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The Town of Richmond Hill

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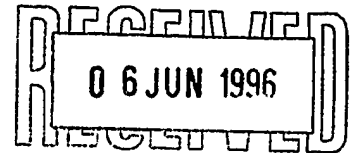
Proud Host of the 1996 Ontario Provincial Senior Games

CULTURAL PROGRAMS
HERITAGE UNIT

Corporate Services Department
Office of the Clerk

Registered Mail

June 5, 1996



IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, RSO 1990
CHAPTER 0.18

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LAND AND PREMISES
IN THE TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Foundation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Richmond Hill intends to designate the following property, including lands and building, as a property of historic or architectural value or interest, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18:

Municipal Address: 11715 Leslie Street, Richmond Hill

Legal Description: Part of Lot 32, Concession 3, Town of Richmond Hill, Regional Municipality of York (Geographic Township of Markham, County of York) more particularly described as Part 2, Plan 65R-18347.

Historical Reference: George Forster Log House and Barn Complex

Reasons for the Proposed Designation:

.../2



George Forster Log House and Barn Complex is recommended for designation for historical and architectural reasons.

George Forster, a farmer of Canadian birth, purchased the west half of Lot 32, Concession III, Markham Township from John Gretman, a Berczy settler, in 1830. It is likely that Forster built the existing log house at about the time he purchased the property, and began the construction of the first stages of the barn complex.

The spelling of the Forster name varies from source to source. "Foster" and "Forester" were commonly substituted, but the earliest sources consistently use the Forster spelling. The family originated in Pennsylvania, and descendants continue to reside in the area to the present day.

In 1934, George Forster's heirs sold the farm to Mary A. W. Rawlinson. Mary was the wife of Marmaduke Arthur Rawlinson, President and General Manager of M. Rawlinson Ltd., a Toronto-based cartage and warehousing company. The Rawlinson property was known as "Tentone Farm", where the family kept their horses. Marmaduke Rawlinson was a member of the Toronto and North York Hunt Club, an interest he passed on to his daughter, Phyllis Mary.

Phyllis Rawlinson was one of the first women in Canada to play polo, and was a champion 5-goal player. She also participated in steeplechases and fox hunts, and showed jumpers at the Richmond Hill Spring Fair and Royal Winter Fair. She was awarded an honorary life membership in the Toronto and North York Hunt Club. In later years, Phyllis raised thoroughbred horses and Hereford beef cattle at Tentone Farm.

In addition to Phyllis Rawlinson's equestrian interests, she was a graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, part of the University of London, England, and during World War II served in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

The George Forster Log House is the only known log building remaining in Richmond Hill from the early settlement period. Stylistically, it is a moderately-sized one-and-a-half storey hewn log building in the Georgian architectural tradition. Its currently exposed dovetailed log walls were covered with stucco on accordion lath at an early date. The offset kitchen wing to the rear appears to be an addition dating from the mid 19th century.

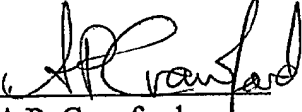
Significant exterior architectural features include the hewn log walls, small 6 over 6 sash windows on the ground floor, 6-paned second floor casement windows, 3 over 3 and 4 over 4 kitchen windows, paneled and glazed front door, 6 paneled rear door and plank kitchen door. Also significant are the low-pitched gable roof of the log house, and the low-pitched gable roof of the kitchen wing, with its eaves returns.

Significant interior features include the centre hall plan, pine plank floors, the staircase with its associated balustrade, 6 and 4 paneled doors with original spring latches, plank doors with original Norfolk latches, original door and window architraves, chair rails, baseboards, wainscotting, and beaded plank paneling.

The U-shaped barn complex consists of a gable-roofed central barn on a raised fieldstone foundation, which formerly had an earthen ramp leading to its north door, and two smaller flanking gable-roofed barns. Much of the vertical board siding on the barn complex replaces old material of a similar character, but the eastern barn retains its original clapboard siding on its south wall, indicative of an early date of construction. Other significant features of the barn complex include the decorative ventilators in the east and west gables of the main barn, attached lean-to sheds and wooden windows of various sizes.

Notice of objection to the proposed designation, together with a statement of the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts may be served on the Clerk of the Town of Richmond Hill before the 5th day of July, 1996. Service may be made by delivery personally to the Clerk or by registered mail.

If service is made by registered mail, it is not effective unless and until it is actually received by the Clerk and the responsibility for ensuring it is received within the prescribed time rests with the person filing the objection. If such a notice is actually received after the prescribed time, it will not be accepted by the Clerk as a valid objection.


A.P. Crawford
Deputy Clerk

sjc/

c. LACAC

P. Caron, Director of Property,
Town of Richmond Hill