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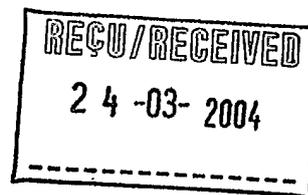
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March 23, 2004



Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Re: By-law 2003-152- To designate certain properties as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest – The John Noble Raymer House

This will advise that Council passed By-law 2003-152, which designated "The John Noble Raymer House", 7124 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest.

A copy of the by-law, with the pertinent registration data, is attached for your information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheila Birrell".

Sheila Birrell  
Town Clerk

A handwritten date "9/15/04" circled in a hand-drawn oval. Below the date is a checkmark and the initials "RA".



## BY-LAW 2003-152

A by-law to designate a property as being of  
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest  
The John Noble Raymer House

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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:

ONTARIO REALTY CORPORATION  
FERGUSON BLOCK, 11<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
77 WELLESLEY STREET WEST  
TORONTO, ON, M7A 2G3  
Attention: Mr William Gerrard  
Environmental Manager

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate The John Noble Raymer House, 7124 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue having a general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designations 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 properties, 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 John Noble Raymer House,  
7124 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
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 properties described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the property Land Registry Office.

READ A FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS  
27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2003.

"Sheila Birrell"

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SHEILA BIRRELL, TOWN CLERK

"Don Cousens"

\_\_\_\_\_  
DON COUSENS, MAYOR

## **SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2003-152**

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

PART LOT 6, CONCESSION 9

TOWN OF MARKHAM  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK



## SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2003-152

### STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION:

The John Noble Raymer 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

The house located at 7124 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue was built c.1870 by John and Christina Raymer on property which was originally patented by Andrew Thomson. It appears that Peter Stover was residing on the property in 1809, but did not receive the title to the full 200 acres until Nov. 1810. By 1819 the property had been divided into two parcels a 140 acre parcel on the east part and the remaining 60 acres on the west part. The west part was further divided into a smaller 36 acre parcel which went to Anne Mapes and Elizabeth Hamilton in 1818. This west part became quite significant in the history of Box Grove, also known as Sparta, for most of it was sold to William Bebe who along with others divided the parcel into village lots. It appears that at sometime in its early history the lot was again divided, but this time into three parcels which included the west part, the centre part (containing what was sometimes referred to as the west part of the east part) and the east part. John Mapes purchased 45 acres in 1836 from his father Joseph Mapes and in 1845 he purchased a further 28 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> acres from his brother William Mapes, this acreage consisting of the centre part of Lot 6, Concession 9. The George McPhillips map of 1853 indicates John Mapes residing on this parcel. Tremaines Map of 1860 clearly illustrates a structure on the John Mapes property in the vicinity of the current house.

In 1865 the Mapes property, consisting of the centre part of 60 acres, was sold to Samuel Reesor for \$4000.00. Samuel (1817-1901) was the son of Peter Reesor, who with his father operated lumber and flour mills along the banks of the Rouge River. He gave generously to the missionary programs in his church and donated land to build the Mennonite Meeting house and the adjoining cemetery. It seems that Samuel and his wife Veronica Browsberger did not reside on this particular property, but may have purchased it for their eldest daughter Christina after her marriage.

Christina Reesor (1841-1923) was married to John Noble Raymer (1836-1874) in 1861.

In 1866 John went to Evan's Mill, New York to observe the methods of cheese making and the type of building best suited for it. On his return, he built and operated one of the first cheese factories in Ontario. Located to the west of the Mapes dwelling it is clearly indicated on the Cedar Grove community map. The Markham map of 1878 illustrates the John Noble Ramer house set back from the road and to the west of the cheese factory. He did not buy milk from the farmers, but instead was paid 2 cents a pound for making and curing the cheese. When the factory closed each fall the farmers took their cheese home and sold what was not needed for their own use. Later John and his brother Martin established another cheese factory in Unionville. At the age of 37, John died of smallpox and Christina continued to operate the cheese factory in connection with the farm until she raised her family.

In 1905 Christina Raymer sold the remaining 50 acre parcel to Thomas Rainey.



### Architectural Attributes

The house located at 7124 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue was constructed c.1870. This well preserved dwelling is 2 storeys and of red brick stretcher bond with buff brick quoins and voussoirs. The house is based on an "L" shaped plan 4 bays by 2 bays deep and sits on a fieldstone foundation. The rectangular window openings are of a 2/2 pane division with plain wood trim and lugsills.

There is a one storey bay window on the gable ends with plain wood trim. The roof is a medium pitch gable with plain boxed cornice. The front entrance is centrally located on the front façade with sidelights and fan transom. The existing verandah is one storey in enclave with a shed roof supported by substantial brick columns. There is an addition to the rear of the main part of the dwelling.

### Contextual Attributes

The John Raymer house is of significance for its association with the historic rural farming community in the area of Box Grove and Cedar Grove. Together with other residences in the area it is a reminder of some of the early families who established industries to support the farming community in the south part of Markham Township.

### Significant Heritage Attributes

1. All wood windows on all elevations;
2. The original footprint and form of the structure;
3. The fieldstone foundation;
4. The original roofline;
5. All original exterior doors and storm doors on the south and east elevation.
6. The form of the front verandah;
7. The existing red and buff brick.

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