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June 23, 2004

Gary Pringle  
Environment Assessment Co-ordinator  
Ontario Realty Corporation  
Ferguson Block, 11th Floor  
77 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto, ON M7A 2G3

**RECEIVED**  
**JUL 5 - 2004**  
CONSERVATION REVIEW  
BOARD

Dear Gary Pringle:

Re: By-laws to designate certain properties as being of  
historic and/or architectural value or interest

This will advise that Council at its meeting held on April 27, 2004, passed the following by-laws, which designated various properties as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest. The by-laws, and the affected properties, are listed below.

2004-95	Blacksmith House 7401 Reesor Road
2004-96	Cedarena 7373 Reesor Road
2004-97	Christian Reesor Homestead 9035 Reesor Road
2004-98	David Whaley House 7218 Reesor Road
2004-99	George Miller Tenant House 7551 Reesor Road
2004-100	John Wurtz House 8847 Reesor Road
2004-101	Moses Clendenen House 9829 Ninth Line
2004-102	Peter Reesor Homestead 7273 14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
✓ 2004-103	Reesor Pioneer Cemetery
2004-104	Reesor Tenant House 7632 Highway #7
2004-105	Samuel Irving House

8/16/04  
7/12/04  
VRC

2004-105	Samuel Irving House 9529 Reesor Road
2004-106	Samuel Reesor Homestead 7450 Reesor Road
2004-107	Tran House and Barn 7914 14 <sup>th</sup> Avenue
2004-108	William Lapp House 7399 Reesor Road
2004-109	Wurtz Family Cemetery North of Hwy. #7, East side of Reesor Road

Copies of the by-laws, with the pertinent registration data, are attached for your information.

Sincerely,



Sheila Birrell  
Town Clerk

Encl.

cc: The Ontario Heritage Foundation  
R. Hutcheson, Manager, Heritage Planning





## BY-LAW 2004-103

A by-law to designate a property as being of  
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest  
The Reesor Pioneer Cemetery

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WHEREAS Pursuant to Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, the council of a municipality is authorized to enact by-laws to designate a real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historic and/or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham has caused to be served on the owners of the lands and premises at:

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Environment Assessment Co-ordinator  
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and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate The Reesor Pioneer Cemetery, having a general circulation in the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the reasons for designations are set out in Schedule "B" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the following real properties, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto and forming part of this by-law is hereby designated as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest:

The Reesor Pioneer Cemetery  
Town of Markham  
The Regional Municipality of York

2. THAT the Town Solicitor is hereby authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the properties described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the property Land Registry Office.

READ A FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS  
27<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2004.

"Sheila Birrell"

SHEILA BIRRELL, TOWN CLERK

"Don Cousens"

DON COUSENS, MAYOR

## **SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW 2004-103**

In the Town of Markham in the Regional Municipality of York, property descriptions  
as follows:

Lot 14, Concession 10

TOWN OF MARKHAM  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

## SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW 2004-103

### STATEMENTS OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

The Reesor Pioneer Cemetery. 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 Reesor Pioneer Cemetery was established on the grounds of the Christian Reesor Homestead in 1806. Isaac Westbrook received the original Crown grant to the 200-acre lot in 1801. In 1805, he sold the lot to Christian Reesor Sr.

The Reesor family originates from Berne, Switzerland, where Peter Reesor was born in 1713. Peter immigrated to Philadelphia and then settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania where he died in 1804. Peter Reesor brought from his homeland and Zurich Bible dating from the 1570s. This Bible which bears Peter Reesor's (1713-1804) signature is still in the family's possession.

Peter Reesor, Christian's son and grandson to the original Peter Reesor who emigrated from Switzerland, had journeyed to Upper Canada in the late 1790s in search of good farmland and had explored the Rouge River area in Markham. In 1804, Christian and Veronica Reesor and six of their 10 children left Lancaster County in Pennsylvania in four Conestoga wagons. Their voyage to Markham Township took 6 weeks.

Christian Reesor Sr. settled on Lot 14, Concession 10 but was tragically killed by a falling tree in 1806, only two years after his arrival. Christian Reesor was buried on a knoll, overlooking the Rouge River in the Reesor family burial. This cemetery was used by the Reesor family for over 90 years. In 1931, Christian Sr's grandson's John, Arthur Edward and Frederick Ernest Nelson, made repairs to the cemetery and enclosed it with an elaborate cement balustrade. The cemetery contains eight marked gravesites of members of the Reesor family. A landmark of the cemetery is the marble obelisk stone of Christian Reesor. The last marker recorded in the cemetery dates to 1889.

The Reesor Homestead was sold out of the Reesor family in 1939. In the 1970s, the lands were acquired by the Ontario Realty Corporation. The cemetery is administered by the Town of Markham Cemetery Board. In 2000, the Reesor family engaged in an effort to construct an attractive new stone gate along Reesor Road marking the entrance to the cemetery.

#### Architectural Attributes

The most visible features of the Reesor Pioneer Cemetery are the eight mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century marble headstones. For approximately forty years, marble was the preferred gravestone medium and examination of these gravestones reveals the height of personalization and individualization. Marble gravestones engulfed the gravestone market beginning in the mid 1850's and by 1865, marble was the only medium employed for gravestones. Carved by local sculptors, marble offered personalization, plus elegance in the appearance of the gravestone. However, by 1890, the less desirable aspects of this medium became evident. Marble weathered rapidly so that gravestones erected for only a couple of decades were already deteriorating. As a result, by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Granite became the preferred material for headstones.

A unique feature of the Reesor Pioneer Cemetery is the decorative concrete balustrade which surrounds it. The balustrade is significant as a demonstration of the regard in which the descendants of the Reesors have for the cemetery and as one of the best examples in Markham of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century decorative concrete.

Contextual Attributes

The Reesor Pioneer Cemetery is of contextual significance as one of the oldest extant reminders of European settlement in Markham, dating back as far as 1806. Together with the adjacent Reesor homestead, the Reesor Pioneer cemetery forms an attractive grouping of Reesor historical sites.

Significant Heritage Attributes

1. Marble headstones;
2. Concrete balustrade around the cemetery.

✓  
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