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York

✓ Feb 18/02

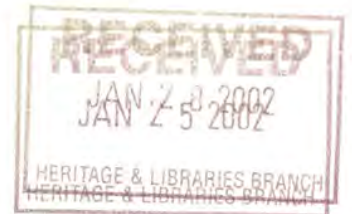
REGISTERED MAIL

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 17,
CONCESSION 7, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 9506 HIGHWAY #48, 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 9506 Highway #48, Mount Joy, 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 Albert Wideman 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 21st day of February, 2002.

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

January 22, 2002

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STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Albert Wideman House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical, architectural and contextual significance.

Historical Reasons

- The Albert Wideman House is located on the east half of the north half of Lot 17, Concession 7 in Markham Township. David Wismer received the original Crown grant to the 200-acre lot in 1842. Until that time, from 1803, the land had been leased to John Clendennen, a farmer on a neighbouring property. In 1852, David Wismer sold part of the eastern section of his property to his son, Jacob Wismer. In 1855 land on lot 17, Concession 7 was also acquired by the Raymer family, via Augustus Van Buseck, from David Wismer.
- In 1870 Andrew Wideman acquired the title to the land on which the house at 9506 Highway 48 now stands by buying land from both the Raymer and Wismer Families. The land became known as "The Wideman Homestead," and around the year 1874, Andrew Wideman built a brick 1 1/2 storey farm house for his wife Susan and young son, Albert (born 1872). This farm house stood until November 3, 2001 in good condition adjacent to the Albert Wideman House at, 9462 Highway 48. In 1876 a second son, Harvey was born to the Widemans.
- Andrew Wideman (1849-1919), a farmer, agricultural implement dealer and leader in the local Methodist Church, was the son of Christopher Wideman and Catherine Hoover. Christopher Wideman grew up on the farm that had been granted to his grandfather, Henry Wideman in 1803. Henry is significant as he was the first ordained Mennonite Minister in Canada. Henry was the fourth generation Wideman in North America. His great grandfather Isaac, originally from the Swiss Canton of Zurich, fled to Philadelphia in 1733 to escape religious persecution. Andrew Wideman was married to the former Susan Raymer (1843-1919) daughter of Abraham Raymer and Elizabeth Byer.
- Albert Wideman was an active member of the Markham Village and Mount Joy communities, a leading businessman and a prominent politician. Albert Wideman is most notable for the business he established in February 1902 with his brother Harvey. This was known as "A & H Wideman, Hardware and Jewellers," which they operated for many years out of a store they built at 85-87 Main Street North, Markham. The building still stands today.
- "A & H Wideman" was evidently very successful, as their advertisements for hardware, jewellery, music records, and CPR tickets, dominated the pages of the Markham Economist and Sun in the early part of this century. In Politics, Albert Wideman served as Reeve of the Village of Markham for several years in the 1930s and was also a member of the York County Council. Wideman was also President of the Markham Board of Trade; CPR ticket agent; Member of the Empire Club of Toronto; a prominent Liberal and in the 1890s a member of the Markham Village Brass Band. Albert

Wideman was also a prominent member of the local Methodist Church; and with his brother Harvey, he was owner of one of the first automobiles in the Township, a 1912 "Darracq" made in France and shipped to Markham on a Railway Flatbed truck. As of 1979, this car was still in possession of the Wideman Family.

- Albert Wideman was married to Mary Ada Meyer (1873-1966), daughter of Elizabeth (nee Raymer) and David Meyer on March 14, 1894. It appears that Andrew Wideman had allowed his eldest son to consider the northern part of the Wideman Homestead as his own, while his other son, Harvey would eventually inherit the southern half. As a result, shortly after his marriage to Mary, Albert Wideman commissioned the construction of the fine brick residence that is seen today at 9506 Highway 48. Upon the death of Andrew Wideman in 1919 the homestead was divided in half and ownership was willed to his two sons.
- Albert and Mary Wideman had five children: two sons; Norman Edward Wideman and Cyrus Russell Wideman; and three daughters; Gussie May Wideman (later Mrs. Richard Street); Florence Mildred Wideman (later Mrs. Milton Robertshaw) and Wilhemina Vida Wideman (later the wife of Dr. Russell Cowie).
- Norman Wideman, B.A. Sc.; P.Eng., M.E.I.C.; member A.I.E.E., is of note as in 1955 he published The Wideman Genealogy with 10-12,000 names listed in it. This book is one of the most valuable tools for museum researchers in the region. Norman graduated from the University of Toronto, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering in 1927. In March 1934 he married the former Doris Chamberlain of Toronto.
- Cyrus Russell Wideman was also a graduate from the University of Toronto, completing a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1930. In 1946 he was married to the former Mary Francis Tully, of Markham Village at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.
- Gussie May Wideman (1895-1936) was educated at Toronto Normal School and taught at Markham Public School.
- In 1938 the funeral of Albert Wideman was held from his house at 9506 Highway 48.
- After Albert Wideman's death in 1938 the house continued to be occupied by his wife Mary until her passing in 1966. For the next eight years the home remained in the ownership of the Wideman Family until in 1974 it was sold to 226435 Construction Ltd.

Architectural Reasons

- The Albert Wideman house is a 1 1/2 storey example of the Queen Anne Revival Style. The L-shaped house is built of red brick on a fieldstone foundation. The most prominent feature is the projecting bay shaped gable, with ornate bargeboard, spindlework and brackets. A second front facing gable, as a dormer, is of the Queen Anne Revival Style with its fish scale shingles that are typical of the period.

- Evidence on the building and in an historic photograph suggests that there was once a porch fixed on the front elevation of the house. This is seen in "Shadows" on the brickwork and a c.1900 photograph of Florence and Gussie Wideman, presumably at the front entrance of the Albert Wideman house. Decorative work is also seen on the gable ends.
- Other significant features of the Albert Wideman House are the lower level windows with decorative transoms, the upper level, front gable window with transom, and the original wood sash windows.
- As joint owner of what appears to have been the leading hardware business in the township in the early part of this century, it can be assumed that Albert Wideman had access to the highest quality home maintenance supplies that were available, and would have used them on his home. Support for this theory is seen in the high degree to which the exterior details have been preserved and it is possible that this may be similarly matched on the interior.
- The Albert Wideman House is an outstandingly executed example of its style, construction and design.

Contextual Reasons

The Albert Wideman House is of contextual significance as a significant contributor to the character of the rural Mount Joy Community which extends northward from 16th Avenue on the west side of Highway 48. The house is a landmark along Highway #48. Together with the Harvey Wideman House the Albert Wideman House were reminders of the significant role that the Wideman family made in the development of Mount Joy and Markham Village. With the unfortunate demolition of the Harvey Wideman House, the Albert Wideman House is now the last survivor of this historic grouping.