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March 9, 2018

Teresa Maljar-Hupel  
Assistant Registrar  
Ontario Heritage Trust

ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST

MAR 13 2018

RECEIVED

Dear Teresa

**SUBJECT: Request for OHA Documents  
City of Markham**

This correspondence is further to your emails of January 31, 2018 and February 1, 2018 and my submission to you on February 7, 2018 concerning specific missing documents related to specific Part IV designations in Markham.

In my February letter, I promised to follow up with you on some material that we were having difficulty securing. You requested three missing Notices of Intention to Designate for the following properties:

- 2920 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Walker Homestead) – By-law 2003-314
- 7111 Reesor Road (Robert Milroy House) – By-law 2003-29
- 7297 Reesor Road (David Lapp House) – By-law 2003-31

I have included two of the three missing Notices, but we are unable to find the actual notice for 2920 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. We have included the letter to the owner indicating that Council was going to proceed with designation, the newspaper notice, and the letter indicating that the designation by-law was passed. It appears the actual Notice has been misplaced.

If you need any further information or clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me.  
([rhutcheson@markham.ca](mailto:rhutcheson@markham.ca))

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Regan Hutcheson'.

Regan Hutcheson, MCIP, RPP.  
Manager of Heritage Planning  
Planning and Urban Design Department

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 1,  
CONCESSION 10, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 7111 REESOR ROAD, TOWN OF  
MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Heritage Policy and Program Development Unit  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation  
400 University Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9

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 7111 Reesor Road, 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 Robert Milroy 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 17th day of January, 2003.

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

December 17, 2002

APPENDIX B

DESIGNATION PROPOSAL



**THE ROBERT MILROY HOUSE**

7111 Reesor Road  
Part lot 1, Concession 10  
Markham

Prepared For: Heritage Markham

Prepared By: Marie Jones

## STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The Robert Milroy 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 7111 Reesor Road was built c.1833, with several later additions dating to the 1870's, on land that had originally been granted to Lt. Col. William Jervois on Oct. 12, 1816. Jervois's patent was rescinded Sept. 25, 1817. Richard Strange acquired a patent for the full 200 acres on Jan. 12 1833. One year later, on Jan. 24, 1834 the property is sold to Robert Milroy (various spellings exist over time i.e. Mulroy, Millroy) for 344 pounds. This property remained in the Milroy family until 1974 when it was expropriated by the Ministry of Housing for future airport lands.

Robert Milroy, b.1791 d. Nov. 18, 1854, came to Canada with his wife Anne, from Kirkcowan in Wigtown, Scotland in 1827, where they had operated a wollen mill. Their three children, a son James, b.1823 and two daughters Agnes, b.1826 and Celia accompanied them. Research indicates that the family was most likely on this property prior to them purchasing it in 1834. They may have leased it from the owner Richard Strange, at that time.

Robert Milroy built a sawmill in the late 1830's, which survived until 1924 when it was destroyed by fire. It appears that about this time the Milroy family resided in a 1 ½ storey log building. The mill was constructed where the river crosses the townline on the banks of the Little Rouge at Concession 10, opposite the present site of Cedar Grove Park. The Community Lot (park) was the log yard where farmers drew their logs. This was usually well filled with logs, which were sawed for lumber during the late winter. The 10 th concession had to jog east beside the millpond to reach the Scarborough Town Line (Steeles Ave.). The mill's waterwheel powered a "muley" or whipsaw. In 1846 the sawmill lands of 9 acres were sold to John Reesor (w ½ 9 acres) his son Simeon Reesor takes over the mill in 1856. The Hamlet of Cedar Grove developed out of the mills set up along the Little Rouge River.

The 1853 Assessment Roll lists Robert Milroy farming the 137 acre property with 135 acres under cultivation, owning three horses and three cattle. At this time James, his eldest son has title to the East part of 50 acres. Robert Milroy died Nov. 18, 1854 and is buried at the Cedar Grove Mennonite Cemetery with his wife Anne. By 1855 there is a significant increase in the total value of personal property, from 49 pounds to 100 pounds. This may be about the time when an addition is added onto the family home. It appears that James, the eldest son continues to reside with his mother and four siblings in the house located on this property. In 1859, the 137 acre parcel was divided into the west part 68 ½ acres, which goes to John, the youngest son, who also inherits the family home. The middle part, 68 ½ acres went to Robert the middle son (1834-1862) who was married

to Elizabeth Reesor. Robert Jr. died when he was 28 years old leaving his wife and year old son, also named Robert. James and Robert Jr. built new homesteads to the east.

In 1857 the Zion Presbyterian Church was constructed at the rear (east) of Lot 1, Concession 10 on land donated by James Milroy. This early frame structure was replaced in 1890 by a red brick church, which remains on site today as the Zion United Church. The extended Milroy family made up much of the early congregation of the church.

The 1861 census shows John and his wife Mary Anthony living in the house with his widowed mother Ann and two children. By 1885, John controlled the original 180 acres, which he divided again in order to set up his three sons Alexander, Robert and Arthur. Author's son, Stanley, became owner of the west part in 1952 and in 1977 he was still residing in the Milroy family home and farming the land. Descendants of this early Milroy family continued to farm this tract of land for over 150 years.

#### Architectural Reasons

The Robert Milroy House located at 7111 Reesor Road is an excellent example of a rural Markham Township farmhouse built c.1833 with later additions in the 1870s and early 1900s. The house represents the simple, functional tastes of the early European settlers

The Milroy House is 1 ½ storeys in height with a symmetrical 3-bay façade. The windows on the house are wood, double hung of either a 1/1 or 2/2 pane division. It is probable that the windows on the original front section of the building were originally of a 6/6 pane division. The Milroy House has a stone foundation with board and batten cladding.

According to family story, at sometime in the 1870s, the eastern addition to the house was moved eastward and a new, Gothic Revival Styled 2 storey addition was built in between the two. The middle addition features a peaked gable and a verandah with turned posts and decorative brackets. The enhanced architectural detailing on this part of the house represents the changing architectural tastes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and most likely the fact that the Milroy farm had become more established and the family were able to devote more energies to decoration.

On the north side of the house, the addition features a wall dormer which was constructed to add additional room in the second storey. It is possible that the family may have built a full verandah on the front elevation at this time, however this appears to have been removed circa 1920s when the current enclosed front porch is believed to have been added.

The original addition to the east of the c.1870s addition is a 1 storey kitchen room, typical of early Markham architecture with a verandah roof, which is a continuation of the main roof. To the east of the kitchen addition is a wood shed carriage house addition, also clad in board and batten with a decorative turned diagonal 4-paned window in the gable.



The small paned windows seen in the kitchen addition and the wood shed addition provide evidence that the house at one time had multi-paned windows throughout.

To the south of the woodshed addition is a milk house, which is today used as a doghouse. As with other dairy farms in the area, it is possible that once constructed, the milk house did not provide sufficient temperature control and as a result a second milk house was built in the barn. The milk house is believed to have been built circa 1900 and is clad in narrow clapboard.

Immediately to the north of the dwelling is a small, stucco clad outbuilding in some state of disrepair. It is possible that this building served at one time as either a residence for farm workers or as a smokehouse.

Overall, the Milroy house is an excellent example of an early Markham township farmhouse, occupied by one family for 150 years, which was extended over the years as the fortunes of the farmstead increased. The house is also an excellent example of a board and batten house which entails one of the rarer uses for wood siding on residential dwellings in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (typically board and batten was used primarily for additions and outbuildings).

#### Contextual Reasons

The Robert Milroy House is of contextual significance as one of the earliest farmhouses in the southern part of the Township. Together with other houses in the vicinity, the house provides a sense of the historic agricultural tradition in the area. The house forms part of the greater community of Cedar Grove and is part of the remaining remnants of rural farmhouses that were prevalent in this area. It is a reminder of the community surrounding the Zion United Church and cemetery, located on land, which was donated by the Milroy family, Scottish Presbyterians who settled on this property. Together with the nearby Robert Milroy Jr. House, the Robert Milroy House also forms part of an historic family grouping.

## IDENTIFICATION

<u>Property:</u>	The Robert Milroy House 7111 Reesor Road (10 <sup>th</sup> Line)
<u>Legal Description:</u>	Lot 1, Concession 10
<u>Owners:</u>	Catholic Cemeteries – Archdiocese of Toronto
<u>Inventory No.:</u>	K7- 491
<u>Assessment Roll No.:</u>	250-203-00
<u>Date of Construction:</u>	c. 1835
<u>Style of Architecture:</u>	Georgian Cottage- Gothic Revival features
<u>Type of Structure:</u>	Farm Residence
<u>Number of Storeys:</u>	1.5
<u>Exterior Wall Material:</u>	Front and middle-Board and Batten Rear – clapboard
<u>Special Features:</u>	Georgian Cottage Form and Structure intact