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DEC 02 2011

RECEIVED



December 1, 2011

Jim Leonard
Registrar, Ontario Heritage Trust
Heritage Programs and Operation
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3

Dear Jim Leonard,

Re: Notice of Intention to Designate a Property, Ontario Heritage Act

The Council of the Town of Markham intends to designate the following property for reasons of cultural heritage value or interest pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, Part IV:

Graham-Wideman house
11584 Highway 48
Markham, ON

Notice of objections will be received **on or before 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2012** at the following address:

Clerk's Department, Town of Markham
Attention: Judy Carroll
101 Town Centre Boulevard
Markham, ON L3R 9W3
Fax, 905-905-479-7771

A statement of significance/reasons for the designation is attached.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kimberley Kitteringham', written over a horizontal line.

Kimberley Kitteringham
Town Clerk

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Graham-Wideman House

c.1850, enlarged c.1900

11584 Highway 48

The Graham-Wideman House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value or interest, as described in the following Statement of Significance.

Description of Property

The Graham-Wideman House is a one and a half storey frame dwelling located on the west side of Highway 48, north of 19th Avenue, in the community of Dickson Hill. The house forms part of a group of buildings that also includes a gambrel-roofed barn, and a milkhouse overlooking a branch of the Rouge River.

Design or Physical Value

The Graham-Wideman House is a good example of vernacular architecture in the form of an evolved building. The structure incorporates at least three distinct periods of historical development: the mid-19th century for the north section, the c.1900 period for the south section and west wing (which likely was designed to contain a kitchen and woodshed), and the mid 20th century for the grouped windows and enclosed front porch. The L-plan form, medium-pitched gable roof, and vertical wood siding are architectural elements typically associated with the Gothic Revival style, but overall, due to alterations and the absence of decorative features, the house in its evolved form is a vernacular building with an eclectic character.

Historical or Associative Value

The Graham-Wideman House has historical value for its association with two early Markham Township families and the theme of agricultural development. The Graham family owned the property from 1837 to 1912. They were English immigrants that farmed the entire 200 acres of Lot 31, Concession 7 and improved the property by the construction of a frame house, and later, a two storey stone house (still standing at 5474 19th Avenue). The Wideman family, owners from 1912 to the mid 20th century, were the second long-time owners. The Widemans were Pennsylvania-German Mennonites that came to Markham in 1803, settling in the community of Milnesville, not far from Dickson Hill.

Contextual Value

The property at 11584 Highway 48 remains in a rural setting, on the periphery of the Dickson Hill hamlet. It is a remnant of the original farm, approximately 9 acres in area. A branch of the Rouge River runs through the south part of the site. The Graham-Wideman House has contextual significance as a component of a traditional farmstead consisting of a farmhouse, barn and milkhouse.

Significant Architectural Attributes

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Graham-Wideman House include:

- Overall form of the building, including the one and a half storey L-plan main block and one storey rear wing;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Vertical V-groove tongue and groove wood siding;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with overhanging eaves;
- Side porch with chamfered wood posts;
- Remnant upright rectangular shaped window openings from the c.1900 period of expansion and remodelling, which likely were originally glazed with 2 over 2 sash windows.