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CORPORATE SERVICES COMMISSION
Clerk's Department

NOV 8 - 2001

CONSERVATION REVIEW
BOARD

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 25 BURR CRESCENT, TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 7

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
400 University Avenue, 4th 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 25 Burr Crescent, 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 Burr House is attached.

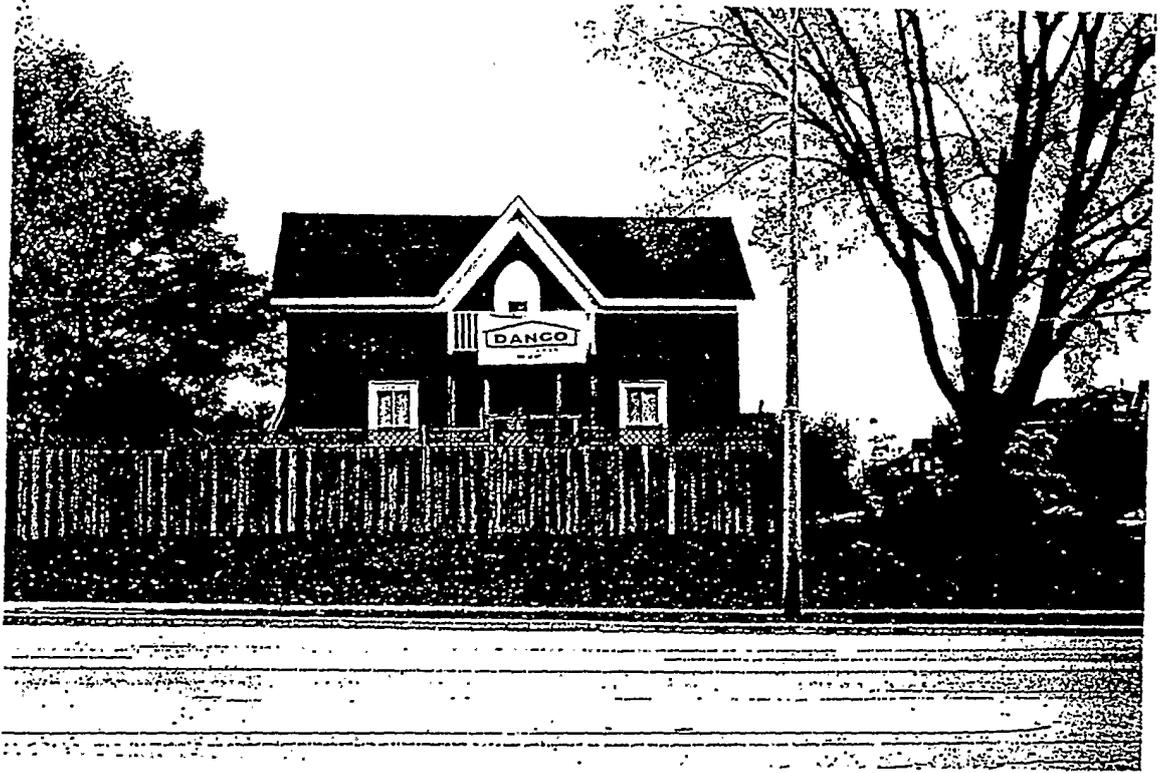
NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days, on or before 4:30 p.m. on the 6th day of December, 2001

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

November 6, 2001



DESIGNATION PROPOSAL



THE BURR HOUSE
25 Burr Crescent
Part lot 15, Concession 4
Hamlet of Buttonville

Prepared For: Heritage Markham

Prepared By: Michael Seaman
Senior Planner:
Heritage and
Conservation

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Burr House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical, architectural and contextual significance.

Historical Reasons

The house at 25 Burr Crescent was built c.1870 on land that had originally been granted to John Burhmeister in 1809. In the same year, the property was sold to John Button whose family would own the property for over 50 years.

John Button came to Canada in 1797 from Pennsylvania, U.S.A. with his wife Elizabeth Williams. He settled in the Buttonville area in the Fourth Concession in 1808 and soon acquired more than 200 acres on Lot 13, Concession 4, Markham Township. Captured by the Americans at York in 1813, Button had organised the first Regiment of the York Militia in 1811 and it became known as Captain Button's Troop of Markham Dragoons. A leading Tory, he was active during the Rebellion of 1837 and was appointed a magistrate.

The future hamlet of Buttonville was created in 1842 when Button subdivided the south-west corner of lot 14 into quarter-acre lots arranged along the 4th line and a back street (Buttonville Crescent East), with nine lots in all sold. Button discussed this project with his colleague, the Hon. Robert Baldwin in a letter dated September 4, 1842, giving as a fair price \$50.00 for the front lots and \$40.00 for those along the back street. Although closely associated with the Buttonville hamlet, the property at 25 Burr Crescent was located slightly outside the urban area on the north bank of the Rouge River.

In 1861, John Button died, survived by two of his seven children, son Francis and daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was married to Timothy Munro (Monroe). He was a member of John Button's cavalry troop. In 1837, he changed allegiance and joined Mackenzie's Rebels. Timothy was arrested in March 1838, but with the aid of his father-in-law's influence, was released by May. Evidently, Timothy Munro was forgiven by his family as he was named an executor of John Button's will.

On April 22, 1862, 72 acres of John Button's farm in Lot 15, Concession 4, came into the possession of Timothy Munro and wife Elizabeth. There were a number of subsequent transactions of the property as a result of the will, with the end result being the sale of this property to William Willmott for \$3700. William Willmott is believed to be related to Jackson Willmott, who built a house in the village, which still stands at 9001 Woodbine Avenue. It is thought that William Willmott built the property after 1870, but it is not known whether or not he actually lived there. It is possible that it was built and sold to the next owner of the property, William Burr.

On October 14, 1878 the property was sold to William Burr for \$5,800. The Burr family were active residents in the Buttonville community. William Burr lived until 1914 and during his time in Buttonville he was active in the school board, holding the position of secretary in 1883. He was also a supporter of the Methodist Church. The farm was passed to his son, Cline and wife

Gillian who were also active in the church and the Women's Institute. They hosted many garden parties, quilting bees and evening euchres.

William Burr's son's Russell and Newton took over the running of the farm after their father's death.

In 1979, the Burrs retired to Markham and sold the farm to Humbolt Properties. Until 1970, the Burr farm was known for its milk production and quality. The house now sits on its original site at the edge of a subdivision, north of the hamlet of Buttonville.

Architectural Reasons

Although altered in recent years, the building located at 25 Burr Crescent, continues to exhibit characteristics of a vernacular Gothic Revival style frame cottage from the 3rd Quarter of the 19th Century and represents the simple, functional tastes of the earliest European pioneers in Markham.

The house is a 1½ storey frame cottage built on a T-shaped plan with a Gothic gable facing the street frontage. It has a medium pitched gable end roof and is of wooden framed construction. According to an photograph, c.1990, the house was originally clad with narrow, feather-edge clapboard. The corners of the building were structurally and visually reinforced by vertical square timbers. In the 1990s the house was re-clad in board and batten siding. The c.1990 photograph also shows details of the original decorative wood front porch.

The house features an attractive front doorway with original sidelights and a transom. The windows on the house are original rectangular, wood, double hung with true divided lights and real muntin bars in a 2/2 pane division.

Contextual Reasons

The Burr House exhibits a strong contextual significance for its association with the historic hamlet of Buttonville. Together with the other frame houses in the vicinity, the house provides a sense of the former rural hamlet of Buttonville. The structure is an important contributor to the Buttonville Heritage Conservation District Study Area.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The owners of the property have agreed to allow the Town of Markham to designate the Burr House under the Ontario Heritage Act and register such title against the title of the lands as one of the conditions of a site plan agreement for the construction of an addition to the dwelling.

BUILDING LOCATION
25 Burr Crescent

IDENTIFICATION

<u>Property:</u>	The Burr House 25 Burr Crescent, Buttonville
<u>Legal Description:</u>	Lot 15, Concession 4
<u>Owners:</u>	
<u>Inventory No.:</u>	D5-1
<u>Assessment Roll No.:</u>	132-884-86
<u>Date of Construction:</u>	c.1870
<u>Style of Architecture:</u>	Gothic Revival - Vernacular
<u>Type of Structure:</u>	Farm Residence
<u>Number of Storeys:</u>	1.5
<u>Exterior Wall Material:</u>	Originally Narrow clapboard Presently Board and Batten
<u>Special Features:</u>	Gothic Revival Cottage Form and structure intact



The Burr House, 25 Burr Crescent, Buttonville



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