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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 12 PLAN  
65M-2761 KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 10 WISMER PLACE, TOWN OF  
MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation  
77 Bloor Street West  
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 10 Wismer  
Place, 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 Charles Mason Gohn House is attached.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served  
on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days of October 22,  
1998.

Bob Panizza,  
Town Clerk  
The Corporation of the Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, Ontario  
L3R 9W3

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DESIGNATION PROPOSAL



**THE CHARLES MASON GOHN HOUSE**

10 Wismer Place

Lot 12, Plan 65M-2761

Markham Heritage Estates

Formerly located at 8104 Leslie Street

Prepared For: Heritage Markham

Prepared By: Michael Seaman  
Planner: Heritage and  
Conservation based  
on research by Dorie  
Billich

## **STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION**

The Charles Mason Gohn House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical and architectural significance.

### **Historical Reasons**

The Charles Mason Gohn House located at 10 Wismer Place, Markham Heritage Estates was originally located on the east half of Lot 8, Concession 2, Markham Township (8104 Leslie Street), immediately south of Highway 407. The house was built in 1901 by Charles Mason Gohn, a member of a family who had owned the property since 1831.

The property was originally granted to John Gretman in 1805.

Gretman sold to (John) Frederick Hederick in 1808. Hederick owned the property until 1831 when it was sold to his son-in-law, David Gohn. David Gohn granted the east half of the lot to his sixth child, Christopher (Christie) in 1849. Christopher Gohn never married and lived all his life at the original Gohn homestead, on Lot 9, Concession 3 with his brother George and his family.

A log home is described in this location on the 1861 Census, occupied by James Hume and family. James Hume is also listed as the tenant at Lot 8, Concession 2 east, on a 100-acre parcel owned by Christopher Gohn on the 1858-1861 Assessment Rolls.

Between 1854 and 1856, the assessed value of the 100-acre, east half lot increased from 650 to 750 Pounds, suggesting that the first log home was built at that time. Other tenants to have resided here before 1897 include George Drurie, Henry Fisher and John Wise and George Gohn.

Christopher Gohn died in 1897 and bequeathed the property to his nephew Charles Mason Gohn. The 1901 Census lists Charles M. Gohn at this location, occupying a brick dwelling "under construction". The present brick residence was therefore constructed in 1901. Originally of red, pressed brick, made at the Don Valley Brickyards, the brick was painted in the 1960s white, then a light grey and by 1997 the house was yellow.

An interior inspection of the property in 1991, revealed that the north portion of the basement foundation was the earliest or original portion. Further examination led to the conclusion that the original structure built on top of this foundation - likely the 1855 log dwelling - had been completely dismantled and replaced when the brick dwelling was constructed.

Charles was married to Margaret Lloyd in 1904 and a few years later moved to Saskatchewan. Ownership of the property was later taken over by Joseph Atkinson. In the 1930s, the house was resided in by the Vanderbent family. The Vanderbents took numerous photographs of their property during their ownership, which provide a remarkable visual record of the history of the property.

A later owner/occupant of the Charles Mason Gohn House was Harvey Cox. Mr. Cox served as the Chief of Police for Markham Township and later as the Traffic and Transit Co-ordinator for the Town of Markham. By 1990, the property was occupied by the Plewes family, when it was sold to the Province of Ontario as part of the land assemblage for construction of Highway 407.

In 1997, as a result of a significant threat to the structure, the house was relocated to Markham Heritage Estates where it is undergoing restoration to its original appearance.

### Architectural Reasons

The Charles Mason Gohn House, built in 1901, is an excellent example of an Ontario Farmhouse with late Victorian features and a Gothic Revival influence.

The house is a 1½ storey single detached structure of irregular shape. It is constructed of red, pressed brick, in stretcher bond on a stone clad foundation. The brick is believed to have been obtained from the Don Valley Brickyard in Toronto. The binding material for the brick was a soft, red, lime-rich mortar.

The structure is four bays wide and two bays deep. The medium pitched roof is surfaced with cedar shingles and the plan of the house has created cross gables. Originally, the roof of the house was clad in slate.

The structural openings are slightly arched with radiating voussoirs. The windows are double hung with no pane division. The lower level is distinguished by large round-headed windows with rose coloured transoms.

An unusual feature is found at the entranceways around the doors where curved brickwork can be seen. The doors on the house are of typical turn of the century, decorative wood with glazing design.

The house originally featured a porch on the rear-east elevation with a round gingerbread pattern and a wheat-sheaf motif. A front porch is believed to have been planned, as evidenced by the door in the second storey front elevation. Given the sudden departure of Charles Mason Gohn, however, it is unknown as to whether it was ever completed. A photograph of the house in the 1930s shows no front porch, but instead a single large flat rock on which people could walk into and out of the house. The primary entranceway, it is believed, was through the kitchen.

In the 1930s, the house featured a large one-storey brick addition situated perpendicular to the west side of the house. This was replaced shortly after by a concrete block addition. The concrete block addition was not relocated with the house to its new location and instead a board and batten addition was constructed.

## IDENTIFICATION

<u>Property:</u>	The Charles Mason Gohn House, 10 Wismer Place Lot 12, Plan 65M-2716 Markham Heritage Estates
<u>Former Property:</u>	Lot 8, Concession 2
<u>Owners:</u>	<div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 0.2em;"></div> 10 Wismer Place Markham, On
<u>Inventory No.:</u>	G4-5p
<u>Date of Construction:</u>	c.1901
<u>Style of Architecture:</u>	Ontario Farmhouse - Gothic Revival
<u>Type of Structure:</u>	Farm Residence
<u>Number of Storeys:</u>	1.5
<u>Exterior Wall Material:</u>	Red, Pressed Clay Brick (Don Valley)
<u>Special Features:</u>	Ontario Farmhouse, red brick rounded bricks in entranceways  Original 1/1 wood windows,



HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS OF  
THE CHARLES MASON GOHN HOUSE, 1930s to 1940s



PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CHARLES MASON GOHN HOUSE  
AT ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION, 8104 LESLIE STREET





PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CHARLES MASON GOHN HOUSE  
AT 10 WISMER PLACE



PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CHARLES MASON GOHN HOUSE  
AT 10 WISMER PLACE