



An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

Ce document est tiré du registre aux fins de la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario*, accessible à partir du site Web de la Fiducie du patrimoine ontarien sur **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.



BY-LAW 2011-35

A by-law to designate a certain property as being of
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest
(The Daniel H. B. Raymer House) (Repeals By-law 2002-167)

WHEREAS Pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, the council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic and/or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

Amber Plain Investments
Attn: Tanya Roman, (Agent),
Anison Management Inc.
20 Valleywood Drive, Suite 106
Markham, Ontario
L3R 6G2

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate The Daniel H. B. Raymer House, located at 9483 McCowan Road, Markham, having a general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;

AND WHEREAS by By-law No. 2002-167, "The Daniel H.B. Raymer House" was designated as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the information contained in By-law No. 2002-167 is outdated;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the following real property, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law is hereby designated as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest:
The Daniel H. B. Raymer House
9483 McCowan Road
Town of Markham
The Regional Municipality of York
2. THAT the Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the property Land Registry Office.
3. That By-law 2002-167 be repealed in its entirety.

READ A FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS
25TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2011.

"Kimberley Kitteringham"

KIMBERLEY KITTERINGHAM
TOWN CLERK

"Frank Scarpitti"

FRANK SCARPITTI
MAYOR

**SCHEDULE 'A' TO
BY-LAW 2011-35**

DESCRIPTION OF LAND
THE DANIEL H.B. RAYMER HOUSE

TOWN OF MARKHAM
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

And being composed of
Lot 1, Plan 65M-3955
Town of Markham
Regional Municipality of York

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2011-35

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Daniel H.B. Raymer House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical, architectural and contextual significance.

Historical Reasons

- The house at 9483 McCowan Road was built c.1880 by Daniel H.B. Raymer (also Ramer) for his wife and family. Daniel Raymer was a grandson of Peter Raymer who in 1807 left Pennsylvania, with his father, mother Magdalena (Grove), and 7 brothers and sisters (John, Abraham, Elizabeth, Susannah, Daniel, Magdalena and Barbara), and made their way to Upper Canada. Strained U.S.-British relations in the Napoleonic Wars forced the Raymers to remain in Buffalo until 1809, when they finally reached Lot 14, Conc. 8, in Markham Township where they built their log home.
- The Raymers, like most of the pioneers in this era established their first log home and worked to clear the land of trees for farming, roads and settlement. In 1823 Peter Raymer married Elizabeth Beyer and moved to a farm north of his fathers. Here he built a brick house in 1837. On August 4, 1827 a son, Jonas was born to Peter and Elizabeth. In the following years two boys and a girl arrived; John, Elizabeth and Abraham. In 1832 Peter acquired the deed for another farm from the Beyer family, across from his father's through which a creek ran. Here he built a dam and a sawmill in the mid 1840s. Peter's son Jonas was the sawyer and later inherited the farm. In the basement of the sawmill Abraham, (Jonas' Brother) a carpenter began to make furniture. In honour of his father's home town in Pennsylvania Abraham advertised his business as being in Mount Joy, Markham Township. Eventually the name caught on and the entire area north of the Railway tracks at Markham Village continues to be referred to as Mount Joy.
- In the winter of 1850 Jonas married Fanny Hoover of Dickson Hill, Ontario, the farm his father had bought for him about ten years earlier a large brick house was built. Jonas now divided his time between the farm and the mill. His sawmill was operated by water for 62 years with Jonas the head sawyer and finally by steam in 1906 with Freeman Raymer as engineer. Jonas and Fanny Raymer had 11 children but lost 7 of them early in age. The four boys that survived were Dan, John, Chris and Sam.
- In the spring of 1879, Daniel Raymer married Elizabeth Nighswander. He bought a farm of 50 acres on lot 17, Concession 7 on which he would later build the house which presently stands at 9483 McCowan Road. He purchased the lot from his father Jonas Raymer in 1886, though he had apparently been residing there for several years before. Jonas Raymer had purchased the property from Alexander Hunter in 1874. Alexander Hunter resided on the adjacent property on Lot 16, Con. 7 where her operated a two-storey brewery on the stream that passes through the property. Alexander Hunter had acquired the property from David Wismer who had received the Crown Patent to the Property in November 1842. Prior to that, as far back as 1803 the land had been leased to John Clendennen.

- The first house built by Daniel Raymer was of frame, but according to family history, around 1890 a new brick house was built. Family history refers to the "Gros Doddy" house that was located on the side of the Daniel Raymer House. This was a traditional feature of Pennsylvania German houses where separate residences were built for elderly parents or grandparents on the side of the family home. In the case of the Daniel Raymer house at 9483 McCowan Road, the "Gros Doddy" may have been the original frame house. In 1890 Daniel also built a barn and planted an orchard. Later he would purchase 100 acres more land adjoining the back of his farm. In the years that followed Daniel and Elizabeth had three children. Enos (1880-1910), Francis (1882-1895) and Martin (1889-1929). Elizabeth, their mother died of diphtheria 16 years after their marriage in 1897.
- Being from one of the largest families in Markham Township, Daniel Raymer was one of four cousins with that name. In order to distinguish between the "Dan Raymers", the family and the community of Markham Township, referred to each by their occupations, thus Daniel H.B. Raymer was known as "Farmer Dan", musician Dan Raymer was known as "Singer Dan", bee keeper Dan Raymer was known as Honey Dan and thresher Dan Raymer was known as "Thresher Dan". Daniel H.B. Raymer and his cousins were known for their agility and were highly valued at barn raisings. Upon completion of the barn the Raymers were also famous for their traditional celebratory act of either standing a ladder straight up, climbing up one side and down the other, or standing on their heads on the ridge pole of the barn.
- On September 16, 1902 Daniel H.B. Raymer married Adeline Reesor, Born September 20, 1858 and daughter of Benjamin Reesor (1836-1917) and Nancy Hoover (1839-1917). Daniel died July 22, 1932, Adeline died February 25, 1944 they had no children.
- Of Daniel's children by his first marriage, Enos and Francis both died at an early age. Martin was the longest lived but he only lived until the age of 40. He was married, however, to Annie Dettwiler (1896-1974) on December 7, 1915. Martin was trained as a blacksmith and ran a shop from the family property. Eventually though, as he was the only surviving son of Daniel, he took on the responsibility of farming his fathers land in the 7th concession Markham Township. Both were buried in the Wideman Cemetery. Martin and Annie had six children, Jonas, Leonard, Sidney, Elise, Elvin and Grace. The Raymer family had farmed the land on Lot 17, Con 7 for over fifty years, but on the sudden death of Martin Raymer in 1929 the Raymers along with their grandparents Daniel and Annie moved into Markham Village.
- The property was sold in November 1929 for \$15,000 to John S. Baird and his wife Irene. They owned the property until 1952 when it was sold to Earl S. Risebrough and his wife Gladys. It is believed that Gladys Risebrough was a daughter of John S. Baird. In 1962 the property was sold to Bruce H. Risebrough. He would reside on the property until selling to the current owners, Amber Plain Investments in 1988.

Architectural Reasons

- The Daniel H.B. Raymer house is a 2 ½ storey vernacular yellow brick house built with the influence of a symmetrical Georgian or Classic Revival Style. The house is also influenced by the Pennsylvania German Mennonite tradition. It is believed that the house was built c.1890 though it may incorporate elements of an earlier c.1879 structure. The house has a three bay facade with a front porch which appears to have been added at a later time. A c.1982 photograph shows the house with 1/1 windows on the second story and on the first storey on the main facade the house has a combined unit with three 1/1 windows on either side of the door. The house has plain boxed cornice with returned eaves and frieze. Under the side gables on the third floor are small 1/1 windows. At the side of the house there exists a 1½ storey addition. This may be the remnants of the "Gros Doddy" or the original Raymer house.

Contextual Reasons

Contextually the building is significant in its exhibition of the rural/agricultural settlement patterns along the concession roads. Although visible from McCowan Road, the house is set back a considerable distance from the street.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Daniel H.B. Raymer is identified as a significant heritage building in the Wismer Common's community. The Town of Markham is endeavouring to designate under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, all significant heritage resources within the Town's urban expansion area. The Daniel H.B. Raymer has been identified for preservation on or adjacent to its existing site within the Wismer Common's community.