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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 PART OF LOT
16, CONCESSION 7, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 28 DAVID GOHN
CIRCLE, MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation
77 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

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 28 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 Richard Lewis House is attached.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served
on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days of January 22nd,
1997.



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 Richard Lewis House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical and architectural significance.

Historical Reasons

The Richard Lewis House was built c.1850 for the family of Richard Lewis on Lot 30, Concession 4 in the vicinity of the village of Gormley.

Richard Lewis was the operator of a General Store in the village of Gormley. Lewis was the son-in-law of Christian Steckley, an ordained Tunker Minister who leased the Clergy Reserve property at Lot 30, Concession 4 from the Crown in 1803 (The Tunkers were related doctrinally and historically to the Mennonites). In 1843 Richard Lewis purchased all 200 acres from the Crown.

Unfortunately, Richard Lewis was killed while blasting the stone for the foundation of his house, so the structure was completed by his son Joseph.

In 1875, the west 100 acres of Lot 30, Concession 4 upon which the house stands was purchased by William Francey, who was married to Jane Gormley, daughter of the Postmaster for whom the village of Gormley is named. The house and acreage remained in the Francey family for over 100 years. The Francey's were well known and successful in the area, operating a store and a large hotel in Gormley.

William Francey was also a blacksmith, noted for his great skill and practised his craft at his shop in Gormley. Mr. Francey's blacksmith tools and account books showing the birth-dates of his children are now at the Markham Museum.

The property is well known for the large Pennsylvania German style barn that was once situated on the Lewis-Francey Farm. In 1975, this fine hand-hewn barn was dismantled, numbered and shipped to its new site at the Riverdale Farm site in Toronto.

In 1988 the Richard Lewis House was designated under part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. In 1995, after years of abandonment, the Richard Lewis House was relocated to 28 David Gohn Circle at the Markham Heritage Estates, where it was carefully restored by its present owners.

Architectural Reasons

The Richard Lewis House is a 1 1/2 storey red brick farmhouse and is an excellent example of a brick Ontario Cottage with Regency and Classical Revival Influence.

The house has a rectangular plan, three bays wide and two bays deep, and rests on a fieldstone faced foundation. The house is constructed of red brick in a Flemish bond pattern with contrasting buff brick used in the quoin pattern on the corners of the building and in the decorative pattern on the facade.

The roof is a medium pitch gable trimmed with generous returned eaves and a moulded frieze and soffit. Typical of the style are the two chimneys reconstructed according to the original patterns, symmetrically placed at either end of the house.

The typical window on the house is a double hung 6/6, with radiating voussoirs in buff brick.

The facade faces north, and features a decorative pattern of buff brick just below the cornice. The centrally located entrance has partial sidelights, below which are detailed moulded lower panels. Centred above the main entrance is a small 4/4 window just below the roof-line. All other windows on this elevation are 6/6 double hung.

The west elevation has four symmetrically placed 6/6 windows with radiating voussoirs. The second storey windows appear to be slightly smaller than those used on the first storey.

In its original location the house stood on a stone foundation. In 1993, the Richard Lewis House was relocated to the Markham Heritage Estates Subdivision where it stands today at #28 David Gohn Circle.