



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)**.



June 26, 2001

[REDACTED]  
12 Wismer Place  
Markham, Ontario  
L6E 1A8

Dear [REDACTED]:

Re: By-Law #2001-149 – To Designate Property as being of  
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest  
The Reesor-Jarvis House - 12 Wismer Place

This will advise that Council at its meeting held on June 12, 2001 passed By-law 2001-149, to designate "The Reesor-Jarvis House", 12 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

✓  
ll.  
July 13/01



## 2001-149

A by-law to designate a certain property as being of  
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest  
The Reesor-Jarvis 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]  
12 Wismer Place  
Markham, Ontario L6E 1A8

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate The Reesor-Jarvis House, located at 12 Wismer Place, Markham, and has caused such notice of intention to be published once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

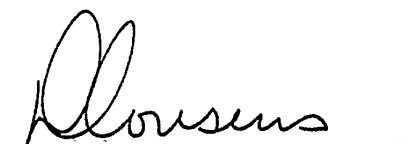
AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;


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 Reesor-Jarvis House  
12 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  
12<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2001.

  
SHEILA BIRRELL, TOWN CLERK

  
DON COUSENS, MAYOR

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

## **SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2001-149**

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

LOT 13, PLAN 65M-2761  
TOWN OF MARKHAM  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

## SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2001-149

### 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.