



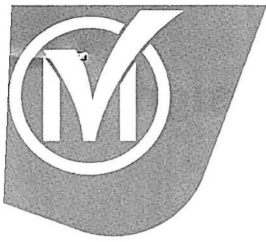
An agency of the Government of Ontario



Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

This document was retrieved from the Ontario Heritage Act Register, which is accessible through the website of the Ontario Heritage Trust at **www.heritagetrust.on.ca**.

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Planning and Urban Design

October 1, 2024



Received

OCT 03 2024

RE: INTENTION TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY UNDER PART IV OF THE **Ontario Heritage Trust**
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, JOHN DONER/TOLL HOUSE, 3693 ELGIN MILLS ROAD EAST

To 

This will confirm that at a meeting held on September 25, 2024, Markham Council adopted the following resolution:

That Council state its intention to designate 3693 Elgin Mills Road East under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* in recognition of its cultural heritage significance

Please find attached the Statement of Significance which summarizes the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and provides a description of the heritage attributes of the property. Notice of objection to the notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention on the City's website (publication will occur on October 7, 2024).

Click on the 'Ontario Heritage Act Notices' icon on the City's landing page to find your address (<https://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/home>)

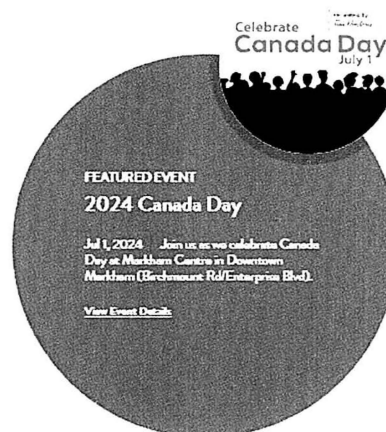
The notice of objection must include the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL 2024

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 8
WED | Special Development Services Committee Meeting
Live stream
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM |
| 9
TUE | General Committee Meeting
Live stream
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM |
| 10
WED | Electronic Committee of Adjustment Meeting
Zoom Platform and Live stream
7:00 PM - 11:45 PM |
| 16
TUE | Development Services Committee Meeting
Live stream
9:30 AM - 2:00 PM |
| 17
WED | Council Meeting
Live stream
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM |

[See All Markham Events](#)



 REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM

 PAY A PARKING TICKET

 BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

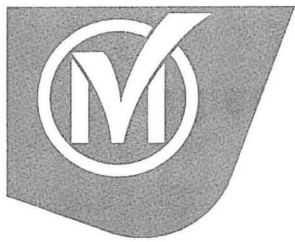
 ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT NOTICES

 MAYOR'S OFFICE

 CITY COUNCIL

City of Markham, Anthony Roman Centre,
101 Town Centre Blvd., Markham, ON L3R 9W3
905.477.5530 | [markham.ca](https://www.markham.ca)





Planning and Urban Design

Should you have any questions regarding the Statement of Significance or the implications of heritage designation, please contact Evan Manning, Senior Heritage Planner, at emanning@markham.ca

Kimberley Kitteringham
City Clerk

C. Ontario Heritage Trust

Attachment: Statement of Significance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

John Doner/Toll House

3693 Elgin Mills Road East
c.1843, with Later Alterations and Additions

The John Doner/Toll House is recommended for designation under Part IV, Section 29 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 John Doner/Toll House is a one-and-a-half storey frame dwelling located on the south side of Elgin Mills Road East, west of Warden Avenue.

Design Value and Physical Value

The John Doner/Toll House has design and physical value as a unique example of an evolved nineteenth century dwelling in the Gothic Revival style with twentieth century alterations that paid tribute to the architecture of old Ontario without strictly copying its traditional forms and details. This approach to renovating and adding to historic structures was an outgrowth of interest in “Canadiana” which occurred around the time of Canada’s Centennial in 1967. The late Thornhill-based architect B. Napier Simpson Jr. was a leading proponent of this architectural movement which also included the construction of completely new structures in historical styles and period-appropriate materials based on vernacular architecture of the nineteenth century. The evolved dwelling has been altered in the course of a series of remodeling projects that have been undertaken by different owners. The building’s architectural value is chiefly in its current historically-inspired design that recalls a period in Canada’s history when there was an awakening of pride in the country’s past and a desire to celebrate that in the design of custom residences, most often in a rural setting.

Historical Value and Associative Value

The John Doner/Toll House has historical value and associative value, representing the theme of industry, innovation and economic development as the c.1843 home of John Doner, a prominent carpenter-builder in early nineteenth century Markham Township, and for its traditional association with Tollgate No. 2 on the Markham and Elgin Mills Plank Road (1850-1868), which stood near this location. John Doner, a member of Markham’s Pennsylvania German Tunker community, was a self-taught carpenter-builder credited with constructing about 350 buildings in Markham Township and vicinity including houses, barns, and mills. He was active from c.1840 until he moved to Simcoe County in 1862. In 1843, the year he married Euphemia Schell, John Doner purchased a small property from his father-in-law, John F. Schell, on the eastern part of Markham Township Lot 25, Concession 4 where he constructed a frame house. By 1850, Toll Gate No. 2 of the Markham and Elgin Mills Plank Road was located in the vicinity of the Doner residence. The plank road connected Yonge Street with the Eighth Concession (now known as Highway 48) and was in use until the late 1860s. It was an example of an innovative approach to

improving Ontario's roads that ultimately proved to be impractical due to the cost of maintaining a wooden road surface.

Contextual Value

The John Doner/Toll House is of contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings where it marks the historic location of Tollgate No. 2 on the Markham and Elgin Mills Plank Road, and is a building that marks the historic location of Schell's Corners.

Heritage Attributes

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the John Doner/Toll House are organized by their respective Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria, as amended, below:

Heritage attributes that convey the property's design and physical value as a unique example of an evolved nineteenth century dwelling in the Gothic Revival style with later alterations that paid tribute to the architecture of old Ontario without strictly copying its traditional forms and details:

- Irregular plan;
- One-and-a-half storey height;
- Fieldstone foundation;
- Wood board and batten siding;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with projecting, open eaves and wood bargeboards in the north-facing gable;
- Fieldstone fireplace chimneys;
- Hip-roofed front veranda supported on slender colonette-style posts with fretwork spandrels;
- West side veranda with a flat roof and wood balustrade supported on slender colonette-style posts with fretwork spandrels;
- Casement windows under the front veranda;
- Flat-headed window openings framed with louvered shutters, containing 4/4 and 6/6 paned single-hung windows.

Heritage attributes that convey the property's historical value and associative value, representing the theme of industry, innovation and economic development as the c.1843 home of John Doner, a prominent carpenter-builder in early nineteenth century Markham Township, and for its traditional association with Tollgate No. 2 on the Markham and Elgin Mills Plank Road, 1850-1868, which stood near this location:

- The dwelling is a tangible reminder of prolific carpenter-builder John Doner who resided here with his family from 1843 to 1862, and of the Markham and Elgin Mills Plan Road and Toll Gate No. 2.