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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 PART OF LOT  
16, CONCESSION 7, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 14 DAVID GOHN  
CIRCLE, 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 14 David  
Gohn Circle, 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 James Thomas House is attached.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served  
on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days of January 22nd,  
1997.

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



## STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

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

### Historical Reasons

The James Thomas House was built c.1856 for the family of James Thomas on Lot 19, Concession 7 immediately to the north of the community of Mount Joy.

James Thomas was approximately 55 years old when he bought the property on which the house originally stood. He moved there after having lived for a short period in the Village of Markham. Born in England and a follower of the Church of England, James Thomas made his living on Lot 19, Concession 7 as a farmer.

James Thomas purchased the property in 1853 and is believed to have been the builder of the red brick farm house. Family records indicate that his eldest grand-daughter, Emma, was born in the two storey house in 1859. The two storey brick house on the Thomas property appears in the records of the 1861 Census taker. The farm house built by Thomas on Lot 19, Concession 7 is one of the most impressive to have been built in Markham Township and serves as a testament to the prominence of the Thomas family, in whose ownership it remained in until 1921.

Prior to his building of his home at Mount Joy, James Thomas was a resident of the community of Box Grove where he operated an inn. Census records reveal that James Thomas also resided in the area of Vinegar Hill. This is a curious fact since it was in this vicinity in 1853, on Concession 8, along the west side of Highway 48, that Abraham Reesor built a home that was virtually identical to the Thomas House. It is interesting to note that the Reesor house was approximately the same distance from the south end of Markham Village as the James Thomas House was from the North and as a result, the houses would have been perceived by travellers to Markham along Highway 48 as gateways to the village. This unique pairing ended in 1978 when the Abraham Reesor House was demolished in anticipation of the construction of Highway 407.

In 1982 the James Thomas House was designated under part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. In 1993, after years of abandonment, the James Thomas House was relocated to 14 David Gohn Circle at the Markham Heritage Estates, where it was carefully restored by its present owners.

### Architectural Reasons

The James Thomas House is a 2 storey red brick farmhouse and is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical Style.

The house has a rectangular plan, three bays wide and two bays deep, and rests on a fieldstone faced foundation. The front facade exhibits the typical symmetry of Neo-Classical architecture. Outstanding features of the house include the large delicately detailed second storey gothic window and the centrally located entrance with sidelights, transom and detailed lower side panels.

The house is constructed of red brick in a Flemish bond pattern, with a shallow centre gable and parged lintels. The house has a medium pitch hipped roof trimmed with generous returned eaves and a moulded frieze and soffit. The typical windows on the house are double hung 6/6, with parged lintels and wood sills.

Historic photographs of the house reveal that the building originally had an ornate, curved roofed wood porch, which enhanced the front entrance. The outline of this feature is visible today in the brickwork. Historic photographs also reveal the existence of wood shutters on all windows with the exception of the centre gothic window. Evidence also exists of symmetrical end chimneys, a wood shingled roof and a picket fence at the front of the house.

In its original location the house stood on a stone foundation. In 1993, the James Thomas House was relocated to the Markham Heritage Estates Subdivision where it stands today at #14 David Gohn Circle.