



An agency of the Government of Ontario

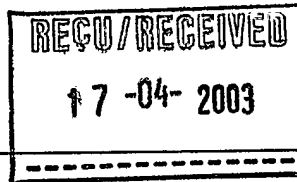


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CORPORATE SERVICES COMMISSION  
Clerk's Department

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 PART OF LOT 6,  
CONCESSION 9, KNOWN MUNICIPALLY AS 7124 14TH AVENUE, TOWN OF  
MARKHAM, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO:

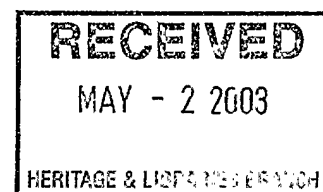
Ontario Heritage Foundation  
10 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1J3  
Attention: Catherine Axford, Chairman's Executive Assistant

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 7124 14th Avenue, Markham, as a property of architectural and/or historic interest or value under Part IV of The Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

A Statement of the Reasons for the Proposed Designation of The John Noble Raymer House, is attached.

NOTICE OF OBJECTION to the designation may be served on the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days, or before 4:30 p.m. on the 16th day of May, 2003.

Sheila Birrell, Town Clerk  
The Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON L3R 9W3

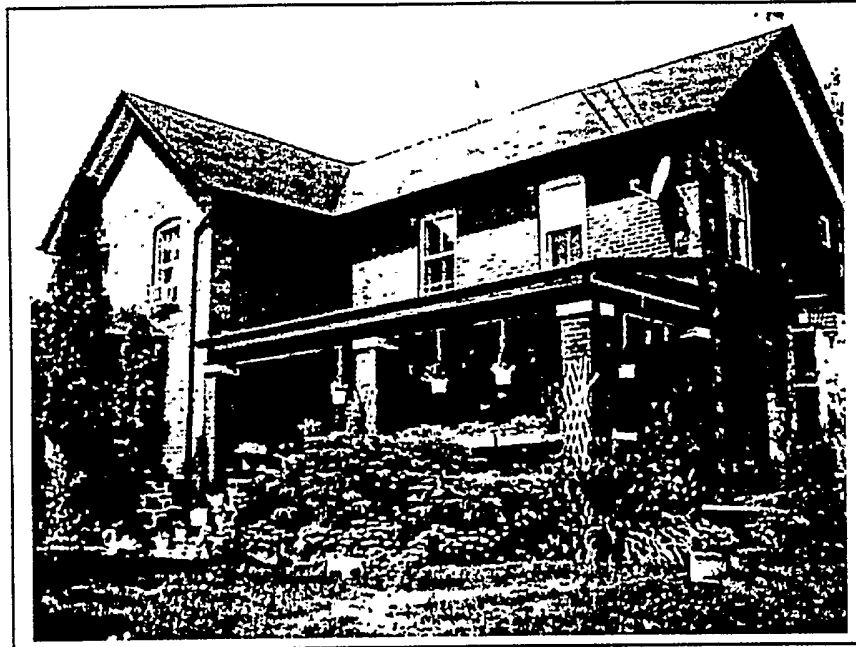


April 15, 2003

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DESIGNATION REPORT



THE JOHN NOBLE RAMER HOUSE  
7124 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Part Lot 6, Concession 9

Prepared For: Heritage Markham

Prepared By: Marie Jones

## STATEMENT OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The John Noble Ramer house is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value and interest containing the following heritage attributes.

### Historical Attributes

The house located at 7124 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue was built c.1870 by John and Christina Raymer on property which was originally patented by Andrew Thomson. It appears that Peter Stover was residing on the property in 1809, but did not receive the title to the full 200 acres until Nov. 1810. By 1819 the property had been divided into two parcels a 140 acre parcel on the east part and the remaining 60 acres on the west part. The west part was further divided into a smaller 36 acre parcel which went to Anne Mapes and Elizabeth Hamilton in 1818. This west part became quite significant in the history of Box Grove, also known as Sparta, for most of it was sold to William Bebe who along with others divided the parcel into village lots. It appears that at sometime in its early history the lot was again divided, but this time into three parcels which included the west part, the centre part (containing what was sometimes referred to as the west part of the east part) and the east part. John Mapes purchased 45 acres in 1836 from his father Joseph Mapes and in 1845 he purchased a further 28  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres from his brother William Mapes, this acreage consisting of the centre part of Lot 6, Concession 9. The George McPhillips map of 1853 indicates John Mapes residing on this parcel. Tremaines Map of 1860 clearly illustrates a structure on the John Mapes property in the vicinity of the current house.

In 1865 the Mapes property, consisting of the centre part of 60 acres, was sold to Samuel Reesor for \$4000.00. Samuel (1817-1901) was the son of Peter Reesor, who with his father operated lumber and flour mills along the banks of the Rouge River. He gave generously to the missionary programs in his church and donated land to build the Mennonite Meeting house and the adjoining cemetery. It seems that Samuel and his wife Veronica Browsberger did not reside on this particular property, but may have purchased it for their eldest daughter Christina after her marriage.

Christina Reesor (1841-1923) was married to John Noble Raymer (1836-1874) in 1861. In 1866 John went to Evan's Mill, New York to observe the methods of cheese making and the type of building best suited for it. On his return, he built and operated one of the first cheese factories in Ontario. Located to the west of the Mapes dwelling it is clearly indicated on the Cedar Grove community map. The Markham map of 1878 illustrates the John Noble Ramer house set back from the road and to the west of the cheese factory. He did not buy milk from the farmers, but instead was paid 2 cents a pound for making and curing the cheese. When the factory closed each fall the farmers took their cheese home and sold what was not needed for their own use. Later John and his brother Martin established another cheese factory in Unionville. At the age of 37, John died of smallpox and Christina continued to operate the cheese factory in connection with the farm until she raised her family.

In 1905 Christina Raymer sold the remaining 50 acre parcel to Thomas Rainey.

#### Architectural Attributes

The house located at 7124 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue was constructed c.1870. This well preserved dwelling is 2 storeys and of red brick stretcher bond with buff brick quoins and voussoirs. The house is based on an "L" shaped plan 4 bays by 2 bays deep and sits on a fieldstone foundation. The rectangular window openings are of a 2/2 pane division with plain wood trim and lugsills. There is a one storey bay window on the gable ends with plain wood trim. The roof is a medium pitch gable with plain boxed cornice. The front entrance is centrally located on the front façade with sidelights and fan transom. The existing verandah is one storey in enclave with a shed roof supported by substantial brick columns. There is an addition to the rear of the main part of the dwelling.

#### Contextual Attributes

The John Raymer house is of significance for its association with the historic rural farming community in the area of Box Grove and Cedar Grove. Together with other residences in the area it is a reminder of some of the early families who established industries to support the farming community in the south part of Markham Township.

#### Significant Heritage Attributes

1. All wood windows on all elevations;
2. The original footprint and form of the structure;
3. The fieldstone foundation;
4. The original roofline;
5. All original exterior doors and storm doors on the south and east elevation.
6. The form of the front verandah;
7. The existing red and buff brick.