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CULTURAL PROGRAMS
HERITAGE & MUSEUMS UNIT

CORPORATE SERVICES COMMISSION
Clerk's Department

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 25, PLAN
65M-2761, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 24 DAVID GOHN CIRCLE,
TOWN OF MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: The Ontario Heritage Foundation
Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation
77 Bloor Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2R9
Attention: Ms. Nancy Smith, Sr. Administrative Clerk

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 24 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 David Leek Sr. House is attached.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served
on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days of December 24,
1998.

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 David Leek House is recommended for Designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its architectural and historical significance.

Historical Reasons

In its original location on Lot 10, Concession 2, the David Leek house was well set back from Bayview Avenue on German Mill's Creek. Early land records show that the patent on all 200 acres of the property was taken out in 1807 by Peter Piney who immediately sold it to Ezekiel Benson. In 1809 the West 1/2 was sold to James Johnson who held it until 1818 when he sold it to Benjamin Hoshel who in turn sold it immediately to David Leek. In 1851 David Leek Sr. died and willed the property in 2 separate parcels to his sister Elizabeth Gates (50 acres) and to John Ireland (45) acres. But in 1852 and 1853 they both sold their parcels to Jacob Munshaw. In 1865 Jacob Munshaw sold the property to Caroline Hoshel.

The McPhillip's 1853-54 map of Markham Township shows Jacob Munshaw on the West 1/2 of Lot 10 with a house and barn on the property. The York County Atlas map 1878 shows Mrs. Hoshel (Hosiel) as the owner with a house and orchard.

The 1851 and 1861 census data show residents only in the East 1/2 of Lot 10 but the 1881 census does show Caroline Hoshel living on the West ½ with her 6 children and a farm labourer.

David Leek is shown in Walton's 1837 Commercial Directory and register for the City of Toronto & Home District. In the 1846-7 Brown's Directory of Toronto City & Home District, David Lick Senr (David Leek Senior) appears and again in the 1850-51 Rowsell's Directory of Toronto & County of York. In the 1882 Directory, Caroline Hoshel is shown as the owner of the property.

Since David Leek is listed on the site in the 1837, 1846-47 and 1850-51 Directories, it is assumed that he built the house c. 1840.

The Leek ancestors were Lutherans who originated in the Rhine Palatinate and settled in Johnstown New York. David Leek came to Markham prior to 1813 and his brothers came about 10 years later. The corner of Leslie St. and 16th Avenue became known as Leek's Corners. The Leek's (David Jr., Daniel and their families) became active in the Headford Methodist Episcopal Church which was first known as Leek's chapel. David Leek Sr. was a trustee of the Thornhill Wesleyan Methodist Church whose congregation dates back to 1808.

In 1993, as a result of Highway # 407 construction, the David Leek Senior House was relocated to 24 David Gohn Circle.

Architectural Reasons

The David Leek Senior House, built c.1840, is a two storey Second Empire house. Prior to its relocation in 1993, the house consisted of two separate self-contained units with entrances facing Bayview Avenue. The house was subsequently re-configured into a single dwelling i.e. with one main entrance. The house is clad in shiplap siding and is of frame construction. The original and earliest portion of the house was a plank-on-plank, probably 1 1/2 storey, Ontario vernacular style farmhouse with a tail on the south side, a gable roof, facing north. The mansard roof was added later.

The present day front facade is symmetrical with 3 bays on the first storey under the porch and 2 bays on the second. The windows are 2/2 on the first storey and 2/2 on the second. All windows have wooden frames and sills.

The North facade has three bays on the first storey and two on the second. The East facade has four bays on the first storey and one on the second. The South facade has five bays on the first storey and three on the second.

The David Leek house is significant as one of the few remaining examples of the Second Empire style in Markham.