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April 9, 1997

[REDACTED]
14 David Gohn Circle
Markham, Ontario
L6E 1A7

Dear [REDACTED]


Re: By-Law 46-97 - To amend By-Law No.
187-82 (To Repeal the designation of
the James Thomas House which was
designated on the property municipally
known as 9792 Highway 48) (16.11)

and

By-Law 47-97 - To designate the James
Thomas House, 14 David Gohn Circle, as
a property of architectural and historical
value or interest pursuant to the
provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act (16.11)

This will advise that Council at its meeting held on February 25, 1997, passed
By-Laws 46-97 and 47-97, registered copies of which are attached for your
information.

Yours truly,


Janice Harrison
Manager, Secretariat Services

- c. The Ontario Heritage Foundation
Regan Hutcheson, Senior Planner, Heritage and Conservation



MARKHAM

BY - LAW

47-97

A by-law to designate a certain property as being of
Historic and/or Architectural Value or Interest -
The James Thomas House, 14 David Gohn Circle

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:

[REDACTED]
14 David Gohn Circle
Markham, Ontario
L6E 1A7

and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, notice of intention to designate The James Thomas House, 14 David Gohn Circle, being Part of Lot 16, Concession 7, and Lot 20 on Plan 65M-2761, Markham Heritage Estates, and has caused such notice of intention to be published once in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality;

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

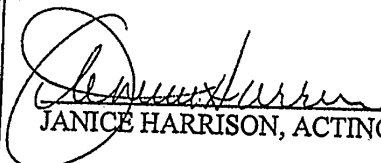
NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the following real property, 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:

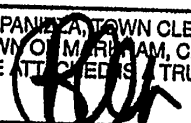
The James Thomas House
14 David Gohn Circle
Lot #20, Plan 65M-2761
Markham Heritage Estates

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

READ A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS
25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1997.


JANICE HARRISON, ACTING CLERK


DON COUSENS, MAYOR

I, B. PANIZZA, TOWN CLERK OF THE
TOWN OF MARKHAM, CERTIFY THAT
THE ATTACHED IS TRUE COPY.

B. PANIZZA

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SCHEDULE 'A' TO BY-LAW NO. 47-97

In the Town of Markham,
in the Regional Municipality of York,
legally described as Lot 20, Plan 65M-2761.

SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW NO. 47-97

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The James Thomas House is recommended for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act because of its historical and architectural significance.

Historical Reasons

The James Thomas House was built c.1856 for the family of James Thomas on Lot 19, Concession 7 immediately to the north of the community of Mount Joy.

James Thomas was approximately 55 years old when he bought the property on which the house originally stood. He moved there after having lived for a short period in the Village of Markham. Born in England and a follower of the Church of England, James Thomas made his living on Lot 19, Concession 7 as a farmer.

James Thomas purchased the property in 1853 and is believed to have been the builder of the red brick farm house. Family records indicate that his eldest grand-daughter, Emma, was born in the two storey house in 1859. The two storey brick house on the Thomas property appears in the records of the 1861 Census taker. The farm house built by Thomas on Lot 19, Concession 7 is one of the most impressive to have been built in Markham Township and serves as a testament to the prominence of the Thomas family, in whose ownership it remained in until 1921.

Prior to his building of his home at Mount Joy, James Thomas was a resident of the community of Box Grove where he operated an inn. Census records reveal that James Thomas also resided in the area of Vinegar Hill. This is a curious fact since in it was in this vicinity in 1853, on Concession 8, along the west side of Highway 48, that Abraham Reesor built a home that was virtually identical to the Thomas House. It is interesting to note that the Reesor house was approximately the same distance from the south end of Markham Village as the James Thomas House was from the North and as a result, the houses would have been perceived by travellers to Markham along Highway 48 as gateways to the village. This unique pairing ended in 1978 when the Abraham Reesor House was demolished in anticipation of the construction of Highway 407.

In 1982 the James Thomas House was designated under part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. In 1993, after years of abandonment, the James Thomas House was relocated to 14 David Gohn Circle at the Markham Heritage Estates, where it was carefully restored by its present owners.

Architectural Reasons

The James Thomas House is a 2 storey red brick farmhouse and is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical Style.

The house has a rectangular plan, three bays wide and two bays deep, and rests on a fieldstone faced foundation. The front facade exhibits the typical symmetry of Neo-Classical architecture. Outstanding features of the house include the large delicately detailed second storey gothic window and the centrally located entrance with sidelights, transom and detailed lower side panels.

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SCHEDULE 'B' TO BY-LAW NO. 47-97

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The house is constructed of red brick in a Flemish bond pattern, with a shallow centre gable and parged lintels. The house has a medium pitch hipped roof trimmed with generous returned eaves and a moulded frieze and soffit. The typical windows on the house are double hung 6/6, with parged lintels and wood sills.

Historic photographs of the house reveal that the building originally had an ornate, curved roofed wood porch, which enhanced the front entrance. The outline of this feature is visible today in the brickwork. Historic photographs also reveal the existence of wood shutters on all windows with the exception of the centre gothic window. Evidence also exists of symmetrical end chimneys, a wood shingled roof and a picket fence at the front of the house.

In its original location the house stood on a stone foundation. In 1993, the James Thomas House was relocated to the Markham Heritage Estates Subdivision where it stands today at #14 David Gohn Circle.