

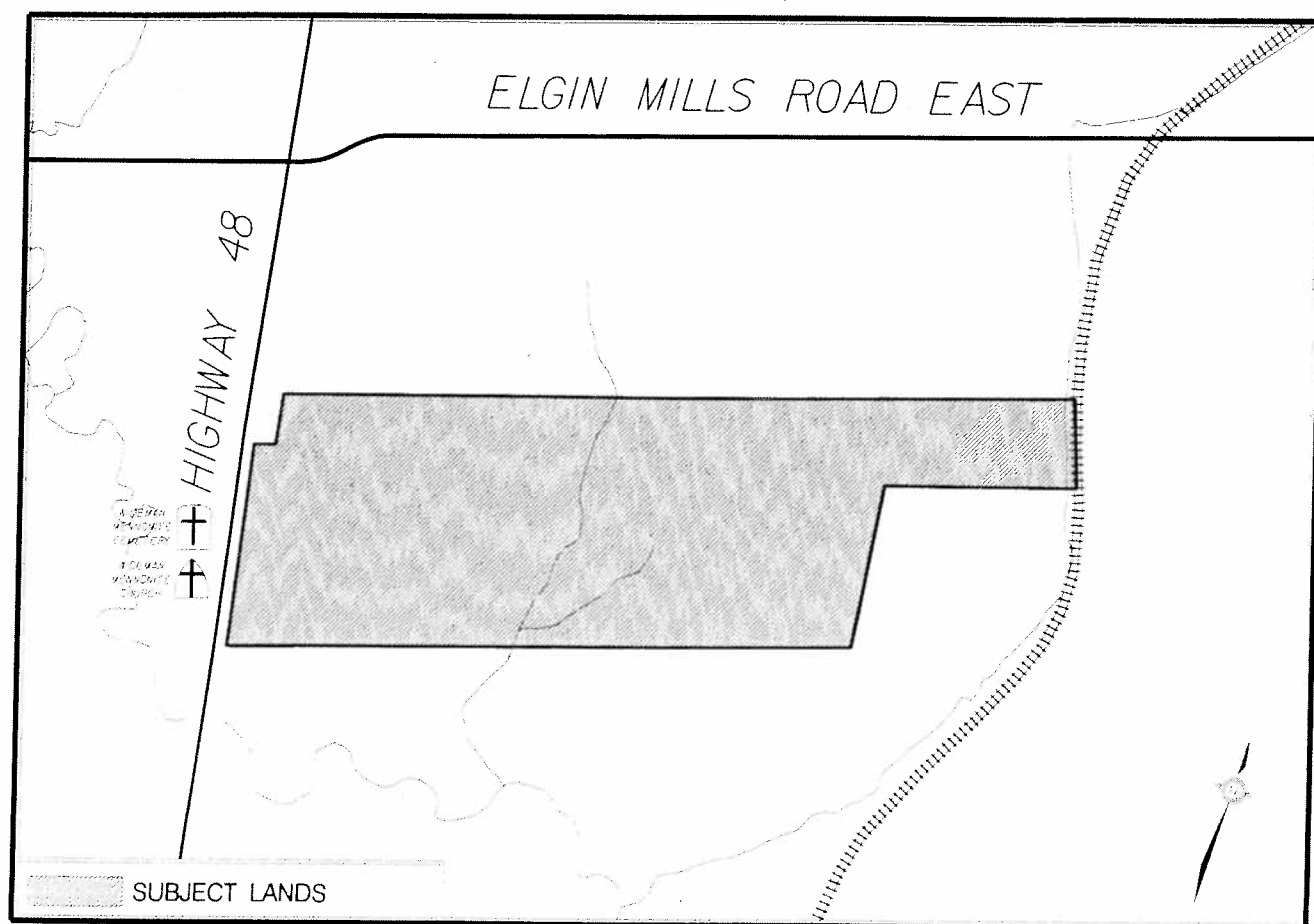
**Figure 1**

**Owner:** Emery Investments  
620 Wilson Avenue, Suite 401  
Toronto, ON  
M3K 1Z3

Contact:  
Mai Somermaa

Tel. 416-630-6927 ext. 272  
Fax. 416-630-6997

**Location Map:**



**FIGURE 2**



**WIDEMAN HOUSE – SOUTH VIEW**



**WIDEMAN HOUSE – WEST VIEW**



**WIDEMAN HOUSE – EAST VIEW**

HERITAGE MARKHAM  
EXTRACT

**APPENDIX A**

DATE: November 14, 2008, 2008

TO: R. Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning  
Christina Doyle-Dimou

EXTRACT CONTAINING ITEM # 1 OF THE TENTH HERITAGE MARKHAM  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 8, 2008

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6. REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

10541 HIGHWAY 48

HERITAGE STATUS OF THE SAMUEL WIDEMAN HOUSE

MILNESVILLE COMMUNITY (16.11)

Extracts: R. Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning

The Senior Heritage Planner introduced this matter, advising that the owner has requested a demolition permit for the buildings on the property. Due to the condition of the outbuildings, staff can support the demolition of those structures, but not the house. The Town has 60 days to begin the designation process once a demolition permit has been submitted.

Ms. Mai Somermaa of Emery Investments, representing the owners, explained that a contractor estimates the cost of making the house habitable for a tenant, to be in the range of \$80 – 90,000, which in their view, is not economically feasible. The owner is boarding up the building and suggests that a solution may be to find a new owner and move it to Heritage Estates.

The Committee considered that the required repairs may not be as extensive as suggested, and that the building could provide some low-cost housing. The owner is expected to protect the house pending designation, and tenancing is the best way to preserve it in the long term. It was suggested that the house could be moved to the front of the property.

Staff noted that a consultant has been hired by the Town to develop a strategy for dealing with threatened buildings, and that this house is considered to be an excellent case study for the project.

HERITAGE MARKHAM RECOMMENDS:

THAT Heritage Markham advise the owner of the Samuel Wideman House at 10541 Highway 48 that the building is a significant heritage resource listed on the Markham *Register of Property of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*, and to ensure its preservation, the house should be repaired and re-tenanted;

AND THAT Heritage Markham does not support the demolition application for this heritage building;

AND THAT Heritage Markham has no objection to the demolition of the barn and sheds;

AND THAT staff prepare a report recommending designation for Council's consideration.

CARRIED

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE – REASONS FOR DESIGNATION****Samuel Wideman House**

**10541 Highway 48  
Lot 24, Concession 8**

**c.1855**

The Samuel 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 Samuel Wideman House is a one and a half storey brick residence located on the east side of Highway 48, south of Elgin Mills Road. The house faces south, and is significantly set back from the road at the end of long farm lane. The property is situated within the historic community of Milnesville.

**Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest****Historical and Associative Value**

The Samuel Wideman House is of cultural heritage value or interest for its association with a prominent Pennsylvania-German Mennonite family of the Markham Township community of Milnesville.

The house at 10541 Highway 48 is located on Markham Township Lot 24, Concession 8. Lot 24 was leased by the Crown to Pennsylvania-German immigrant Henry Wideman (originally spelled 'Weidman') in 1803, the year of his arrival in Markham Township. Henry Wideman (1757-1810) came from Buck's County, Pennsylvania with his wife, Catherine Van Hoben and their children. He was one of the first ordained Mennonite clergymen in Upper Canada, and the first in Markham Township. Unfortunately, Henry Wideman was killed by a falling tree while clearing the road allowance in front of his lot. The Wideman Church across the road from this property was named for him.

Henry and Catherine Wideman's son, Christian Wideman (1782-1848) arrived in Markham Township in 1805, two years after his parents. He married Maria Kauffman. Christian Wideman received the Crown patent for the family homestead in 1824. In 1844, the 135 acre westerly portion was sold to his son, Samuel. According to the 1851 Census, Samuel Wideman (1820-1880) was a farmer and lived in a two storey wood frame house with his wife, Barbara Heise and their four children. The 1861 Census describes the dwelling occupied by Samuel Wideman's family as a one and a half storey brick house. Therefore, in the time between the 1851 Census and the 1861 Census, a new house was built to replace the earlier frame one.

By the terms of Samuel Wideman's will, 1880, the 135 farm was left to his widow, Barbara. Wideman's heirs sold 110 acres to Joseph Grove in 1881, and the remaining 25

acres were willed to Abraham Wideman in 1891. Joseph Grove's name appears in the 1892 Directory, and on a map dated 1918, the farm is occupied by Menno Grove.

### **Design and Physical Value**

The Samuel Wideman House is a representative example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Southern Ontario farmhouse rendered in the Georgian architectural tradition, with Classic Revival design influences. The rectangular plan, symmetry and formality in the placement of doors and windows, low-pitched gable roof and 6 over 6 windows belong to this long-lasting architectural tradition based on British and American precedents from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The wide doorcase, with its one-panelled door, flat-headed transom light and sidelights, is a feature associated with the Classic Revival style that was in fashion during this time, accenting the basic Georgian form of the building.

The generous amount of glazing of the Wideman House is a reflection of a later interpretation of the Georgian architectural tradition as influenced by the Regency, Neo-Classical and Classic Revival styles that featured larger, and more plentiful windows in contrast to the earlier Georgian precedents. The half-round recess in the west gable may have either been a datestone or a false attic window. This fanlight-like feature indicates a Neo-Classical stylistic influence.

The design value of the Samuel Wideman House is further expressed in the unusual patterned brick treatment. Patterned brick is characteristic of brick buildings constructed in Markham, and throughout Ontario, during the mid-1840s to 1880s period. The simple and restrained patterned brick treatment of the Wideman House is reflective of the Mennonite culture of the family, and is noteworthy because the decorative treatment varies from wall to wall in its level of detail, most probably, for reasons of economy.

The Samuel Wideman House also has design and associative value with respect to the rear addition appears to have originally functioned as a "doddy" house, in the tradition of the Mennonite culture, where separate accommodation was provided for retired parents or grandparents, but connected with the main house.

### **Contextual Value**

The Samuel Wideman House has contextual value as a cultural heritage resource that forms a part of the historic community of Milnesville. Milnesville was named Peter Milne, a member of a prominent family of Scottish mill-owners. Peter Milne established a store, post office (established in 1852) and grist mill at the crossroads of what is today Highway 48 and the Elgin Mills Sideroad in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The rural hamlet also contained a Mennonite Church and cemetery, two blacksmith shops, two weavers, a builder, a boot and shoe maker, and a cider mill.

The Wideman farm was one of several farms clustered around Milnesville, which received its post office as early as 1852. In addition to the Widemans, a number of other Pennsylvania-German families lived in the vicinity, including the Hoover, Barkey, Byer, Heise, Steckley, Ramer and others.

### **Significant Architectural Attributes**

Character-defining attributes that embody the cultural heritage value of the Samuel Wideman House include:

- Overall form of the rectangular, 1 ½ storey brick building;
- Fieldstone foundation and gable-roofed, brick exterior cellar entrance with its early 6 panelled wood door;
- Brick walls, including decorative quoins, half-round west gable-end blind window, plinth courses, and radiating arches over window openings;
- 6/6 wood windows, with their associated wood brickmoulds and projecting sills;
- Front doorcase with its one-panelled wood door, rectangular transom light, multi-paned sidelights with wood panels below, and associated trim. Also of significance are the wood storm door, and wood storm windows on the transom light and sidelights;
- Medium-pitched gable roof with wide, overhanging boxed eaves, eave returns, and wood bedmould;
- Rear frame, doddy house addition, with its one and half storey form, gable roof with shed-roofed dormers, ground floor 6/6 wood windows and their associated wood trim and projecting window sills, and wood exterior doors.

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