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York

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 PART OF LOT 13,
CONCESSION 10, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 8949 REESOR ROAD, TOWN OF
MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Heritage Policy and Program Development Unit
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
400 University Avenue, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9

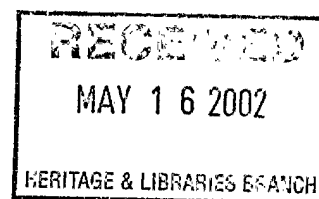
TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Markham intends to designate the property, including land and building, known municipally as 8949 Reesor Road, Markham, as a property of architectural and/or historic interest or value under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

A Statement of the Reasons for the Proposed Designation of The Locust Hill School 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 14th day of June, 2002.

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

May 14, 2002



DESIGNATION PROPOSAL



LOCUST HILL SCHOOLHOUSE
SCHOOL SECTION #21
8949 Reesor Road
Part Lot 13, Concession 10
Inventory # K5 - 11

Prepared for: Heritage Markham

Prepared by: Marie Jones

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Locust Hill School House, S.S. #21 is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical, architectural and contextual significance.

Historical Reasons

The schoolhouse located at 8949 Reesor Road was built c.1864 on the northwest corner of Lot 13, Concession 10 that had been originally granted to John Wurtz in 1802. In 1834 John Wurtz is listed as a reformer. In 1843, John granted the western $\frac{3}{4}$ of the lot (150 acres) to his son Elias Wurtz. The 1851 Census lists Elias Wurtz with his wife Mary and four children in a 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ storey frame building on this property. In 1857, Elias Wurtz sold the property to William Button who later the same year, sold the western 50 acres ($\frac{1}{4}$ of the lot) to John Pike who deeded an acre of land to the school trustees in 1881.

The original public school in this area stood on the west side of Reesor Road (Tenth Line) on Lot 15, Concession 9. In 1865 the school trustees sold this original structure for \$9.00. The school section elected William Button, William Reesor and John Pike as trustees to purchase land for the new school. In 1864 the one-acre site for the school was obtained from the western part of John Pike's property. The new schoolhouse was built the same year. It was not officially granted to the trustees until Aug. 31, 1881 when it was sold for \$100.00 (part W $\frac{1}{2}$ 1 acre)

Teachers at the Locust Hill School included Issac Pike (who taught at this location for one year before moving to the Bethesda school to teach for 45 years), Miss Annie Button, A. Stevenson, Joe Slater, Neil McKinnon and William Crosby. Some of the early trustees were William Jardine, David Tran, A.B. Reesor, A. Forster, William Armstrong, J. Lawrie, William Coakwell, D.B. Nighswander and F. Pike.

The school continued to be used until the 1960's when it was closed and was subsequently converted to a residence. It is presently non tenanted and is owned by The Ontario Realty Corporation, which purchased the property in the 1970's as part of the future airport lands.

Architectural Reasons

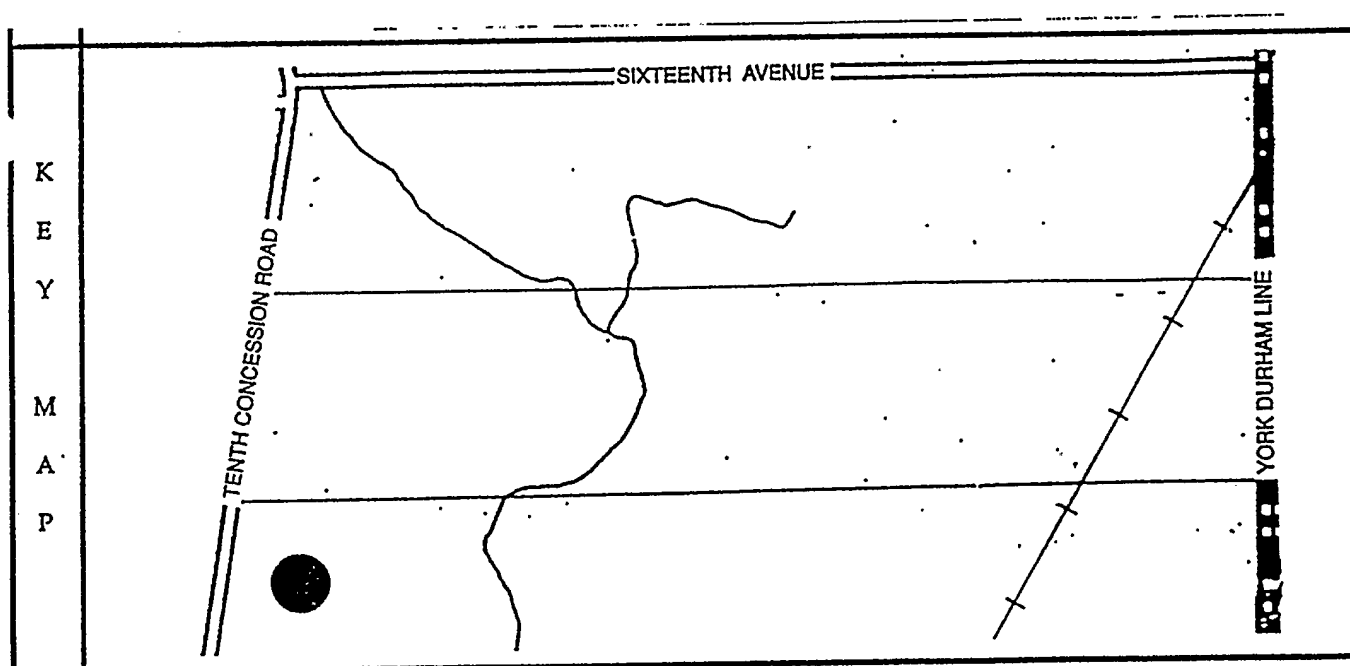
The 1864 schoolhouse was constructed of red brick with very ornate buff brick accents. The school is based on a rectangular plan facing west and set back well from the road. It was one storey high, three bays in length and three bays wide. The semi-circular windows and front entrance are surrounded by quoining which has been hidden by a coat of paint. The structure sat on a buff brick plinth and the corners of the structure had buff quoining as well. The medium pitched gable roof had returned eaves, moulded fascia, a narrow frieze and paired dentils. A date stone is located under the western gable.

The schoolhouse was altered in the 1960's when it no longer continued to function as a school. The exterior brick was painted and the windows were significantly changed to allow for a second storey conversion for residential use.

Contextual Reasons

The Locust Hill Schoolhouse, S.S. #21, served the community of Belford and neighbouring farmsteads. The actual name "Locust Hill" did not appear until after 1884 with the advent of the railroad. It appears that in plan and siting the design of the school seems to adhere to some of the popular educational principles of the 1860's, which included removal of the school from the community and the provision of ample playgrounds with shrubs and trees. The school is part of an area within Markham, which remains agricultural, and having numerous heritage buildings in the near vicinity. Although the structure has been altered it remains an important reminder of the significance of the one-roomed schoolhouse in the rural countryside of Ontario and is a landmark of the greater community of Locust Hill.

BUILDING LOCATION



K5 - 11

IDENTIFICATION

<u>Property:</u>	S.S. #21, Locust Hill Schoolhouse 8949 Reesor Road, Markham
<u>Legal Description:</u>	Lot 13, Concession 10
<u>Owners:</u>	Ontario Realty Corporation
<u>Inventory No.:</u>	K5-11
<u>Assessment Roll No.:</u>	257-516-00
<u>Date of Construction:</u>	c.1864
<u>Style of Architecture:</u>	Ontario Schoolhouse Architecture
<u>Type of Structure:</u>	Schoolhouse
<u>Number of Storeys:</u>	1
<u>Exterior Wall Material:</u>	Red brick with buff brick details (presently painted)
<u>Special Features:</u>	