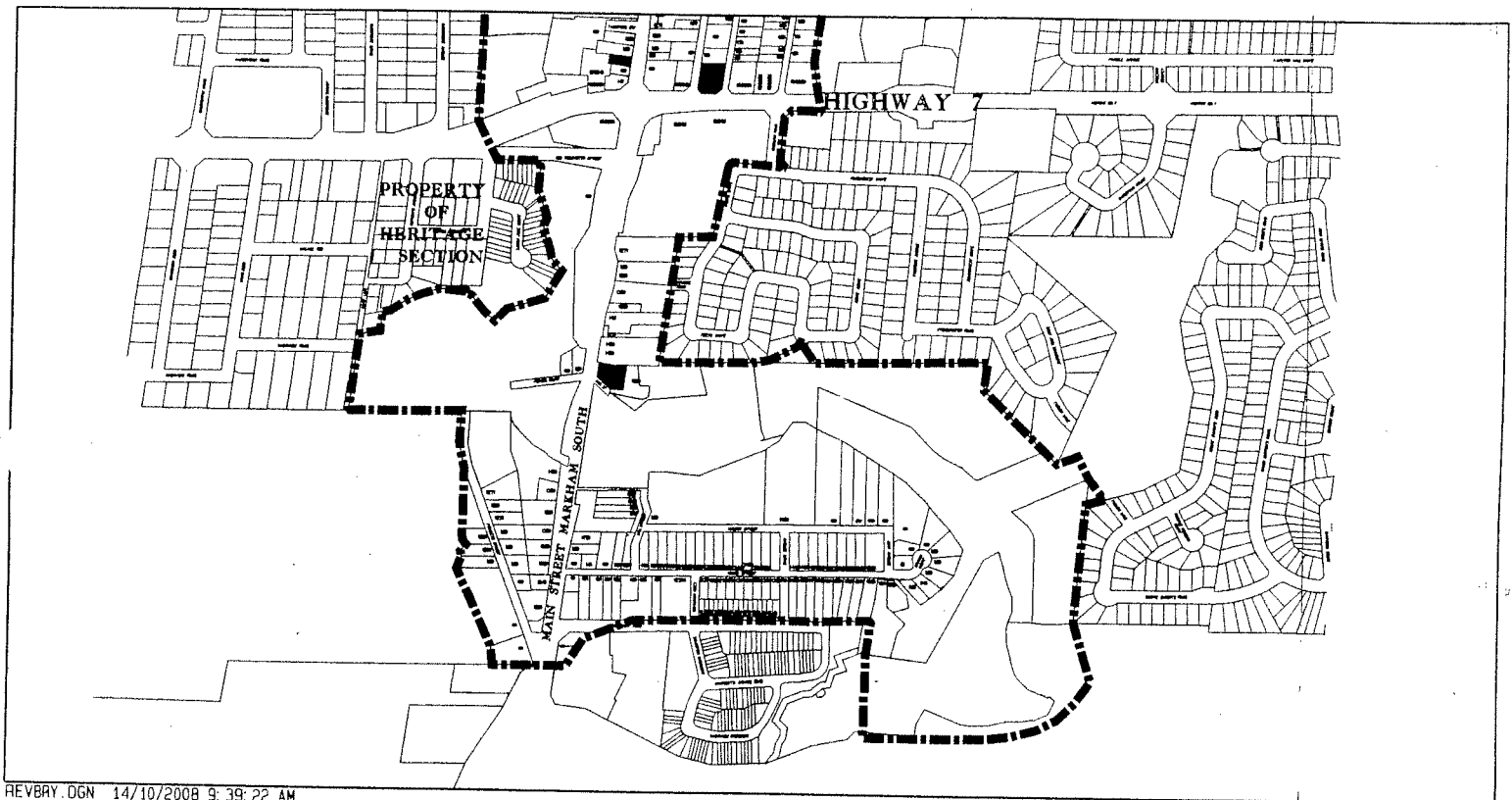


Figure 1: Map showing the Vinegar Hill portion of the Markham Village Heritage Conservation District



To: Regan Hutcheson
Jane Watt, Chair, Heritage Markham

From: Dianne More
President, Markham Village Conservancy

Re: Proposal to recognize and protect Vinegar Dip as a "Designated Cultural Landscape"

Rationale

Vinegar Dip is a **defining landscape** for Markham Village.

It is where the community began. It is **why** the community began, as settlers used the power of the Rouge River to begin new ventures and new lives.

It significantly contributes to Markham Village as a **distinct** place.

It provides a highly visible connection to the Rouge Park system.

The largely in-tact topography of Vinegar Dip makes it a unique entrance to the Village of Markham. All other entrances have been radically altered.

The land form naturally calms traffic and announces the distinctive character of the Village approaching.

Its juxtaposition to the stark and harsh character of Highway 407 is striking.

It is well worth protecting.

It is an island of calm in a turbulent sea.

Current Status and Relevant Policies

The area known as Vinegar Dip/Hill is currently protected under Part V of the Heritage Act by its inclusion in the Markham Village Heritage Conservation District.

The 2005 **Provincial Policy Statement** which states under section 2.6 that "significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved".- page 21

Under definitions of the **Ontario Heritage Act**, heritage attributes means "in relation to real property, and the buildings and structures that contribute to their cultural heritage value or interest".

Property Designated under Part IV

Part V 41 (2) A property that is designated under Part IV may subsequently be included in an area designated as a heritage conservation district under this Part, **and** a property that is included in an area designated as a heritage conservation district under this Part may subsequently be designated under Part IV. 2002, c. 18, Sched. F, s. 2 (24).

Proposal

The Markham Village Conservancy is requesting that the landscape of Vinegar Dip/Hill be further protected and be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a Cultural Heritage Landscape.

The Places to Grow Act states under section 4.2.4 Culture of Conservation that *municipalities will develop and implement official plan policies and other strategies in support of “cultural heritage and archaeological resources as built-up areas are intensified”.*

VINEGAR HILL RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF VINEGAR HILL AS A
CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPE**

WHEREAS

Provincial legislation and Policy Statements direct and encourage municipalities to incorporate more detailed conservation objectives and policies regarding local cultural heritage landscapes into Official Plans, land use planning documents and related development approval decisions

AND WHEREAS

The valley of Vinegar Hill is a significant cultural heritage landscape being defined as a geographical area of heritage significance valued by the community involving features including structures, open spaces and natural elements which together make up a significant type of heritage form

AND WHEREAS

The settlement history of the beginnings of Markham is inextricably tied to the natural physical environment of the valley of Vinegar Hill and the historic character and ambience of the area is expressed through the natural environment, the open space of the Rouge Valley and the streetscape

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Vinegar Hill Ratepayers Association supports all measures necessary to identify and designate Vinegar Hill as a cultural heritage landscape by the Town of Markham so that its value to the community may be preserved and protected and; asks that as a first step, Heritage Markham officially declare its intention to pursue this objective.

May 2008

HERITAGE MARKHAM
EXTRACT

APPENDIX C

DATE: June 25, 2008

TO: R. Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning

EXTRACT CONTAINING ITEM # 4 OF THE SIXTH HERITAGE MARKHAM
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 11, 2008

4. DESIGNATION PROPOSAL
VINEGAR HILL AS A CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPE (16.11)
Extracts: R. Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning
-

The Senior Heritage Planner gave a presentation on this proposal.

The following persons addressed the Markham Heritage Committee:

- Ms. Dianne More, President, Markham Village Conservancy, requesting that the landscape of Vinegar Dip/Hill be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a Cultural Heritage Landscape; and
- Mr. Peter Ross, representing the Vinegar Hill Ratepayers Association, who circulated a photograph of the area taken circa 1920 and advised that the Association recently passed a resolution supporting the intention to pursue the designation of Vinegar Hill as a cultural heritage landscape.

HERITAGE MARKHAM RECOMMENDS:

THAT Heritage Markham receive the presentations of Dianne More, President of the Markham Village Conservancy and Peter Ross, Vinegar Hill Ratepayers Association;

THAT Heritage Markham receive the resolution of the Vinegar Hill Ratepayers Association;

AND THAT staff be requested to report back on the feasibility of a Part IV heritage designation being applied to this area, or alternate means of enhancing the recognition and protection of Vinegar Hill as a significant Cultural Heritage Landscape.

CARRIED.

HERITAGE MARKHAM
EXTRACT

Appendix 'C'

DATE: November 17, 2008

TO: R. Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning
G. Duncan, Senior Heritage Planner

EXTRACT CONTAINING ITEM # 13 OF THE ELEVENTH HERITAGE MARKHAM
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2008

13. REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK
VINEGAR HILL CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPE (16.11)
Extracts: R. Hutcheson, Manager of Heritage Planning
-

HERITAGE MARKHAM RECOMMENDS:

That Heritage Markham requests that Council pass a resolution to recognize the Vinegar Hill neighbourhood of the Markham Village Heritage Conservation District as a significant Cultural Heritage Landscape;

And that Council advise the Markham Village Conservancy and the Vinegar Hill Ratepayers Association that the Cultural Heritage Landscape of the Vinegar Hill neighbourhood will continue to be protected through the policies of the Markham Village Heritage Conservation District Plan.

CARRIED

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Cultural Landscapes in Ontario



Battlefield House is an example of a "defined landscape"

Since the Ontario Heritage Act was proclaimed in 1975, LACACs and municipalities have developed considerable experience in identifying and designating individual heritage properties and districts. Now, in the conservation field, we are expanding our interest from individual buildings as landmarks to an appreciation of cultural landscapes.

People have always altered their surroundings to meet their needs. However, the natural landscape should not be considered as merely a setting for buildings but as an influence upon them and human activities. While there are various definitions of cultural landscapes, all emphasize the interrelationship of people and the natural environment.

Cultural landscapes are characterized by the activities and processes which have shaped them. It is our shared sense of the values they represent that make them significant.

We should not confuse cultural with scenic landscapes. A scenic landscape is valued for its pleasing appearance; a cultural landscape for the information it conveys about the processes and activities that have shaped a community. For example, an abandoned and possibly unattractive industrial site may be an important cultural landscape for the information it reveals about industrial processes and the development of a particular community or region.

Types of Cultural Landscapes

There are different typologies for cultural landscapes but generally they fall within three categories. These are taken from the Operational Guidelines adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 1992:

- **Defined landscapes:** those which have been intentionally designed (e.g., a formal garden or, in a more urban setting, the square in the Town of Goderich)
- **Evolved landscapes:** those which have grown organically including those which continue to evolve (continuing landscape); (relict landscape) where an evolutionary process has come to an end (e.g., an abandoned mine site)
- **Associative landscapes:** those with powerful religious, artistic, or cultural associations of the natural element rather than material cultural evidence, which may be insignificant or even absent (e.g., Algonquin Park because of its association with the Group of Seven paintings)



Riverscape - an example of an "evolved/continuing" cultural landscape.

Why Cultural Landscapes?

- Landscapes which have been altered by people or which have a special significance for them, convey cultural messages about past or continuing practices and processes.
- Landscapes illustrate broad patterns of land use over an extended period of time. They tell us how communities have developed; they help define what gives a region its characteristics and hence distinctive identity (e.g., the grid-like concessions of the southwest Ontario farming landscape vs. the mining landscapes of northern Ontario reveal different reasons and periods of development, and different responses to the natural landscape).
- By studying cultural landscapes, we understand the broad social, economic, political and environmental forces that have shaped and may continue to shape our communities. As a result, we have a greater chance of identifying what activities and policies will positively or negatively affect our heritage.

New Opportunities and Responsibilities

By their very nature, cultural landscapes are more complex and difficult to identify and conserve. They can be owned by a number of people or cross municipal boundaries (e.g., the Rideau Canal corridor lies in 23 municipalities, including a regional municipality). Defining the extent of the landscape requires careful evaluation of its components and an understanding of the influences and activities that shaped them. Comprehending the relationship between

various parts of a landscape helps guide the types of change that could occur while ensuring adequate preservation. Evaluating landscapes helps develop a shared appreciation for them particularly if the community is involved in the process.

Identifying cultural landscapes builds on the years of experience that LACACs have with heritage buildings and districts. It offers the opportunity to expand on the understanding and appreciation of our heritage and our communities.

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