



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**.



ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

March 6, 2013

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:

John Koch Farmhouse
12 Heritage Corners Lane
Markham, ON

Notice of objections will be received **on or before 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 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', written in a cursive style.

Martha Pettit
Acting City Clerk

For Heritage Designation By-Law for 12 Heritage Corners Lane

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Koch Farmhouse

c. 1865

12 Heritage Corners Lane

The John Koch 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 John Koch House was relocated to Markham Heritage Estates at 12 Heritage Corners Lane in 2008. It was previously located at 10044 Hwy. 48 at the northwest corner of Hwy. 48 and Major Mackenzie Drive, which was once known locally as "Wideman's Corners"

Historical and Associative Value

The John Koch Farmhouse possesses historical and associative value for its connections to the prosperous, Pennsylvania German Mennonite community that was responsible for the early settling and farming of Markham Township.

The property was first purchased from the Crown by Andrew Wideman in 1844. The Wideman family originated in the Swiss canton of Zurich, and immigrated to Philadelphia in 1733. In 1803, members of the Wideman family came to settle and farm in Markham Township. The concentration of Wideman farms in the area of Hwy. 48 and Major Mackenzie Drive resulted in the area being called "Wideman Corner's by locals for many years. In 1849, Andrew Wideman sold the 100 acres at the northwest corner of Hwy. 48 and Major Mackenzie Drive to his son-in-law, John Koch who had recently married Andrew Wideman's daughter Mary.

The Koch family was another Pennsylvania German Mennonite family that came to Markham in the very late 18th century following the arrival of the Berczy Settlers. John Koch constructed this house, circa 1865, prior to selling his former house which was constructed sometime between 1844 and 1851, and still remains at the same corner of Hwy 48. and Major Mackenzie Drive. In 1871, John Koch sold his first house, along with 97 acres, to his brother-in-law Jacob Wideman, keeping the new house, and 3 acres for himself. It is believed that John Koch constructed the *Gross Doddy* addition shortly after constructing the main house, to provide living quarters for him and his wife, in their older age, while his adopted daughter Elizabeth Wagner and her husband William Stiver occupied the rest of the house.

Design or Physical Value

The John Koch Farmhouse is also an excellent example of a traditional Pennsylvania German Mennonite farmhouse that evolved over time to include a *Gross Doddy* addition. The simple, forthright, unembellished vernacular Georgian Tradition architecture style of the house, and the *Gross Doddy* addition, reflect the building traditions and values of the Pennsylvania German Mennonite farming community that still exists in the area to this day.

Contextual Value

Although removed from its original location and context at 10044 Hwy 48, the John Koch Farmhouse has taken on new contextual value by being relocated and restored in the Markham Heritage Estates subdivision. This unique development was created to provide a home for significant Markham heritage buildings that were considered threatened with loss, if left in their original locations. At Markham Heritage Estates, relocated dwellings are restored according to extremely strict guidelines that provide a showcase of the best practices in heritage restoration and conservation.

Significant Architectural Attributes

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the John Koch Farmhouse include:

- The original building footprint and for, including the characteristic Pennsylvania German *Gross Doddy* addition;
- The moderately pitched roofs with cedar shingles;
- The board and moulded batten siding of the main house, and the vertical tongue and groove siding of the *Gross Doddy* addition;
- The original window and door openings;
- The original 6 over 6, and 2 over 2 wooden windows;
- The restored front veranda with bell-cast roof, wooden railing, and turned wooden posts;
- The restored red brick gable end bracket chimneys;
- The solid wood, four panelled door with bolection mouldings with upper window transom;
- The new foundation with a facing of granite fieldstone resembling a traditional rubble foundation.