



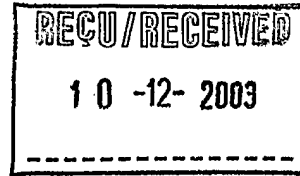
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Clerk's Department
Corporate Services Commission,

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 WEST 1/2 LOT 16,
CONCESSION 9, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 7006 16TH AVENUE, TOWN OF
MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3
Attn: Catherine Axford, Chairman's Executive Assistant

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 7006 16th Avenue, 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
William Grant 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 8th
day of January 2004.

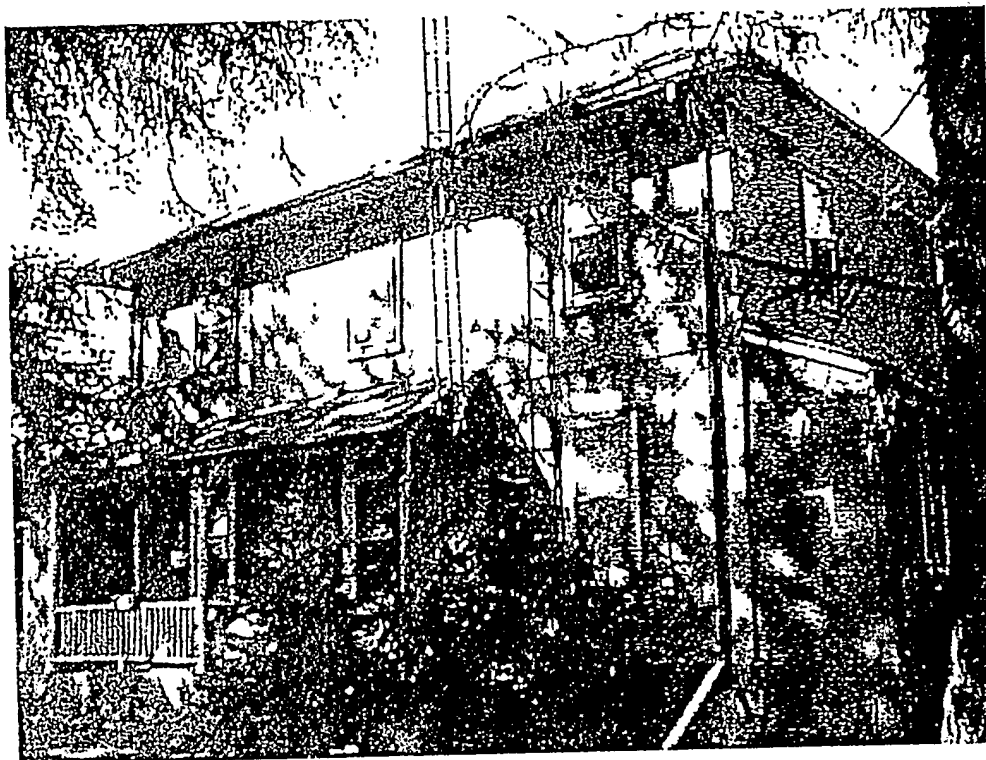
Sheila Birrell, Town Clerk
The Town of Markham
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

December 9, 2003

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DESIGNATION REPORT



William Grant House
circa 1884

7006 Sixteenth Avenue
W1/2 Lot 16, Concession 9

Prepared for: Heritage Markham
Prepared by: George W. J. Duncan
October, 2003

William Grant House

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The William Grant House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value and interest containing the following heritage attributes:

Historical Attributes

Lots 16 Concession 9 was originally a Crown Reserve lot, leased to John Scheffer in 1813, then deeded to King's College (the forerunner of the University of Toronto) in 1835.

George Miller (1796-1880), a native of Dumfries, Scotland, purchased 150 acres of this 200 acre Township lot in 1839. Local history records that he arrived in Markham in 1832. "Rigfoot Farm" was expanded by another 150 acres in 1840 with the purchase of the larger portion of Lot 17, Concession 9, the adjoining property to the north. Miller, a noted cattle dealer and stock breeder and prominent member of the Home District Agricultural Society, became the owner of several hundred acres in this concession block and the surrounding area. His two storey mud brick home, built in 1839, still stands on the east side of Lot 16, fronting on the 10th Line. In addition to his agricultural pursuits, George Miller owned a sawmill on the Rouge River, and according to Nason's Directory of 1871, served as a Justice of the Peace.

George Miller and his wife, Catherine Somerville, had several children. His eldest daughter, Mary, married Simon Beatty. Their daughter, also named Mary, was raised by her grandparents after her mother's untimely death in 1862. Her father, Simon Beatty, moved to Pickering Township after his wife's death, then returned to Scotland, where he died in 1888. In 1879, George Miller gave 80 acres of the west half of Rigfoot Farm to his unmarried granddaughter, probably to help provide for her future. The parcel consisted of equal portions within Lots 16 and 17, Concession 9.

Mary Miller Beatty (1860-1892) married William Grant (1854-1929) in 1884. They built their farmhouse on the land gifted from Mary's grandfather. William and Mary had three children, Catherine, Bella and William. The 1891 census records that they resided in a two storey frame house containing 8 rooms. Unfortunately, Mary died in 1892, and William remarried. His second wife was named Isabel. William Grant sold the property to Wellington Goodwin in 1928. In 1946, the executors of Wellington Goodwin sold the farm to Allan Muirhead, and in 1950, Clarence Muirhead was the next owner.

Architectural Attributes

Architectural Description:

The Grant House is a stuccoed, two storey frame building with a cubic plan. The building is oriented to face south, with a 3-bay front. Openings on the other sides of the building are positioned asymmetrically. There is a one storey kitchen wing on the west side, and remnants of a wrap-around verandah on the south and east sides. The kitchen wing is offset to the front, allowing a gable-end entry off the front porch.

The stucco finish has a smooth texture, and is marked off in blocks in an imitation of ashlar stonework. The lines that mark the coursing are raised. Faux lintels with keystones are found over the door and window openings, and there are remnants of large-scale quoins visible in areas that have not been repaired. The decorative accents associated with the stucco are light grey in colour, while the stucco itself is sand colour.

The wood front door has horizontal "ladder" panels and a flat-headed transom light. It is centrally placed on the façade. The sash style wood windows are flat-headed, with a one over one glazing pattern. The wood window surrounds have a square-edged backband and have projecting wood lugsills.

The pyramidal roof has a wide overhang with closed eaves and narrow tongue and groove wood soffits. A single-stack red brick chimney is located on the north slope.

The shed-roofed verandah is supported on turned wood posts, with small-scale fretwork brackets. There is clear evidence that the verandah once wrapped around the complete south and west sides of the house.

Stylistic Analysis:

At first glance, the Grant House looks like an American Foursquare style dwelling of the early 20th century, but when its architectural details are examined, its late 19th century origin becomes apparent. The turned verandah posts, fretwork brackets, door and window treatment, and ashlar stucco wall finish are consistent with the *circa* 1884 date of construction suggested by the historical research.

Stylistically the Grant House represents a simple, vernacular interpretation of the Italianate architectural style, a mode of building that enjoyed considerable popularity in Markham Village and vicinity during the latter half of the 19th century. Italianate, along with Gothic Revival, were prominent "Romantic" architectural styles in Ontario from the 1860s to the 1890s. They were promoted by the means of pattern books, builder's manuals and journals such as *The Canada Farmer*.

While the Grant House has the cubic form, hipped roof, wide overhanging eaves, and tall, narrow windows characteristic of the Italianate style, its wrap-around verandah and lack

of decorative soffit brackets or arched window heads contribute to a decidedly vernacular character. In contrast, the ashlar stucco treatment alludes to a more sophisticated interpretation of the style. An element that is missing from the building as it currently stands are the original chimneys, which would have added to the grandeur of the Grant House in the rural landscape.

Contextual Attributes

The Grant House is located on its original site, facing 16th Avenue. It is surrounded and well-screened by coniferous trees, however when it was first built, with its light-coloured stucco and two storey form, it must have enjoyed a prominent place in the rural landscape. Although this house was part of a working farm, no outbuildings survive.

From an historical standpoint, the Grant House, with its ashlar stucco and allusions to a high-style Italianate house, represents the aspirations of William and Mary Grant as they began their married life on a part George Miller's impressive "Rigfoot Farm" estate.

Significant Heritage Attributes

- two storey, cubic form;
- ashlar stucco exterior wall finish with quoining and lintels;
- remnants of the shed roofed, wrap-around verandah supported on turned wood posts ornamented with fretwork brackets;
- wood front door with transom light;
- one over one wood sash windows with wood surrounds and projecting wood sills;
- hipped roof with wide overhang and wood soffits, fascia and associated mouldings;
- single-storey kitchen wing on the west side of the building.