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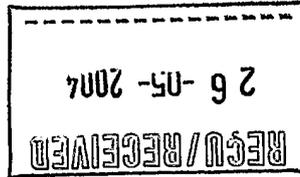


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Clerk's Department  
Corporate Services Commission

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 LOT 37, PLAN  
65M2761, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 6 AILEEN LEWIS COURT, TOWN OF  
MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3  
Attn: 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 6 Aileen Lewis Court, 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 Udell-  
Hamilton House & Lunau Barn, 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 24<sup>th</sup>  
day of June 2004.

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

May 25, 2004

8/11/04  
pc

## Historical Attributes

### **Udell-Hamilton House**

The house located at 7292 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue was constructed on the east half of land, which was originally a Crown Reserve Lot. Lot 31, Concession 9 consisted of 200 acres and was first leased by William Witter from 1805 – 1832. William Vanzant took over the lease until 1841 when the lot was divided into east and west parcels of 100 acres. John and Elizabeth (Stover) Hamilton received the patent to the E ½, 100 acres in 1841. The W ½, 100 acres was further divided into 2 lots, one 35 acres (E part of the W ½) and one 65 acres (W part of the W ½). Brown's Directory lists Abraham Hamilton (son of John Hamilton), Avery Miller (2 acre parcel owned by Joshua Miller Sr., his grandfather) and Matthew Udell (son in law of John Hamilton). The Census of 1851 lists Sinclair Holden's family living in a log house on the E part and his brother William with his wife Eliza, daughter of James Hamilton, living in a log house on the W part.

After John Hamilton passed away in 1844, his family further divided the East ½ of the 100 acre lot into north and south sections. The 50 acre parcel on the north was left to Abraham Hamilton and his wife Laura who raised a family here. It appears that Elizabeth (John's wife) relocated across the street to Lot 30 to live with her son's family and single daughter Elizabeth. John and Elizabeth's daughter, Mary and her husband, Matthew Udell received the grant to the south 40 acre parcel (west side), paying 100 pounds. The remaining 10 acres was sold in 1845 to Samuel Brillinger for 50 pounds, which he later divided into two lots, one 8 acres and the other 2 acres. In 1850 John Yakes purchased the 8 acre parcel on the corner of the junction and it appears that he may have operated a tannery on this site while owning a shoe and boot factory across the street on the north east corner.

Following the Rebellion of 1837 the period of the 1840's was a time of unrest. A group referred to as the "Markham Gang" was terrorizing the Markham and Pickering areas. Mathew Udell (1806 – 1848), whose family had been supporters of Mackenzie and the revolt, was identified as being a member of the Gang and had also been implicated in the earlier rebellion. In July of 1846 Mathew Udell was charged with forgery and was sentenced to five years of hard labour in the Provincial Penitentiary. Mathew died in jail on Sept. 1, 1848. He left behind his wife Mary and five children.

The Census of 1851 indicates that Mary Udell at the age of 45 was widowed and living on the property in a 1 storey log house with four children, Mary, Matthew, Susan and Abner (who was born the year Mathew went to jail). The George McPhillips Map of 1853 indicates two dwellings on Widow Udell's property. One which is located at the south west corner and another located at approximately the same location as the present house. An architectural investigation on the interior of the building supports the finding that the house was originally built as a one and a half storey frame, Ontario farmhouse structure at this period.

It appears that the majority of the Udell family sold out their remaining land holdings and relocated to Michigan and Wisconsin. The Census of 1861 lists the family of Jacob Long living in the log house and a second family, that of Matthew Udell Jr. with his wife Matilda residing in a 1 storey frame house.

In 1871, the 40 acre parcel was granted to Abraham Hamilton, grandson of the original owner John Hamilton, but by 1877 Thomas Hodgson had purchased the west part of the south  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 40 acres. If the second storey extension, bays and modifications were constructed prior to 1877, then Abraham Hamilton may have been the builder, but if it was constructed after 1877, Thomas Hodgson was most likely the builder.

### **Lunau Barn**

The Lunau Barn located behind the house at 5884 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue was believed to have been built c.1899 for Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Wismer of Mount Joy.

Elijah Wismer was the son of David Wismer Jr. and Mary Toman. David Wismer Jr. was born in 1807, one year after his father David Wismer, a Pennsylvania German Mennonite, had come to Canada from Pennsylvania, where he settled on a 500 acre farm.

Elijah Wismer was born in Markham in 1848. According to the 1881 Census, Elijah was a farmer, aged 33 on the property at Lot 16, Concession 7e in that year with his wife, Susannah (Strickler) aged 28 and their children Charles W. aged 8 and Ella, aged 5. Also living on the property was Ellen Caley, an Irish servant of the Wismer family.

Susannah Wismer was the daughter of Daniel and Christine Byer Strickler, whose Quaker ancestors came from Bern, Switzerland. They had arrived in North America from Holland in 1708 with a number of Palatinate Germans under the leadership of Conrad and Jacob Wismer. Initially settling in Pennsylvania, the family soon moved to Markham.

The Wismers (in Sarah's name) had purchased part of the east  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the property in 1878 from Daniel Strickler for \$2000. Strickler had began acquiring property on Lot 16, Concession 7 in 1849, when he purchased 50 acres from Alexander Hunter. Hunter in turn had obtained the Crown patent for the property in 1845.

In 1891, Elijah purchased a further 50 acres of the West  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the East  $\frac{1}{2}$  from Mary Wilson. It is presumed that Wismer, then aged 43, was acquiring the parcel to both establish their farm and plan for their retirement.

In 1899, the Wismers had an elaborate new frame house built in the then popular Queen Anne Style near the community of Mount Joy.

Elijah Wismer lived for over 20 years in this home, before passing on Christmas Day 1922, at the age of 75 at the home of his son in Toronto. According to his obituary, he had been confined to bed with an arthritic illness for much of the last 10 years of his life. Two years previous however, he was able to celebrate along side his wife, the 50<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of their marriage. By all accounts this was an eventful family reunion of the descendants of this early Markham Pioneer family, and was probably held at the homestead at 5884 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. His wife, Susannah passed away ten years later in 1935, when she was in her 82<sup>nd</sup> year. According to her obituary, Susannah Wismer was an active traveller in her later years, travelling five times across the continent to visit and reside with her children, who had settled in Alberta and the United States.

After the passing of the Wismer's, the farm on Lot 16, Concession 7, with its large bank barn and elaborate Queen Anne style house known as "Bonnie View", was acquired by the Lunau family, who themselves were descended from Joachim Lunau, a Markham Pioneer and Berczy settler. Despite the adversity of having a severe disability, diabetes, The Lunau's son, John, born in 1930, went on to become one of Markham's most well known citizens. In fact, in his later years he was affectionately known as "Mr. Markham" for his work in preserving and recording the history of the community.

From his boyhood years, John Lunau collected and recorded the history of the community from his family farm. He was later the driving force behind the establishment of the Markham Historical Society, of which he was first president and the Markham Museum, for which he was curator for almost two decades. From 1975 until 1987, John Lunau served as historical advisor to Heritage Markham (L.A.C.A.C.). In the late 1980s, John Lunau helped to establish Canada's first ever heritage subdivision for relocated heritage homes, when he and his mother Aileen sold a large portion of their property to the Town of Markham in order to establish the Markham Heritage Estates subdivision. His passion for history and heritage can be seen as a primary reason why Markham, despite its extensive growth over the past 50 years, has always retained a strong sense of its history and a desire to preserve its heritage.

John Lunau was also extensively involved with the Markham Fair, and was a long time trainer of the NHL Old-timers hockey team.

John Lunau passed away in 1993, after helping to plan the Markham Bicentennial Celebrations. His mother, Aileen (Lewis) Lunau, continued to live on the property until her death in her 92<sup>nd</sup> year, in 1999.

When the Lunau property became available for sale in 2000, the Town of Markham purchased the remaining Lunau parcel including the "Bonnie View" house and Lunau Barn in order to expand the Markham Heritage Estates Subdivision. The Bonnie View house, which is the subject of this designation report, was sold to a new purchaser, and is currently being restored to its original appearance, according to the guidelines of the Markham Heritage Estates Subdivision. The former Lunau private museum building was moved to the Markham Heritage Estates.

## Architectural Attributes

### **Udell-Hamilton House**

The house located at 7292 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue is a unique example of the Picturesque Style of architecture in rural Markham. The house originally began as a one and a half storey frame, Ontario Farmhouse, c.1850 It is the dwelling in this form that is identified on the 1853 map of Markham Township. The larger massing on the the present building appears to be of a style more popular during the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, indicating that it was expanded and enlarged to a full two storeys at some point in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The roof is of a medium pitch with double gable front with decorative brackets and shingles in the gable ends. The twin two storey projecting bays have an open porch between the upper storey windows with finely turned posts, bargeboard and ornate cut pickets. The front of the main house and the side additions are clad in vertical wood siding while the sides of the main house are clad in aluminum siding. The wood windows are rectangular with 1/1 pane division having plain wood trim and lugsills.

### **Lunau Barn**

The Lunau barn is a significant example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Bank Barn. The barn is of post and beam construction, with barn board cladding painted red. The original foundation was built on 3 sides with fieldstone The south side was clad in wood. The barn has a tin roof which is believed to be of a notable age. The barn features multi-paned wood windows in the lower level, sliding barn doors, and vertical wood doors. An earthen bank provided access to the barn's second level from the north elevation

### Significant Architectural Features to be preserved:

#### House

- Overall Built form;
- Paired bay windows on front elevation;
- All historic wood, segmental arched widnows;
- Original vertical wood siding;
- Second floor balcony with detailing;
- Porch posts;
- Side wing;
- Original main level front door;
- Original second level front door over balcony;
- Historic wood storm doors;
- Diagonal wood detailing and circle windows in gables;
- Wood brackets in gables;
- Wood window sills;
- Original historic interior wood trim and moldings throughout the house;
- Original historic interior wood doors throughout the house;
- Historic wood floors;
- Original garage wing to be reconstructed;

## **Barn**

- Original form of the barn;
- Post and beam construction;
- Fieldstone foundation configuration – To be reconstructed at new location;
- Earthen bank configuration – To be reconstructed at new location;
- Metal Roof;
- Sliding barn doors;
- Wooden man doors;
- Multi-paned wood windows;
- Barn board siding;