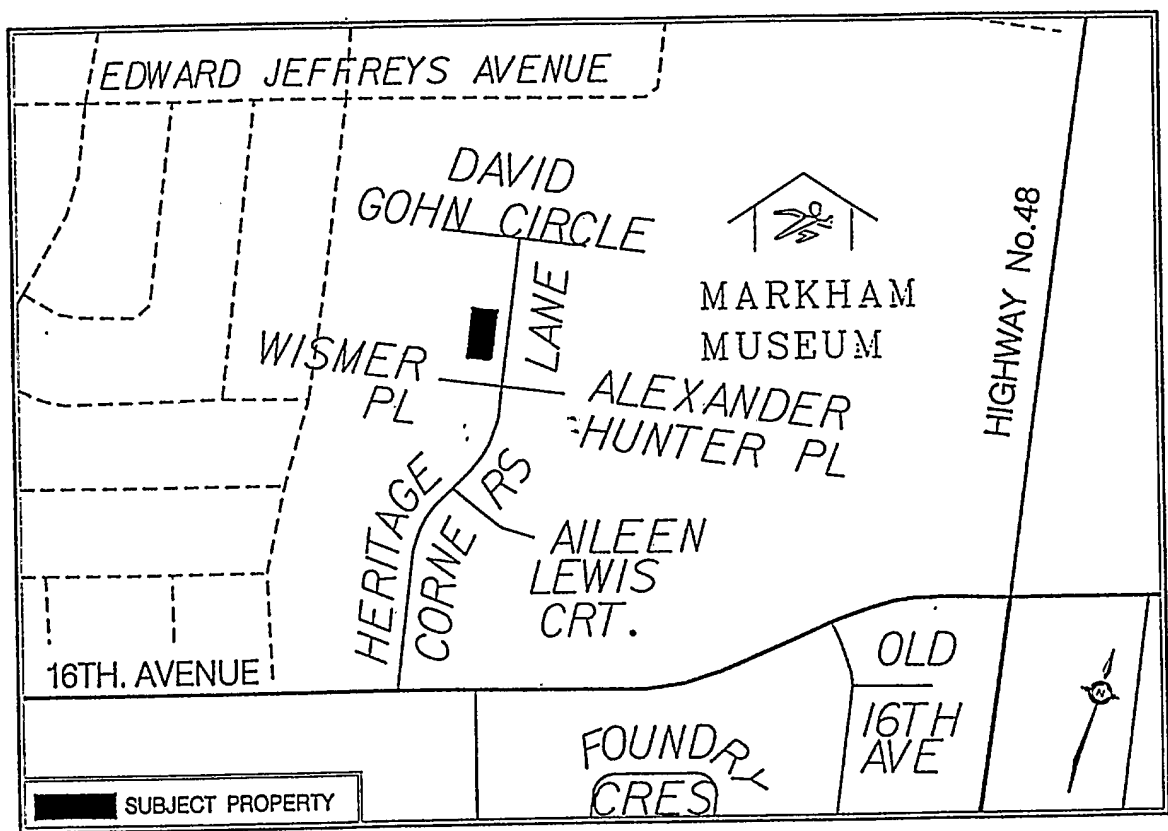
The right side elevation features segmental arched, double hung, 2/2 windows on the upper and lower levels. Towards the rear of the house on the right side is a peaked Gothic gable. The right side of the building is in the shape of an "L". According to verbal historical records, the right side of the building originally featured a typical, wood, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Gothic Revival Styled veranda. A second veranda was placed on the front elevation. An unusual feature of the right side elevation is the asymmetry of the upper and lower windows on the front wing. The house is believed to have originally had a chimney on the north side of the building.

The left side of the house features similar architectural detailing as the right side, with the absence of an indent section. While this side likely did not have a veranda, it was here that there was a small, one storey addition. Unlike the right side, the windows in the front wing of the house on the left side are aligned.

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

### SITE LOCATION



**BUILDING LOCATION**  
**12 Wismer Place**

## IDENTIFICATION

<u>Property:</u>	The Reesor-Jarvis House 12 Wismer Place
<u>Original Property:</u>	8192 Reesor Road
<u>Legal Description:</u>	Lot 13, Plan 65M-2761
<u>Owner:</u>	[REDACTED]
<u>Date of Construction:</u>	c.1865 (relocated 2000)
<u>Style of Architecture:</u>	Gothic Revival
<u>Type of Structure:</u>	Farm Residence
<u>Number of Storeys:</u>	1.5
<u>Exterior Wall Material:</u>	Originally wood siding (probably clapboard)
<u>Special Features:</u>	Gothic Revival Cottage, 3 bay facade 2/2 segmental arched windows