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# Town of East Gwillimbury

MUNICIPAL OFFICE  
19000 LESLIE STREET  
SHARON, ONTARIO L0G 1V0  
TELEPHONE: (905) 478-4282  
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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, 1980,  
S.O. CHAPTER 337

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LANDS AND PREMISES AT THE  
FOLLOWING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

To: Ontario Heritage Foundation  
77 Bloor Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9

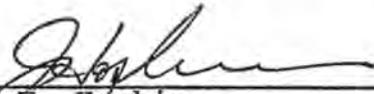
TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of East Gwillimbury intends to designate the property, including lands and buildings, at the following municipal address as a property of architectural and historical value or interest under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, S.O. Chapter 122.

21145 Leslie Street, Queensville  
Part of Lot 25, Concession 3  
Town of East Gwillimbury

This property is historically and architecturally significant as it is the oldest existing inhabited log dwelling within the Town of East Gwillimbury. Detailed information regarding the historical and architectural significance of this property is attached as Appendix 1 to this Notice.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection of all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the Town of East Gwillimbury before the 21st day of February, 1995.

Dated at the Town of East Gwillimbury this 20th day of January, 1995.

  
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J. F. Hopkins,  
Clerk-Administrator.

# APPENDIX 1

## Reasons for Designation - George Holborn House 21145 Leslic Street, Queensville

### Historical:

The residence at 21145 Leslie Street, located on Part Lot 25, Concession <sup>3</sup> in the Town of East Gwillimbury, consists of two parts:

- the original log house at the back, built in circa 1824
- a red brick addition at the front, constructed in circa 1855.

The earliest record of claim to Lot 25, Concession 3, at that time a 200-acre Clergy Reserve, is dated January 21, 1824 to Hiram Harrison, Yeoman. The original log house was most likely constructed by him as a single-storey dwelling (there is evidence that the second storey was added on at a later date).

On February 16, 1825, Hiram Harrison quit claim to the lot and transferred it to Jeremiah Graham for the sum of 12 pounds 2 shillings. Given that the lot was a Clergy Reserve, the fact that a sum of money was included in this transaction indicates a dwelling existed at the time. This is further substantiated by other architectural features (see "Architecture" below).

During the next two decades, the west half of the lot (100 acres) changed hands five times, as follows:

- September 28, 1831, Jeremiah Graham to Alexander Sutherland, S/W 1/4 of Lot 25 Concession 3, for the sum of 56 pounds 5 shillings.
- February 5, 1841, Alexander Sutherland to Campbell Cunningham, S/W 1/4 of Lot 25 Concession 3, for the sum of 50 pounds.
- October 9, 1845, Jeremiah Graham to George Holborn, N/W 1/4 of Lot 25 Concession 3, for the sum of 10 shillings. (Note the low price, as this part of the lot did not have a dwelling on it).
- April 18, 1846, Campbell Cunningham to Robert Young, S/W 1/4 of Lot 25 Concession 3, for the sum of 112 pounds 10 shillings.
- March 6, 1847, Robert Young to George Holborn, S/W 1/4 of Lot 25 Concession 3, for the sum of 75 pounds.

Thus, by 1847, George Holborn had laid claim to the west half of the original Lot 25 Concession 3 (100 acres). He received the Crown Grant to this tract of land on April 12, 1847.

In about 1855, George Holborn constructed the two-storey brick addition onto the front of the log house. Census records from 1871 list him as a "Gentleman" from England, aged 51. The exact date of his arrival in East Gwillimbury is not known.

During the decades that followed, George Holborn and his descendants were active members of the evolving community. On December 18, 1871, George Holborn was nominated to the Municipal Council of East Gwillimbury. His son, John Holborn, served on the council repeatedly from 1878 to 1899.

Between 1873 and 1881, George Holborn actively helped establish one of the first schools in the area, the Hillside School. The original school building still stands on Lot 28 Concession 3. As one of the original trustees, he was instrumental in locating a suitable tract of land and procuring a builder, furnishings, and early teachers. One of his sons also served as a school trustee in 1885. The school continued to educate local children until sometime in the mid-20th century.

In 1877, George Holborn and Thomas Glover founded the Ravenshoe Chapel, as a church for Wesleyan denominations. The two families donated the land on which the church was built. George Holborn remained an active church trustee, followed by his son, John Holborn. John was also an organizer of the Women's Association established in the church at the turn of the century. The Holborn/Glover family graveyard still exists on a site near the church on the Ravenshoe Sideroad.

George Holborn died in 1881, leaving the west 1/2 of Lot 25 Concession 3 to his son, George Holborn, Jr. He also left a second tract of land, the east 1/2 of Lot 35 Concession 5, to his other son John Holborn, and the sum of \$5,000 to each of his daughters, Mary-Jane and Sarah. In 1859, Sarah Holborn married John Weddell, the first town clerk for the Town of East Gwillimbury (1836-1845).

The original Holborn house remained in the family until it was sold by George's grandson, Walker Holborn, a "Hardware Merchant from Sutton", to Norman Lee Eves in 1917. Descendants of George Holborn live primarily in the Sutton area, where they still operate the Holborn Hardware store today. Since its sale by Walker Holborn, the property has changed hands a total of 14 times.

### **Architectural:**

The log house was constructed by Hiram Harrison as a single storey dwelling in about 1824. The second half-storey was added later, as evidenced by the different appearance of the logs above the first level and by the notches in the top log of the second storey. These notches indicate the original roof had a slight pitch to deal with the prevailing wind, rain, and snow. Until recently, the structure was covered by layers of wood and vinyl siding. The logs were exposed in 1993 to reveal an excellent example of dovetail, split-log construction. Built of cedar, the house is well-preserved and still stands on its original stone foundation. When the logs were exposed, the opening of the original open-hearth fireplace was revealed. The dimensions of the opening and bits of red brick embedded in nearby chinking between the logs served as the basis for reconstructing this fireplace and chimney. This building's log exterior, overall plan, form, scale, window line and number are part of the reasons for designation.

In about 1855 George Holborn built the red brick two-storey addition onto the front of the log house. This part of the house is in the classic neo-Gothic style, with steep gables and contrasting buff brick details. In general, the house's plan, form, scale, window line and number are part of the reasons for designation. The porch on the south side was probably enclosed in about the 1940's and is not significant. The front porch at the west side of the house is of a similar period, and is not significant. The chimney towards the front of the brick house was replaced at about the same time, and should be reconstructed using a period design. The chimney at the rear centre of the brick house where it joins the log house is not original, and should be removed.

**Setting:**

The George Holborn property lies just north of Queensville and is prominently situated at the base of the hill on the village outskirts. The Holborn Sideroad immediately to the north of the house still bears testimony to the pioneer legacy of George Holborn. The grounds around the house boast several mature maple trees more than 100 years old. A 25-foot deep stone well supplies water to the house. There is a stream running through the rear of the property, and the house has a lovely unobstructed view to surrounding farms and countryside.