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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 26, PLAN  
65M-2761, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 26 DAVID GOHN CIRCLE,  
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 26 David  
Gohn Circle, 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 Warren Bishop 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 Warren Bishop House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical and architectural significance.

### Historical Reasons

The Warren Bishop House located at 26 David Gohn Circle, Markham Heritage Estates was originally located at 7850 Ninth Line, Markham, in the community of Box Grove. The house was relocated in the 1996 to the Markham Heritage Estates Subdivision.

The house was built between 1847 and 1870 on land owned by Joseph Tomlinson and was one of the earliest buildings built in the Village of Sparta (Box Grove).

The land on which the building was built was set aside in the original Township survey as a Crown Reserve. Crown reserves were established by Governor Simcoe in 1793 and encompassed 1/7 of the township area "for future disposition of the Crown". Although in other areas of the province Crown reserves remained unoccupied for some time, those in Markham, being in close proximity to York were soon leased. Lot 6, Concession 8 was leased by Peter Degeer (Deguire, De Guerre), on December 6, 1803.

Peter Degeer, a loyalist of Huguenot origin came to the Markham area with a number of his cousins from New York State where he was born in 1777. Peter Degeer, owned and leased a number of properties in Markham Township. In 1801, Peter received the Crown deed for lot 26, Concession 9, Markham and in 1803 he leased the Clergy Reserve lot 25, conc. 9. The DeGueers also owned part of lot 25, conc. 10, 1817-1832 (Mongolia).

In 1828 the land on Lot 6, Concession 8, along with all other crown reserves was turned over to King's College who eventually sold the lands for funding of the university. In 1838, the land on lot 6, Conc. 8 was sold to Joseph Tomlinson (1779-1868). Joseph Tomlinson arrived in Markham Township in 1803 when his father Joseph Tomlinson Sr. (born 1748) purchased lot 29, con 6. In 1815 Joseph purchased Lot 5, Concession 8. He did not live there initially, instead he rented the land to the Kirkham family who operated a sawmill, woollen mill and a shoddy mill (reclaiming fibres from old clothes to make new cloth). These mills began to attract people to the area and eventually the community of Sparta (Box Grove) became established.

By 1824 Joseph Tomlinson and his family had moved to their property in Sparta to reside and operated the mills. The community continued to grow, so in 1850 Joseph Tomlinson along with William Beebe commissioned a Mr. Gooseman and Mr. McPhilips to survey lots for a plan of the Village of Sparta, and on August 15 of that year they filed an application to register the plan for the village. Eventually a number of people and businesses came to locate in the village and in 1857 a post office was established. As there was already a post office with the name of Sparta in Canada West, a new name had to be found. Box Grove was eventually chosen after the thriving box making industry in the village.

It is believed that the house at 7850 Ninth Line was built c.1847 for the family of Edward McHenry, a cooper who had come to the village to work for the Tomlinson family, to make barrels for storing produce from their mills. The census of 1851 lists Edward McHenry as 79 years old, born in Canada, with "no religion" and married to Susan, age 54 who was also born in Canada. The two are listed as living in a one storey frame house. Evidently Edward McHenry passed away soon after the Census and Mrs. McHenry went to live with her son John McHenry, his wife Mary Jane and daughter Martha Jane on lot 28, conc. 10e in the vicinity of Stouffville.

The house that had been built for John McHenry was soon occupied by Warren Bishop and his family who had moved to the area from Unionville. Warren Bishop is listed as a clothier in the census of 1861, who was born in 1801 in the United States and was a member of the Baptist church. In 1861, Warren Bishop was married to the much younger Mary (McGeath), his second wife, who was born in Ireland in 1832. The Bishops had seven children, all born in Markham Township, Margaret, born 1849, William, born 1855, James, born 1857, Matilda, born 1859, Annie, born 1861, Samuel, born 1863 and Thomas, born 1866.

Erected three years before Joseph Tomlinson formally established the Village of Sparta, the house built for the McHenry family found itself straddled on 2 lots, (7 & 8 in Block C) when the Plan for the village was registered in 1850. It is believed that as a condition of assuming the tenancy of the dwelling, the Bishops were required to move the house entirely onto lot #8 of the plan where it stands today. As the Bishops had a larger family and needed additional space, the original one storey house would become the rear kitchen and the main part of the house was newly built to the east. By 1860 it is believed that the house had evolved into much the same form that it is seen today. It is believed that the house was built by the Bishop family with the aid of Charles Patten (Patton), the major contractor in Sparta at the time, who in later years went into business with three of Warren Bishop's sons Thomas, James and William.

Warren Bishop was a son of George Bishop of the village of Unionville, who had moved to the Unionville area of Markham Township from Pennsylvania with his wife Mary and children early in the 1800s. Little is known of George Bishop, except that he was of German origin and an active figure in W. L. MacKenzie's Reform movement in the 1830s.

George and Mary Bishop had another son, Avery Bishop, born in 1805 who kept an inn in Unionville during the middle part of the 1800s. Avery Bishop is of note as he was the great-grandfather of famed World War I flying ace, William Avery (Billy) Bishop, and it is after Avery Bishop that he was named. Avery's eldest son, Eleazar Bishop (born in 1832), a leather-worker by trade, was forced to leave Unionville in 1855 for Owen Sound when he eloped with Sarah Kilborne, a member of a local Loyalist family. Their youngest son, William Bishop was county registrar in Owen Sound, and eventually married Margaret Louise Green of Jackson's Point. On February 8, 1894 their third son was born, William Avery Bishop, who would go on to win the Victoria Cross and would be renowned for destroying more enemy planes than any other allied pilot in the First World War.

Warren Bishop was a clothier or cloth dresser by trade. Situated where he was adjacent to the Tomlinson woollen mill and fibre reclaiming mill, Bishop would have probably had some connection with these industries by producing finished clothing from the cloth that they produced. Evidently Warren Bishop was successful in his clothing business as he continued to work in the field for over 20 years.

By 1881 at the age of 79, Warren Bishop finally retired, and in the Census of that year he is listed as a "Gentleman" who was living in the house with his sons William, James and Thomas and daughter Anna. By that time, Warren was a widower, as his wife Mary had passed away at some point after 1871.

In the mid 1870s, William Bishop joined the contracting business of Charles Patten and together they built many of the houses and barns in the village. William was eventually joined in the business by his brothers Thomas and James, and after the retirement of Charles Patten they formed their own contracting business.

Though the Bishops had lived at 7850 Ninth Line since the early 1850s, it was not until 1877 that they actually owned the property. After the death of Joseph Tomlinson in 1868 the property was inherited by his eldest son, Emanuel Hiram (1815-1892) who was married to Lydia Richmond. He sold the property in 1875 to Isaac Quantz for \$67. Two years later he sold the property to Warren Bishop for \$100 who two months later sold the property to his son William Bishop.

Concurrent with their acquisition of Lot 8, the Bishops also acquired the property for the adjacent lot 7 on Block C in Sparta. Little is known of their use of this property but it is possible that a building was erected there which the Bishops used to store equipment for their construction business or possibly in earlier years as Warren Bishop's tailor shop. William Bishop was later married to a woman by the name of Anna and in 1905 they sold the property at 7850 Ninth Line to a Robert Clark. Descendants of the Clark family would own the property until 1993, however, over time, due to marriage, the name of the family that owned the house became Stoddart. The Stoddarts owned the property until 1993 when it was sold to Minto Markham Developments. The last Stoddart family members to own the house were William J.C. Stoddart and his wife Lorraine.

In 1996, the house was threatened with demolition as a result of road construction for a new development. The front section of the house was relocated to the Markham Heritage Estates Subdivision in September of that year, where it was restored and an addition was constructed to the rear.

#### Architectural Reasons

The Warren Bishop House is a good example of a vernacular village cottage, built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century with the influence of the Georgian Style in the former Markham Township.

Although the house was altered over the years, much of the original fabric remained. These features were revealed when the front part of the house was restored to close to its original appearance in 1996.

The house is 1½ storeys in height with a three bay facade and a central doorway. On the main part of the house all of the original 2/2 windows exist, as does the original wood door. On its original property, the house was believed to have been built in two stages to form an L shaped dwelling with a rear shed addition. Evidence suggests that the kitchen in the middle part of the structure (now demolished) was the original house built in 1847 which was later moved several feet northward onto lot #8 of Block C on Plan 19. The main part of the house which faces the Ninth Line was likely built between 1860 and 1870. The house sat on a foundation of local fieldstone. Two original chimneys existed on the south side of the main part of the house and at the rear of the kitchen wing.

Alterations to the house that were evident prior to the relocation in 1996 included the addition of aluminium siding over vertical wood siding; the replacement of the original roofing material (likely wood) with asphalt shingles; the extension of the kitchen wing to the south, filling in what would have likely been a porch, removal of the front porch and the addition of a modern chimney in the kitchen addition.

In 1996 and 1997, the original vertical wood siding was exposed, the front porch was reconstructed, based on an outline that existed on the wood siding beneath the aluminium siding, the original doors and 2/2 windows were refinished, a wood shingle roof was installed and a chimney constructed on the east gable. Although a substantial brick addition was constructed at the rear of the house in its new location, the house remains a good example of a modest Georgian cottage house from the community of Box Grove.

Since Charles Patten was the major builder in the area at the time, and in later years a partner in the contracting business with three of the Bishop brothers, it is believed that the house in its current form was built by Charles Patten with the assistance of either or both the McHenry and Bishop families.