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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 8,
CONCESSION 10, (WEST HALF), KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 8119 REESOR ROAD,
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 8119 Reesor Road, 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 Harding 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 22nd day of November, 2000.

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

October 24, 2000

DESIGNATION PROPOSAL



THE WILLIAM HARDING HOUSE

8119 Reesor Road
Lot 8, Concession 10 West half
Community of Cedar Grove

Prepared For: Heritage Markham

Prepared By: Michael Seaman
Planner: Heritage and
Conservation

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

Historical Reasons

The William Harding House was built c.1853 by a John Laughlin, a farmer on the outskirts of the community of Cedar Grove.

The recorded history of the property dates back to 1803 when John McBeath received a Crown Grant for Lot 8, Concession 10. McBeath leased the property Wm. Harley and then sold it to him in 1821.

In 1831, Harley sold the property to Ira White, who was a prominent businessman in Unionville and owner of the Union Mills. Given the fact that his primary business dealings were in Unionville, it is likely that Mr. White did not reside on the property. In 1853, White sold the property to Francis Major. Soon after it was sold again to John Laughton (Laughlin).

The 1851 Census lists three buildings on Lot 8, Concession 10. Joames Tran's two storey brick home (likely on the east half), Thomas Boyd's one-storey frame house and a one-storey log home occupied by William & Elizabeth Strans and Isabella (age 40) and James Riddle (age 9).

According to the Census of 1861, Laughlin was a farmer of Irish origin who lived on the property with his wife Mary Ann and their five children. John and Mary Ann were married in 1860 and Mary Ann was his second wife. The Laughlin's were members of the local Wesleyan Methodist Church.

In 1864, Laughlin sold the parcel to William Harding. According to the deed, Harding was a farmer from Whitchurch Township. The 1866 and 1892 Directories list William Harding at Lot 8, Concession 10 and James Riddle is listed as a tenant on the 1871 and 1892 Directories.

Mary, wife of William Harding who died April 25, 1866 at age 58 years is buried in the Locust Hill Cemetery.

In 1893, William Harding deeded the property to Mary Riddle (wife of James) in exchange for the assumption of a mortgage as well as a life lease for \$1.00 per year on the property for William's use.

The 1881 Census lists James Riddle and family at Lot 8, Concession 10 west. James' wife is Mary nee Harding (likely William Harding's daughter) and was born in England. James Riddle's 8 children were all born in Ontario. The family members are listed as Canadian Methodists.

William Harding owned the property for almost 30 years and likely occupied it as a retirement home for sometime after 1893.

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The Regional Assessment Office lists the date of construction as 1850 (estimated). Given the date of purchase and Census data, the house was likely to have been built by John Laughlin c.1853.

Architectural Reasons

The William Harding House, built c.1853 is a good example of a vernacular, mid 19th Century farmhouse built with the influence of the Gothic Revival Style.

The house is 1 ½ storeys in height, and features a 3 bay facade. The house was originally clad in vertical, tongue and groove wood, which is still extant beneath mid-20th Century insulbrick.

The original windows on the house were rectangular 2/2, double hung. Most of these windows have been replaced.

The original chimneys on the house were of local brick with an elaborately corbelled top. One of these chimneys remains on the rear wing of the house.

A main feature of the house is the front, hipped roofed veranda with decorative posts and brackets.

Contextual Reasons

The William Harding House is of contextual significance as an important reminder of the historic agricultural tradition of Markham Township and as a contributor to the historic rural community of Cedar Grove.