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17 -04- 2003

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMISSION  
Clerk's Department

REGISTERED MAIL

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

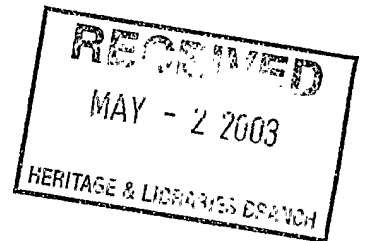
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES IN THE SOUTH PART OF LOT 23, CONCESSION 6, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 10379 KENNEDY ROAD, TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO:

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

Attention: 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 10379 Kennedy 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 Sommerfeldt Homestead 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 16th day of May, 2003.

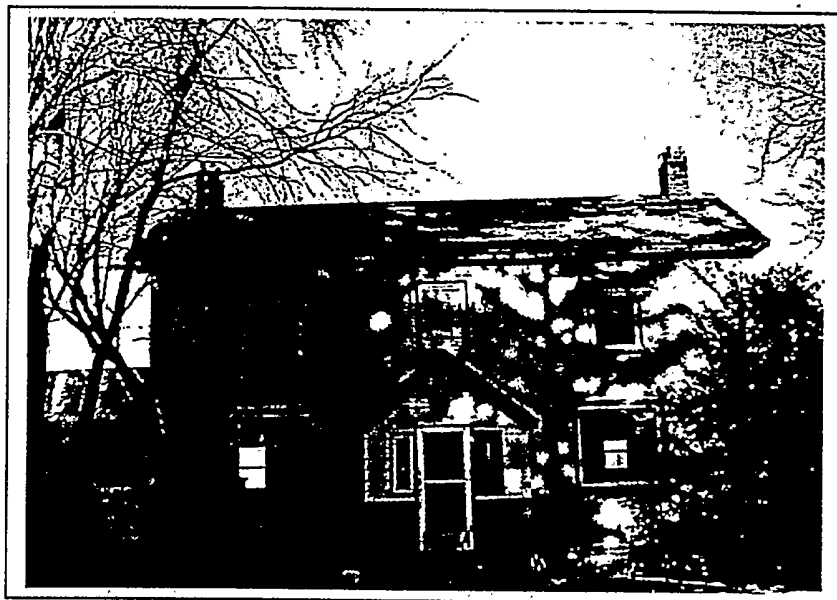
Sheila Birrell, Town Clerk  
The Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

April 15, 2003

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DESIGNATION REPORT



**THE SOMMERFELDT HOMESTEAD**

10379 Kennedy Road  
S. Part Lot 23, Concession 6

Prepared for: Heritage Markham

Prepared by: Marie Jones

## STATEMENT OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The Sommerfeldt Homestead 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 10379 Kennedy Road was built c.1840 by George Henry Sommerfeldt Sr. Although George's father, John Henry Sommerfeldt, drew Lot 23, Concession 9 in 1794, he did not officially receive the patent to the property until Feb. 11, 1831. Five days later, on Feb. 16, 1831, George Henry Sr. purchased the full 200 acre property from his father for 150 pounds.

John Henry Sommerfeldt, listed as 28 years old, was a passenger along with his wife and two children on the ship Catharina, which arrived in Philadelphia, after spending nearly three months at sea. The ship which carried some of the families of the original Berczy settlers left Hamburg in the spring of 1792. A baker by trade, it appears that John Henry played a prominent role in the organization of the settlers during their two year journey to Markham Township. Sommerfeldt had been a soldier with a unit of the Hanoverian troops employed by the British in India and had learned to converse in English, which made him an important asset to Berczy. It appears that he became a sort of quartermaster to Berczy, providing provisions to the immigrants who set out initially for the Genesee Tract in Upper New York State. It was John Henry who kept a fairly detailed diary, which is still in print, of his adventures on board ship and during his trek to Markham as part of Berczy's original group.

The Berczy Census of 1803 lists John Henry Sommerfeldt (1761-1832) with his wife Margaretha, (aged 42 years) and three children, Frederic, (14 years), George Henry 10 years) and Fredrica (6 years) as residing on Lot 23, Concession 6. In 1807, when relations between Great Britain and the U.S. had again become strained, men were recruited for the militia. John Henry Sommerfeldt was commissioned as Captain to organize and train a group of individuals within Markham Township.

The Summerfeldts were of the Lutheran faith and donated to the building of the first Lutheran Church, which was constructed in 1820 on Lot 17, Concession 6. The Reverend John Petersen arrived in Markham in 1819, by invitation from Pennsylvania, to claim the salary of 100 pounds to act as the minister for this new church building.

In 1831 George Henry, John's eldest son (often referred to as Henry), was living on this property with his wife Clarissa and their six children. In Feb. of 1831 the full 200 acre parcel was sold to George H. Sommerfeldt for 150 pounds. The census of 1851 indicates that there were actually three dwellings on Lot 23. A two storey brick house, where George Henry Sr. and his wife Clarice (Clarissa), and two of their children (George Jr aged 28 and Asa Henry aged 24) lived, a 1 storey slat house occupied by tenant Robert Duncan and family, and a log house (probably the earliest house belonging to Johan) on the east

side of the lot occupied by William Walker. George Sr. and Jr. are both listed as farmers in this census.

By 1856 George Sr. had severed off the south ½, 100 acres and sold it to his son George Jr. for \$2000. It was probably about this date that George Sr. built the red brick house on the N ½ of Lot 23 for his retirement. It appears that George Jr. remained in the original farmhouse on the S ½. George Sr. had also acquired the 100 acre property consisting of the E ½ of Lot 24, Concession 6. This parcel was sold, in 1856, to another son Asa Henry who after his father's death in 1869 assembled a larger parcel of land, which included part of the N ½ of Lot 23. Asa Henry was also an innkeeper at Cashel.

George Tremaines's map of 1860 notes George H Summerfeldt Jr. as owner of the S ½ of Lot 23 and George H. Summerfeldt Sr. as owner of the N ½. The Census of 1861 indicates that George Summerfeldt, a widower, was living here and George Jr. resided here also with his wife Margaret (Sanderson) and one child, Lemuel (there are separate entries for each family). George Sr. was married a second time after 1861 to Esther Davis. They were not married long for George died in 1869. As part of his will Esther seems to have inherited the N ½ of the Lot including the house in which she lived.

The Illustrated Historical Atlas (1878) indicates Mrs. Summerfeldt on the N ½ of Lot 23, (a building is shown at the front near the 6<sup>th</sup> concession) and George Summerfeldt as owner of the S ½, (a building is shown set back from the road). Both buildings are in the same approximate location at which they stand today.

During the next 100 years the property passed back and forth between descendants of John Henry Sommerfeldt and it was not until sometime in the 1970's that the N ½ eventually passed out of the family.

#### Architectural Attributes

The Sommerfeldt Homestead House is an excellent example of a two storey early Georgian home constructed c.1840. Rectangular in plan, the home has a medium pitch gable with plain wood boxed cornice and returned eaves. The exterior walls are of masonry construction, what appears to be red brick under a thin cladding of stucco, on a fieldstone foundation. The two interior end chimneys are located centrally at the east and west ends of the home. They are constructed of red brick.

Most of the existing windows are typical of a building built in the 1840's with 12/8 pane division and rectangular in shape having plain wood trim and lugsill. The upper storey windows are somewhat smaller than the lower storey. The two lower storey windows on the front façade were originally built as a regency style compound multi paned window, which are wider than the other windows on the façade. This is a unique feature for a two-storey Georgian house in Markham and provides a evidence of an earlier date of construction. At some point in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the multi-paned windows were removed,

although the opening which remains is original. On both the north and south gable ends there are two louvered shutter windows of a smaller size in the attic area.

The front entrance is centrally located, presently with an enclosed one storey porch, which is not original to the building. There are presently three frame additions to the structure, all of which appear to be of a newer construction. There is a one storey garage on the north end, a one storey room on the south end and at the rear a one storey addition.

A c.1900 photograph of the house as it was originally constructed, demonstrates that although the house has undergone some alterations, most are reversible and for the most part the house retains much of its original historic fabric intact.

#### Contextual Attributes

The Sommerfeldt Homestead is of contextual significance for its association with the historic rural farming community in the north of Markham. Together with other residences in the area it is a reminder of some of the original Berczy settlers who cleared this land to produce productive farmland. Together with the George Henry Sommerfeldt Sr. House, the Sommerfeldt Homestead provides an outstanding example of a residential agricultural grouping showing the evolution of the family farm over the years.

#### Significant Heritage Attributes

1. All wood double hung windows on all elevations;
2. All original exterior doors and storm doors on the west, east and south elevations;
3. The fieldstone foundation;
4. The original roofline;
5. The original footprint of the front part of the dwelling;
6. The brick chimneys;
7. The brick under the present stucco cladding.

## IDENTIFICATION

<u>Property:</u>	The Sommerfeldt Homestead 10379 Kennedy Road
<u>Legal Description:</u>	S. Part Lot 23, Concession 6
<u>Owners:</u>	
<u>Inventory Number:</u>	F3 - 2
<u>Assessment Roll Number:</u>	235-350- 00
<u>Date of Construction:</u>	c.1840
<u>Style of Construction:</u>	Georgian
<u>Type of Structure:</u>	Farm Residence
<u>Number of Storeys:</u>	2 storey
<u>Exterior Wall Material:</u>	Brick with stucco