

# **APPENDIX A**

## **REASONS FOR DESIGNATION – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Zion Cedar Grove United Church**

**7046 11<sup>th</sup> Line**

**Constructed 1890**

The Zion Cedar Grove United Church 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 Zion Cedar Grove United Church is a two storey brick, rural church located on the west side of the 11<sup>th</sup> Line, just north of Steeles Avenue. The property is nearby the historic community of Cedar Grove located in the southeast portion of the Town of Markham.

#### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

##### **Historical Value**

The Zion Cedar Grove United Church is the third church to occupy the parcel of land located on the west side of the 11<sup>th</sup> Line. In 1820 local Mennonites joined with the Presbyterians to construct a church made of logs. In 1857 the log church was replaced with a new building made of clapboard.

Through the 1860's to the 1880's the nearby community of Cedar Grove expanded to include a hotel, two stores, a cider mill and four sawmills. In 1890 the old clapboard church was moved up the road to serve as a farm drive shed and construction began on the brick church that occupies the site today. The construction of the brick church demonstrates the significant and continuous role that religion played in the lives of Markham's early settlers. The sophistication of design and the permanence of the materials used in the construction of the brick church reflect the prosperity attained by the Cedar Grove and their conviction that religion would continue to be an important part of their community.

Some of the money for the construction of the brick church was raised at summer socials held at the homes of Mrs. James Dimma and the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Reesor, called Silver Springs Farm. The socials held at Silver Springs farm were famous for being quite lavish and attracted over 5000 guests. In 1891 as part of a church fundraiser, the extensive grounds of Silver Springs farm were lit with electric arc lights marking one of the first uses of electric lighting in the Township.

In 1925, the Presbyterians joined with the Methodist to form the United Church which still operates the church to this day.

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### **Architectural Value**

The Zion Cedar Grove United Church is a classic example of a red brick rural church constructed in the late nineteenth century. The building displays a high degree of craftsmanship, following a traditional rectangular plan oriented on an east west axis with a western alter or apse, and an eastern vestibule or exonarthex.

The main hall or nave is raised on a high foundation constructed of massive cut blocks of limestone and granite fieldstone, creating a basement that is lit with natural light by relatively large windows. The apse is half a decagon in plan with a hipped roof and features two round headed windows with stained glass transoms. The nave is divided into three bays divided by brick buttresses. Each bay is punctuated by paired gothic one over one windows with stained glass transoms topped by yellow brick arches that are connected by a horizontal band of yellow bricks featuring a dogs tooth frieze.

Centred on the east wall of the nave is the exonarthex with a louvred gothic vent above and two single gothic one over one windows with stained glass transoms on either side. The exonarthex has a buttressed front wall that rises above the roof to form a parapet and two gothic one over one windows with stained glass transoms on the side walls. The front wall of the exonarthex features two wooden double leaved doors with original hardware and ornate cast iron gothic hinges. Above the doors are wooden pointed transoms featuring wooden board arranged in a herring bone pattern. Centered in the wall above the doors is a bullseye window surrounded in yellow brick with a stained glass trefoil with three smaller punched trefoils within the cusps of the overall window frame.

The roofs of both the nave and the exonarthex are steeply pitched with red asphalt shingles. Encircling the perimeter of the church is a yellow brick plinth directly above the stone foundation. The north east corner of the foundation features a large block with the date of construction 1890 carved into it. Projecting from the south basement wall is a one storey modern styled brick addition with a flat roof. This addition serves as a multi purpose room and was constructed in 1964.

### **Contextual Value**

The Zion Cedar Grove United Church is of contextual significance for its long time association with the historic community of Cedar Grove. The church's surroundings remain distinctly rural and are protected by the Greenbelt and North Rouge Management Plans. The property represents the quintessential country church built in the Gothic style, simple in form, yet displaying sophisticated decorative elements. The church is remarkably similar in form to the brick church located in nearby Locust Hill, but is unique for its paired double entrance doors and the robust gothic details and brickwork. Together with the cemetery immediately to the north, surrounded by a stand of mature Norway spruce and farm fields, the church is solidly linked to the names of Markham's early settlers and the Town's agricultural past.

### **Significant Architectural Attributes**

Exterior character-defining attributes that embody the heritage value of the Zion Cedar Grove United Church House include:

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- The rectangular form oriented on an east west axis with an apse and exonarthex;
- The raised cut limestone and granite fieldstone foundation with date stone;
- The dichromatic brickwork having a plinth, arches and horizontal banding picked out in contrasting yellow brick;
- The half decagon in plan apse with hipped roof and two round headed one over one windows with stained glass transoms;
- The three bay nave defined by brick buttresses featuring paired one over one pointed gothic windows with stained glass transoms and a steeply pitched roof;
- The louvered gothic attic vent and single one over one gothic pointed arched windows with stained glass transoms on the east wall of the nave.;
- The exonarthex with its brick buttressed front wall that extends above the roof to form a parapet featuring a bullesye window with a stained glass trefoil and the paired double wooden entrance doors with cast iron gothic hinges, original hardware, and wooden pointed transoms with herring bone pattered boards;
- The one over one gothic pointed arched windows of the exonarthex with stained glass transoms;

## 2.2 VISION, GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND PLANNING PRINCIPLES FOR ROUGE PARK NORTH

### *The Rouge Park Vision - Rouge Park Management Plan (1994)*

The vision to be realized through the implementation and management of Rouge Park as set out in the Rouge Park Management Plan (1994) is described in the following statement:

*Rouge Park will be a special place of outstanding natural features and diverse cultural heritage in an urban-rural setting, protected and flourishing as an ecosystem in perpetuity. Human activities will exist in harmony with the natural values of the park. The park will be a sanctuary for nature and the human spirit.*

### *Park Goal and Objectives*

To achieve this vision, a goal as well as a suite of objectives and planning principles are set out in the Rouge Park Management Plan (1994). The goal for Rouge Park is stated as:

*To protect, restore and enhance the natural, scenic and cultural values of the park in an ecosystem context, and to promote public responsibility, understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of this heritage.*

The objectives for Rouge Park are:

- Natural Heritage Objective - To protect, restore and enhance the natural ecosystem of the park by ensuring the health and diversity of its native species, habitats, landscapes and ecological processes.
- Cultural Heritage Objective - To identify, protect and conserve the cultural heritage features of the park for their inherent value and depiction of the long-term human use and occupancy of the area.
- Land Use Objective - To ensure protection of the ecological integrity and cultural values of the park through innovative planning, management and land use in the park and its environs.
- Management Objective - To manage the park to ensure the achievement of all park objectives and to provide for ongoing public involvement in park planning and management.
- Interpretation Objective - To promote knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural values of the park, their protection and management requirements, as well as their significance, sensitivities and interrelationships.
- Recreation Objective - To provide opportunities for appropriate recreational enjoyment consistent with all other park objectives.

The vision and objectives set out in the Rouge Park Management Plan (1994) were adopted for the Rouge North Management Plan to ensure that Rouge Park north of Steeles Avenue represents a contiguous and complementary extension of the existing Rouge Park. However, the Management Plan is fundamentally different in its approach and its recommendations for implementation since the context and the configuration of the valleylands of the Rouge River and its tributaries, which are the core feature of Rouge Park North, differ from those of Rouge Park.

In order to achieve the above noted objectives, the Rouge Park Management Plan (1994) set out a suite of park planning principles related to Natural Heritage, Cultural Heritage, First Nations Involvement, Land Use, Interpretation and Education, Recreation and Management. These principles provided guidance in the course of generating the Rouge North Management Plan.

### *Natural and Cultural Heritage Program*

The Rouge Park Alliance initiated the Natural and Cultural Heritage Program and established the Natural and Cultural Heritage Committee to provide a coordinated and planned approach to implementing natural and cultural heritage projects within the Rouge River watershed. In 1998, the Rouge Park Natural and Cultural Heritage Action Plan was approved by the Rouge Park Alliance. The restorative work that the Rouge Park Alliance has approved and funded is now being undertaken throughout the park and watershed. The following section describes proposed actions that complement the restoration efforts already underway.

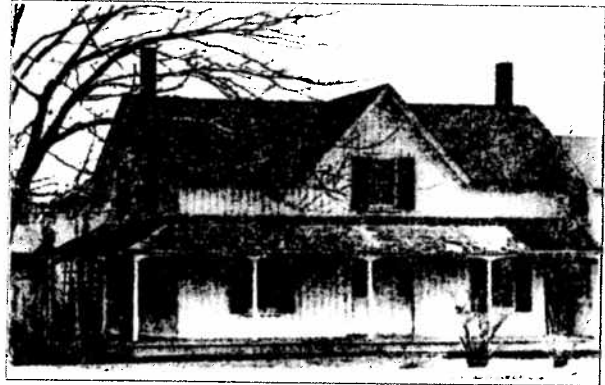
#### *6.5.2.1 Preservation and Management of Heritage Resources*

The Management Plan provides for the protection and integration of significant archaeological and heritage resources through the delineation of Natural Heritage Zones within lands designated as Rouge Park North. However, since the realization of the park in its ultimate form will be the product of a long process spanning decades, there is a need to recommend a strategy for identifying important resources. This is required on a watershed-wide basis in order to integrate resources into the physical and programmatic framework of the park, based upon the following principles, priorities and recommendations.

#### *6.5.2.2 Cultural Heritage Program*

##### *a) Historical Summary*

Prior to Euro-Canadian settlement, the Rouge River area was comprised of a rich habitat of flora and fauna that attracted native aboriginal settlements over many centuries. With Euro-Canadian settlement and cultural concepts of, and predisposition to, 'development' and 'progress', the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries witnessed a transformation of the Rouge River watershed. Settlement shaped the watershed into an agricultural landscape, complete with associated built-up centres of rural settlement and transportation linkages. More recent urbanization has diminished the nature of the former agricultural character of the study area.



*Noah Reesor Heritage Home  
Source: Rouge Park (1999)*

##### *b) Architectural and Landscape Character*

The Rouge Park North study area comprises a diverse and contrasting array of landscapes, buildings, views and vistas. The surviving built heritage represents a broad spectrum of building types, styles and construction practice. Notable losses of buildings have occurred with the demise of certain economic activities and related land uses, principally related to agricultural activities.

##### *c) Rouge Park North - Opportunities for Interpretation*

Historic centres of settlement identified in the Background Technical Appendix, and those features or areas designated under Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act by municipal councils, offer an initial opportunity to integrate built resources into the interpretive programming structure developed for the park. Future identification and study of built heritage resources and cultural landscapes through a Heritage Watershed Master Plan will further define the significance of features not included in designated property lists or in municipal inventories beyond the normally listed institutional, commercial and residential features, including the history of the families that settled the watershed, the hamlets and other aspects of human and

sociological heritage. Agricultural features that help define the former character of the study area were identified more comprehensively through this process.

## d) Recommendations

1. Undertake the preparation of a comprehensive, watershed-wide Heritage Master Plan. The primary objective of the proposed Heritage Master Plan for the Rouge watershed would be to provide an accurate understanding of the human-land relationship within the drainage system, from the distant prehistoric past through to more recent historic settlement periods. Data collected through this study would serve to identify known heritage resources, or those found as a result of subsequent research. These resources would be defined within a broader historical context, providing a sound basis for the assessment of their overall significance. This data may then be used to develop appropriate management strategies for the conservation, integration and enhancement of archaeological and built cultural heritage features within the study environment. Management strategies might include policies and procedures for the further delineation and conservation of cultural heritage features, which may be adversely affected by development (e.g. transportation corridors), as well as planning for the wise use (i.e. interpretation) of these features. The proposed Master Plan should build on the TRCA's Cultural Heritage Inventory Project currently underway.
2. It is recommended that the future heritage conservation management and planning of this area encompass the stewardship areas delineated in the Management Plan.
3. In order to ensure a comprehensive approach to heritage conservation, it is recommended that revisions be undertaken to Official Plan policies in the towns of Markham, Richmond Hill and Whitchurch-Stouffville, wherever appropriate. This will reflect the intent to conserve built cultural features identified in a full Watershed Heritage Master Plan.
4. It is recommended that when development is proposed within the Rouge North Management Plan area, either as a public or private undertaking, that the proposed development be considered by the relevant planning authority with respect to applicable conservation and planning guidelines for built cultural resources, including cultural landscapes.
5. Where new development replaces significant former built heritage resources, the new development should be suitably planned to include one or more of the following techniques:
  - The preservation and display of fragments of former buildings, structures and landscaping in their historic context;
  - Marking the traces of former locations, shapes and circulation lines of buildings, structures, travel routes and spaces;
  - The display of graphic material describing the former landscape complex;
  - Recall the former architecture, plan and landscaping in the new development;
  - The salvage of information through archaeological exploration and recording of buildings, structures and landscape through measured drawings and photogrammetry.
6. It is recommended that all works of public agencies consider their impacts upon built heritage resources and cultural landscape with a presumption against any work that would detrimentally affect a valued built heritage resource, cultural landscape or its attributes.
7. It is recommended that, as part of the long-term planning for heritage conservation in the Rouge Park North area, the promotion of a broader appreciation of its history and past activities consider undertaking the following:
  - i) Investigate the establishment of a Rouge Park North Heritage Centre to provide interpretive programs developed from information gathered from the Heritage Master Plan, as well as to