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December 6, 2012

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

DEC 10 2012

RECEIVED

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 City 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*:

Reesor-Grove Farmhouse
6330 Sixteenth Avenue
Markham, ON

Notice of objections will be received **on or before 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2013** at the following address:

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

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

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martha Pettit'.

Martha Pettit
Acting City Clerk

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Reesor-Grove Farmhouse

c.1850

6330 Sixteenth Avenue

The Reesor-Grove Farmhouse 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 Reesor-Grove Farmhouse is a two storey brick building located on the north side of Sixteenth Avenue, approximately half way between Highway 48 and Ninth Line. It is a former farmhouse located to the east of the historical community of Mount Joy.

Design or Physical Value

The Reesor-Grove House is an excellent example of a Pennsylvania-German Mennonite farmhouse with a *gross doddy* addition. The style of the house is representative of the vernacular Georgian architectural tradition, but illustrates its Pennsylvania-German cultural influence in the asymmetrical four-bay front of the first phase of the house, being the larger eastern portion. Eave returns with Classical mouldings add a touch of refinement to the otherwise simple architectural character of the building.

Constructed c.1850, with its *gross doddy* added c.1870, it is a substantial, two storey brick house with fine Flemish bond brickwork on the front. An early 20th century veranda, which replaced a smaller mid-19th century veranda, represents a third phase of construction on the building. It is likely that the original multi-paned windows were updated with 2/2 glazing when the *gross doddy* was added.

Historical or Associative Value

The Reesor-Grove Farmhouse has historical and associative value as the former home of John L. Reesor, a farmer who was a member of a prominent Pennsylvania-German Mennonite family. The Reesors, who trace their roots back to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, settled in the south-eastern part of Markham Township in 1804. John Reesor married Martha Ramer in 1845, and it is believed that the first phase of the house was constructed a short time after that. The Ramer family were also Pennsylvania-German Mennonites and among the earliest settlers in the vicinity of Markham Village-Mount Joy.

The original 80 acre farm at the centre of Lot 16, Concession 8 was owned by Martha Ramer's father, Peter Ramer, who deeded the property to her in 1879. John and Martha Reesor's daughter, Diana, married Joseph Grove in 1870. Following the Mennonite tradition, a *gross doddy* was constructed at the west end of the farmhouse to accommodate John and Martha when the next generation took over the farm and moved into the main part of the house. Diana (Reesor) Grove was deeded the property by her mother in 1883, one year after the death of her father. The farmhouse, and a remnant of the original farm property, remained in the ownership of the Grove family until the mid 2000s.

Contextual Value

The Reesor-Grove Farmhouse has contextual value as a farmhouse on its original site within an evolving urban landscape. Its large size and architectural character contribute to the building's landmark status on Sixteenth Avenue.

Significant Architectural Attributes

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Reesor-Grove Farmhouse include:

- The form and volume of the original building, with its rectangular plan, *gross doddy* addition and two storey height;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Red brick walls, with Flemish bond brickwork on the front;
- Panelled wood east front door, glazed and panelled wood west front door, with transom and sidelights;
- Original, flat-headed window openings with 2/2 windows, radiating brick arches, projecting wood sills, and wood brickmouldings;
- Attic windows on the gable ends;
- Low-pitched gable roof with overhanging eaves and eave returns with Classical wood mouldings;
- Reconstructed gable-end brick chimneys;
- Front veranda with its low-pitched hipped roof supported on tapered, square wood columns resting on brick and concrete-capped piers, and the simple wood railing;