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# Planning and Urban Design

December 6, 2024

Wideview Farms Inc.  
1400-45 St. Clair Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4V 1L3

**RECEIVED**  
2024/12/10  
(YYYY/MM/DD)  
Ontario Heritage Trust

**RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, GORMLEY-WIDEMAN HOUSE, 3490 NINETEENTH AVENUE**

To whom it may concern:

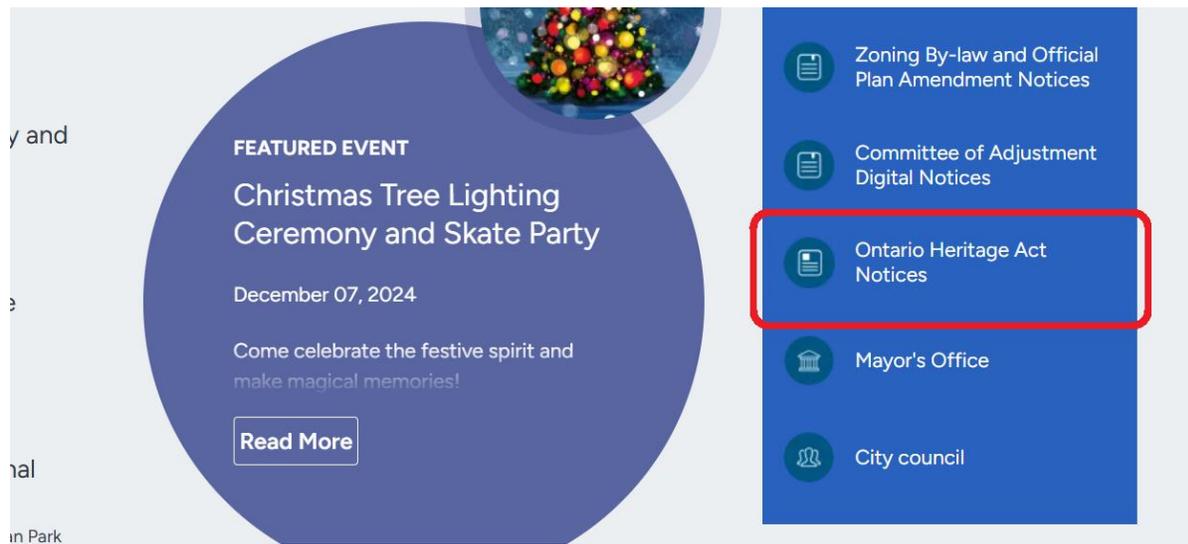
This will confirm that at a meeting held on December 4, 2024, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

**That Council state its intention to designate 3490 Nineteenth Avenue under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in recognition of its cultural heritage significance**

Please find attached the Statement of Significance which summarizes the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and provides a description of the heritage attributes of the property. Notice of objection to the notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention on the City's website (publication will occur on December 12, 2024).

Click on the 'Ontario Heritage Act Notices' icon on the City's landing page to find your address (<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home>)

The notice of objection must include the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.



City of Markham, Anthony Roman Centre,  
101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham, ON L3R 9W3  
905.477.5530 | markham.ca





## Planning and Urban Design

Should you have any questions regarding the Statement of Significance or the implications of heritage designation, please contact Evan Manning, Senior Heritage Planner, at [emanning@markham.ca](mailto:emanning@markham.ca)

Kimberley Kitteringham  
City Clerk

C. Ontario Heritage Trust

Attachment: Statement of Significance

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### Gormley-Wideman House

3490 Nineteenth Avenue

c.1859

The Gormley-Wideman House is recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 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 Gormley-Wideman House is a one-and-a-half storey brick dwelling located on the north side of Nineteenth Avenue between Woodbine Avenue to the west and Warden Avenue to east. The house faces south and is located west of the historic mill hamlet of Almira.

#### **Design Value and Physical Value**

The Gormley-Wideman House has design and physical value as a good representative example of a mid-nineteenth century brick farmhouse designed with the influences of the Georgian and the Classic Revival architectural styles. It is noteworthy for its five-bay primary (south) elevation and Flemish bond brickwork, which are locally uncommon and indicative of high-quality domestic rural architecture. Solid brick construction and a conservative design based on the Georgian architectural tradition updated with elements of the Classic Revival style typified the rural vernacular architecture of Markham Township during the prosperous years of the 1850s when there was a strong export market for wheat due to the Crimean War. During this time period, the enduring Georgian design principles of balance and proportion was often relieved with patterned brickwork and Classic Revival details, as seen in this example. Buff coloured “white brick” accents on a body of local red brick became common in York County after the 1840s. This house has buff brick quoins and arches over door and window openings. The numerous large windows, a moulded wood cornice with eave returns, and a wide front doorcase with transom light and sidelights reflect the Classic Revival style. The front doorcase, with its intricate glazing pattern of squares and rectangles, is the focal point of the primary elevation.

#### **Historical Value and Associative Value**

The Gormley-Wideman House has historical value for its association with the early cultural and religious diversity of Markham Township as well as the theme of innovation and economic development as the former home of Irish immigrant James Gormley, storekeeper, postmaster, auctioneer, notary public, and farmer who was locally important as the founder of the crossroads hamlet of Gormley’s Corners. This associative value, namely religious diversity, is reinforced by the property’s connection to several generations of the Pennsylvania-German Mennonite Wideman family. James Gormley came to Markham Township in the 1840s, initially working as a schoolteacher. He soon became involved in a number of successful enterprises, including the establishment of a hamlet known as Gormley’s Corners. In approximately 1850, James Gormley married Margaret Steckley, a member of Markham’s Pennsylvania German Tunker community.

In the late 1850s, the family moved to the Steckley farm on Lot 31, Concession 4 and lived in one of two brick farmhouses on the property that were constructed in 1859. In 1865, James Gormley purchased the eastern half of Lot 31 from his father-in-law, John Steckley. In 1882, the farm was sold to Jacob Wideman, a Mennonite minister. The Wideman family were part of Markham's Pennsylvania German Mennonite community that came from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, in 1803. The property remained in the ownership of later generations of the Wideman family until 1998.

### **Contextual Value**

The Gormley-Wideman House has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surrounding as one of several nineteenth century farmhouses located within the agricultural area to the west of the historic mill hamlet of Almira. The Gormley-Wideman House is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to the site where it has stood since 1859.

### **Heritage Attributes**

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Gormley-Wideman House are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria, as amended, below:

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's design and physical value as a good representative example of a mid-nineteenth century brick farmhouse designed with the influences of the Georgian architectural tradition and the Classic Revival style:*

- Rectangular plan;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Red brick walls in Flemish bond with buff brick quoins and cambered arches over door and window openings;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with wood cornice and eave returns;
- Heavy gable-end red brick chimneys with corbelled caps;
- Five-bay primary (south) elevation with centre doorcase featuring a single-leaf four-panelled wood door with half-round headed upper panels, multipaned transom light and sidelights with complex glazing pattern of squares and rectangles as well as wood panels below the sidelights;
- Regularly-placed flat-headed six-over-six wood windows with projecting lugsills and operational louvered wood shutters;

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value and associative value, representing the early cultural and religious diversity of Markham Township as well as the theme of industry, innovation and economic development:*

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of locally important Irish immigrant James Gormley, founder of Gormley's Corners, and the Pennsylvania German Mennonite Wideman family, long-time later owners.

*Heritage attributes that convey the property's contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings:*

- The location of the building on its original site, facing south, where it has stood since 1859.

*Attributes of the property that are not considered to be of cultural heritage value, or are otherwise not included in the Statement of Significance:*

- Frame rear addition;
- External chimney on west gable end;
- Barn complex and other farm outbuildings.