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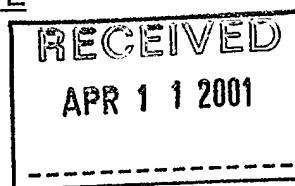
REGISTERED MAIL

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990,
CHAPTER O.18;

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS
8961 NINTH LINE, TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

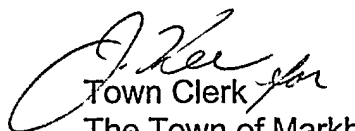
TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
400 University Avenue, 4th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9
Attention: Ms. Rita Caldarone



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 8961 Ninth Line, 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 Benjamin Marr 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 27th day of April 2001.


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

March 27, 2001

DESIGNATION PROPOSAL



THE BENJAMIN MARR HOUSE
8961 Ninth Line

Prepared For: Heritage Markham

Prepared By: Michael Seaman
Planner: Heritage and
Conservation

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

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

Historical Significance

The building at 8961 9th Line, is located on the west side of Lot 14, Concession 9, and was built c.1845 for the Marr family.

The original crown grant for the family was received by William Marr in 1809. The Marr family, which included brothers John, Joseph, Alem and William with their families as well as sister Mary (Polly) and widowed mother, Ann, left Pennsylvania in 1799 as a result of strained relations after the American Revolution. Their grandfather, Lawrence is claimed to have served with distinction as an officer in the British Army during the American Revolution. They first settled in the Niagara District and petitioned for land grants in Markham Township in November of 1801. They received recommendations for lots in the 9th Concession of Markham Township. The family sailed across Lake Ontario in a small schooner and landed at Little York on April 30, 1802. After a further two days travelling on foot through virgin forests, they reached their destination in Markham after a voyage of 14 days.

William's brother John received the original grant for Lot 13, Concession 9, while Joseph received the grant for Lot 12, Concession 9. The Berczy Census of 1803 lists Joseph Marr with his wife and 3 children on Lot 12, Concession 9 along with John Marr, his wife, and 4 children.

William Marr married Phoebe Earls and together they had 9 children: Anna (1797-1850) who married Francis Button; Joseph (1798-1885) m. Lucy Crosby; Benjamin (1802-1862) m. Eleanor Crosby; Mercy (1804-1878) m. Peter Willmot; Jacob (1806-1859) m Anna Button and moved to Reach Twp.; Alem (1808-1870) m. Susan Clarkson and ultimately settled near Ingersoll, Ontario; David (1801-1883) m. Mary Amanda Bice and moved to the United States; William (born 1813) m. Rosanna Clark and moved to McGillivray Township.

William Marr (Sr.) joined the Methodist Church in 1818 and was a very active member. He heartily welcomed itinerant ministers into his home and offered his house as a place of worship in the early days.

William served as a lieutenant in Capt. John Button's cavalry troop in the War of 1812. He was one of the first to volunteer in defence of the British institutions during the 1837 Rebellion although loyalties in his own family were divided.

Alem, William's fifth son, was charged with treason for his involvement in the 1837 Rebellion and fled to the United States. On January 3, 1839, William Marr and his other 6 sons petitioned Sir George Arthur, the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada for a pardon for Alem. Clemency was granted on January 30, 1839. Alem later returned to Upper Canada, settling in Elgin County, near Ingersoll.

In 1833, Benjamin Marr, William's second son, purchased 40 acres in the west half of Lot 14, Concession 9 from his father and an additional 35 acres in 1846.

Benjamin Marr married Eleanor/Ellen/Helen Crosby daughter of William Crosby and Jemima Remington in 1827. Their family included: James (born 1829) married Mary Jane Miller; Maria (1820-1878) m Richard Shoults and moved to McGillivray Township; Henry Crosby (1833-1911) m Mary Ann Brown; Jemima (1834-c.1860) m George Shoults Shaw and moved to Darlington Township; Sarah (1838-1905) m Edward J. Smith and moved near Streetsville; and Catherine (born 1843) m. William Sommerfeldt and moved to New York State.

Henry C. Marr, inherited the property after his father's death in 1862. His occupation was a grocer and feed merchant.

In 1887, Henry Marr sold the 75-acre parcel to John Isaac. The property changed hands several times until Frederick Bunker purchased it in 1918. The property remained in the ownership of the Bunker family until 1983, when Harvey Bunker passed away. Mr. Bunker bequeathed approximately \$550,000 to the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Fund.

All three historic maps of Markham Township (1853-54, 1860 and 1878) illustrate a dwelling at the location of 8961 9th Line on Lot 14, Concession 9.

The 1851 and 1861 Census Reports for Markham Township both list Benjamin Marr as living in a 2-storey brick house on the west half of Lot 14, Concession 9.

There are various interpretations as to the date of construction of this home. The on-line assessment information from the Region lists 1821 as the date of construction for 8961 9th Line. According to "Rural Roots", descendants have the original crown deed to the property dated, 1821. The date of the deed may have somehow been confused with the date of construction, however, this date for the deed is inaccurate as William's deed for Lot 14, Concession 9 was granted in 1809. It was his brother John's deed for the property to the south on Lot 13, Concession 9 that was awarded in 1821.

According to "Rural Roots", 8961 9th Line was constructed in 1845 by or for Benjamin Marr. The late Town of Markham official historian, John Lunau, provided an estimated date of c.1860.

The date of 1821 is believed to be too early given that the dwelling is constructed of bricks. Given that the home appears on three historic maps and is described on the 1851 census, the date of 1845 is likely the most accurate.

Architectural Significance

The Benjamin Marr House is a 2 storey brick house built c.1845 in the Georgian/Neo-Classical Style, with later 19th century additions to the rear.

The original house is substantial in size and construction for this period in Markham Township, and as such is a reflection of the importance of the Marr Family in the area.

The front of the building faces west and has a symmetrical 3-bay facade and an early 20th century veranda. The side elevations are typical Georgian gable ends with a substantial cornice and slight returns. The rear of the house was originally symmetrical like the front, until the lower south window was bricked over, and the later 19th century addition and early 20th century porch were added. A frame tail was later added to the rear addition which has an unusual cupola on the roof.

The windows on the building are wood, double hung with a 2/2 pane division and real wood muntin bars. Although likely well over 80 years old, the 2/2 windows on the original building likely replaced original multi-paned windows, which based on area precedents on similar homes (14 Ramona Street) probably had a 6/6 pane division. The windows on the addition are likely original.

An outstanding feature of the front facade is the central doorway, with delicate wood tracery in the sidelights and the transom. The original front door, now removed, was consistent with the 6-panel, solid wood doors to the rear. The front door is covered with a late 19th or early 20th Century storm door. The rear elevation of the original section of the house features an early Georgian 6 panelled door, covered with an early 20th Century wood storm door. Further evidence of the delicate wood tracery is found in the transom above the door. The addition features an early 20th Century 4 panelled wood door with a wood storm door of the same period.

The wood shutters presently on the facade are not original, however, based on area precedents, the house probably had traditional louvered wood shutters, 1/2 the width of the window and attached to the window frame by a hinge so that they could close over the window when needed.

The brick on the front facade of the house is laid in Flemish bond while on the sides and the rear it is laid in common bond. The rear tail addition is clad in a stretcher bond brick veneer. The brick is of a soft, pinky-red variety, made from local clays that was common in the early to mid 19th Century in Markham Township. The bricks above the windows and doors are angled in a traditional manner as voussoirs. The house is set on a coursed, split fieldstone foundation.

The roof is presently clad in asphalt shingles, but was originally clad in 3/8" taper-sawn wood shingles. On the north gable end there is evidence of an early 20th century external chimney and on the south gable end there is an internal chimney which although probably re-built in the 20th century, is a continuation of an earlier chimney feature.

Contextual Significance

The Marr Farmhouse is a significant contributor to the historic agricultural context of this part of Markham. The building is typical of the farmhouses built by the earliest settlers and as such is an important reminder of their contribution to the development and settlement of the area.