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ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

JAN 20 2012

RECEIVED

January 19, 2012

Jim Leonard  
Registrar, Ontario Heritage Trust  
Heritage Programs and Operation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Jim Leonard,

**Re: Notice of Intention to Designate a Property, Ontario Heritage Act**

The Council of the Town of Markham intends to designate the following property for reasons of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Part IV*:

John B. Miller House 7134 Major Mackenzie Dr. E  
James Brison Johnson House 10295 Ninth Line  
John Boyles House 11190 York Durham Line  
Richard Tarr House 7368 Elgin Mills Road E  
David Burke House 10531 Reesor Road  
Wellington Wideman House 11201 Reesor Road  
James Collins House 11223 Reesor Road  
Noble Tenant Farmer's House 11122 Reesor Road  
Adam Betz House 10676 Reesor Road

Notice of objections will be received **on or before 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2012** at the following address:

Clerk's Department, Town of Markham  
Attention: Judy Carroll  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3  
Fax, 905-905-479-7771

*The Corporation of the Town of Markham* • Clerk's Department

Anthony Roman Centre, 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Markham, ON L3R 9W3 • Tel: 905.475.4744 • Fax: 905.479.7771 • [www.markham.ca](http://www.markham.ca)

A statement of significance/reasons for the designation is attached.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kimberley Kitteringham  
Town Clerk

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**James Collins House**  
**West Part Lot 29, Concession 10**  
**11223 Reesor Road**  
**c.1850**

The James Collins House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance.

**Description of Property**

The James Collins House is a one and a half storey frame dwelling located on the east side of Reesor Road, approximately half way between Elgin Mills Road East and Nineteenth Avenue. The house faces west, and is set back from the road.

**Design or Physical Value**

The James Collins House is a typical example of a modest tradesman's house in the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition. The effect of the building's design relies more on balance and proportion than upon decorative elements. A small barn associated with the house may have also contained a carpentry shop when originally constructed.

**Historical or Associative Value**

The James Collins House has historical value for its association with James Collins, an Irish immigrant who purchased a one acre parcel of Lot 29, Concession 10 in 1849. Collins was a carpenter by trade, and is believed to have built the modest frame house on this property c.1850. After James Collins sold the property in 1865, it became part of the Vanzant family land holdings. The Vanzants were of Dutch descent, and came to this area of Markham Township from New York State about 1800.

**Contextual Value**

The house at 11223 Reesor Road remains in a rural setting, and is a significant remnant of the agricultural community surrounding the historic crossroads hamlet of Mongolia, originally known as California Corners.

### **Significant Architectural Attributes**

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the James Collins House include:

- Overall form of the building, including its one and a half storey height, L-shaped plan incorporating a one and a half storey rear wing, and the volume of the structure;
- Frame wall construction with the original finish concealed beneath later claddings;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with overhanging eaves;
- Simple front door opening;
- Flat-headed windows openings, which may have originally contained wood, 6 over 6 sash windows based on the style of the house and its period of construction;
- Frame barn with wood board and batten siding and a gable roof.