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14 -01- 2004

Clerk's Department  
Corporate Services Commission

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 LOT 8,  
CONCESSION 9, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 8042 REESOR ROAD, TOWN OF  
MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3  
Attn: Catherine Axford, Chairman's Executive Assistant

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 8042 Reesor Road, Markham, as a property of architectural and/or historic interest or value under Part 1V of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

A Statement of the Reasons for the Proposed Designation of The Captain Robert Reesor 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 12th day of February 2004.

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

January 13, 2004



ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

FEB 09 2018

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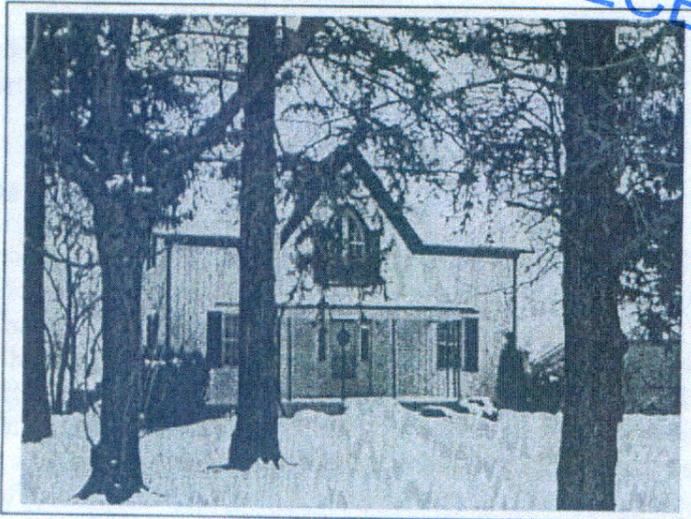
DESIGNATION REPORT

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The Robert Reesor House is a fine example of a two-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame house built in the mid-19th century.

Historical Context

The Robert Reesor House was built in 1867 by Robert Reesor, a prominent local businessman and politician. The house is a fine example of a two-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame house built in the mid-19th century.



**THE CAPTAIN ROBERT REESOR HOUSE**

8042 Reesor Road  
circa 1867

Robert Reesor was born in Derby, Ontario, Canada. He served as a military surgeon in the 1840s and 1850s. He returned to the town of Markham in 1857 and was elected to the town council. He was a prominent local businessman and politician. The house is a fine example of a two-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame house built in the mid-19th century.

Robert and his family moved to Markham in 1857. They had four children: Mary, Robert Jr., George, and William. Robert Jr. was a prominent local businessman and politician. The house is a fine example of a two-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame house built in the mid-19th century.

Prepared For: Heritage Markham  
Prepared By: Michael Seaman  
Marie Jones  
George Duncan

## STATEMENTS OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The Robert Reesor House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value and interest containing the following heritage attributes:

### Historical Attributes

The Robert Reesor house is located on the east ½ of Lot 8, Concession 9, which was originally a Clergy Reserve. The full 200 acre lot was divided into ¼'s of 50 acre parcels. John Reesor purchased the NE ¼ in 1836 and William Johnston the W ¼ in 1846. It was not until 1876 that the SE ¼ of 50 acres and the E ½ of the W ½, 50 acres, were purchased by Robert Reesor (1842-1945) the son of Christopher Reesor and Margaret Armstrong. It appears that these 100 acres had been leased up until this time by Christopher Reesor who owned the property to the south. The house was constructed in 1867 on the SE ¼ of Lot 8, prior to Robert Reesor obtaining title to the property. A historic map of Markham from 1878 clearly illustrates the house at its present location.

Robert Reesor was born in Cedar Grove and died in Cedar Grove. He received military training in 1871-1872 at the Toronto and Kingston Military Schools. He attained the rank of Captain in the 12<sup>th</sup> York Rangers and was called to duty during the Fenian Raids. In the late 1870's Robert and his brother David followed the popular trek of many young men of this time, to venture to Canada's west. By 1881 Robert had acquired extensive acreage in Southern Manitoba near the present town of Mount Pilot. The two brothers imported livestock from Britain driving them overland from the steamship dock at Pembina on the Red River. Robert was appointed the first Warden of the Louise Municipality and was the first to request a post office, which was granted under the name of Silver Springs. (named after his father's farm in Markham where he had been raised) The Reesor brothers were unsuccessful in attracting both the C.P.R. and a U.S. railroad to this area in Manitoba and so after 1885 they returned home to Markham.

Robert was married in 1889 to Sarah Jane Barr, the daughter of Rev. William Barr of Brantford. They had three children Mary, Robert Jr. and Helen. Robert also owned property to the south, Lot 7, which he had inherited from his father and mother. In 1891, Robert deeded the property to the south of Lot 8 to his wife Sarah. Although the house was expropriated in the 1970's as part of the future airport lands, the house continues to be lived in by descendants of Robert Reesor.

### Architectural Attributes

The Robert Reesor House, built in 1867, is a singular example of a 1 ½ storey Classic Ontario farmhouse that blends elements of Gothic Revival and Classic Revival detailing to create a picturesque vernacular architectural statement. The house is of frame construction and has a T-shaped plan. The front section has board and batten siding, with moulded battens, is 3 x 2 bays and sits on a fieldstone foundation. The rear wing is clad in wood clapboard and has a more modern 1 storey section, which extends from the rear of this tail, constructed of stone and vertical modern siding. The wood windows on the original part of the house are mostly 6/6 pane division with moulded wood trim topped with a Classical entablature. The roof is a medium pitched gable with a simple boxed cornice and a broad centre gable on the front. The Gothic window within the front gable is in the form of an oversized casement with delicate tracery. It may have originally served as a pair of French doors opening onto a vanished balcony incorporated into a verandah roof. The front entrance is centred on the façade and has a Classical surround with sidelights and transom lights. There is a ¾ width covered verandah with shed roof and metal posts, which appears to be fairly modern and does not contribute to the heritage character of the house. The side entrance has a verandah in the ell with a gable dormer above. There are two chimneys on the building, one is single brick stack externally located at the mid section, left side. A double stone chimney is located on the addition.

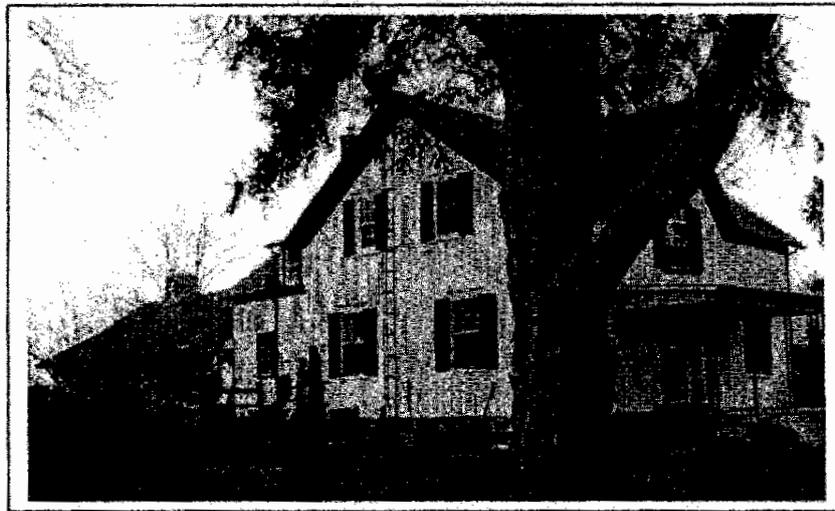
### Contextual Attributes

The Robert Reesor House is of contextual significance for its association with the rural agricultural community surrounding Locust Hill. Built by a descendant of one of the earliest families to settle and prosper in Markham Township, this farm is a reminder of the Reesors who owned vast areas of land in the east part of town. With its large Gothic window in the front gable, its refined board and batten siding, and its fine Classical Revival detailing, the Robert Reesor House is an outstanding example of the vernacular architecture of old Markham Township.

### Significant Heritage Attributes

1. The T-shaped plan;
2. The wood board and batten siding, with its moulded battens, on the front section of the house;
3. The wood clapboard siding on the rear wing;
4. All wood sash windows on all elevations, with their associated wood trim;
5. All louvered wood shutters;
6. The Gothic casement window in the front gable, with its delicate tracery;
7. The Classical door surround on the façade, with its associated wood trim, sidelights, and transom lights;
8. All original exterior wood doors and storm doors on the west, east and south elevations;

9. The fieldstone foundation;
10. The original gable roofline, with its wood soffits, fascia and associated mouldings;
11. The brick chimney on the rear wing.



## IDENTIFICATION

Property: The Robert Reesor House  
8042 Reesor Road

Legal Description: Part of Lot 8, Concession 9

Owners: Ontario Realty Corporation

Inventory Number: J6- 12

Assessment Roll Number: 252-779-00

Date of Construction: 1867

Style of Construction: Classic Ontario Farmhouse  
with Gothic Revival and Classic Revival  
details.

Type of Structure: Farm house

Number of Storeys: 1 ½ storey

Exterior Wall Material: Wood board and batten and clapboard