

Authority: Scarborough Community Council Report No. 9, Clause No. 2,  
as adopted by City of Toronto Council on October 2, 3 and 4, 2001  
Enacted by Council: February 15, 2002

**CITY OF TORONTO**

**BY-LAW No. 90-2002**

**To designate the property at 6601 Steeles Avenue East (Clark-Reesor House) as being of architectural and historical value or interest.**

WHEREAS authority was granted by Council to designate the property at 6741 Steeles Avenue East (Clark-Reesor House) as being of architectural and historical value or interest; and

WHEREAS it was subsequently determined that the street address used in the Council authority was incorrect; and

WHEREAS the property on which the Clark-Reesor House is located has now been assigned the address 6601 Steeles Avenue East; and

WHEREAS the *Ontario Heritage Act* authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact by-laws to designate real property, including all the buildings and structures thereon, to be of historical or architectural value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Toronto has caused to be served upon the owners of the property at 6601 Steeles Avenue East and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Notice of Intention to designate the property and has caused the Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

WHEREAS the reasons for designation are set out in Schedule "A" to this by-law; and

WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation was served upon the Clerk of the municipality.

The Council of the City of Toronto HEREBY ENACTS as follows:

1. The property at 6601 Steeles Avenue East, more particularly described in Schedule "B" and shown on Schedule "C" attached to this by-law, is designated as being of architectural and historical value or interest.
2. The City Solicitor is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "B" to this by-law in the proper Land Registry Office.

3. The City Clerk is authorized to cause a copy of this by-law to be served upon the owners of the property at 6601 Steeles Avenue East and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause notice of this by-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Toronto as required by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 15th day of February, A.D. 2002.

CASE OOTES,  
Deputy Mayor

ULLI S. WATKISS  
City Clerk

(Corporate Seal)

**SCHEDULE “A”  
HERITAGE PROPERTY REPORT**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report is the “Long Statement of Reasons for Designation” for the designation of the property at 6601 Steeles Avenue East (Clark-Reesor House) under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. It contains the Heritage Property Profile, as well as sections on the Historical Occupancy, Architectural Description and Significance of the property. Sources and a Location Map are included. Floor plans are appended.\* The introduction, below, forms the “Short Statement of Reasons for Designation”, intended for publication.

N.B. The original version of this report and the plans attached incorrectly refer to the address of the property as 6741 Steeles Avenue East.

The property at 6601 Steeles Avenue East is recommended for designation for architectural and historical reasons. The house was built for James Clark about 1864. It is also known as the Clark/Reesor House because David N. Reesor, a descendant of the Scarborough Mennonite family, occupied the site for forty years.

The Clark-Reesor House is designed in the Georgian style, popular for domestic architecture in the 19th century and characterized by the simplicity and symmetry of the design. The house features a T-shaped plan with a 1½-storey body and a single-storey wing. The gable roof displays mouldings with paired brackets beneath the east and west eaves, buff brick end chimneys, and an extended brick chimney on the south wall. Constructed of wood on a stone foundation, the exterior has clapboard cladding with cornerboards. The principal (north) façade is organized into three bays. A simple wood plank door with a wood surround is positioned between single flat-headed window openings with wood lintels and sills, six-over-six sliding sash windows, and louvered wood shutters. The side (east and west) walls feature a single window opening in the first floor and a pair of window openings, slightly reduced in height, in the half-storey. The house is extended to the rear (south) by a single-storey kitchen wing that is an integral part of the design. The wing is covered by a gable roof with flared eaves that extend to cover an open verandah on the east side and a closed verandah on the west side. The east verandah, supported on a pair of turned posts, protects an entrance and a flat-headed window opening. A single door and window opening are found on the west verandah while, on the south wall, the openings are placed according to the interior arrangement.

The property at 6601 Steeles Avenue East is located on the south side of the street between Reesor Road (east) and Sewells Road (west). The rural setting contains mature black walnut trees. The Clark-Reesor House is an important example of a pre-Confederation farmhouse associated with two long-term residents of Scarborough.

\*The Scarborough LACAC Panel provided the attached floor plans.

## 1.1 HERITAGE PROPERTY PROFILE

**CLARK-REESOR HOUSE**

ADDRESS:	6601 Steeles Avenue East (south side, between Reesor Road and Sewells Road)
WARD:	42 (Scarborough-Rouge River)
NEIGHBOURHOOD/COMMUNITY:	Scarborough
HISTORICAL NAME:	Clark-Reesor House
CONSTRUCTION DATE:	Circa 1864
ORIGINAL OWNER:	James Clark
ORIGINAL USE:	Residential (single family house)
CURRENT USE: *	Residential (single family house) (* <i>this does not refer to permitted use(s) defined by the Zoning By-law</i> )
ARCHITECT/BUILDER/CRAFTSMAN:	Builder unknown
ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:	Georgian
DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION:	Wood frame construction on stone foundation with clapboard siding
ALTERATIONS:	Dates unknown, chimney altered on rear (south) wall of house; rear (south) wall of wing altered
HERITAGE CATEGORY:	Historical and architectural
RECORDER:	Kathryn Anderson, Heritage Preservation Services
REPORT DATE:	January 2001

## 2.0 HISTORICAL OCCUPANCY AND SIGNIFICANCE:

## 2.1 NORTHEAST SCARBOROUGH

Following the establishment of the Province of Upper Canada in 1791, Augustus Jones surveyed a number of townships on behalf of the British government. Scarborough Township was bounded by Lake Ontario on the south, the Pickering Town Line on the east, the Markham-Scarborough Town Line (now Steeles Avenue East) on the north, and the York Town Line (now Victoria Park Avenue) on the west. Using present-day Lawrence Avenue as the base line, four concessions labelled A through D were surveyed along the “broken front” of Lake Ontario, while five concessions numbered one to five were laid out to the north.

In the northeast part of Scarborough Township, the closest community was Armadale. Located at present-day Steeles Avenue East and Markham Road, the hamlet emerged with a blacksmith shop, general store, tavern and temperance hall. After the opening of a post office in 1869, the original name of Magdalla was changed to Armadale. The Armadale Free Methodist Church, located at 400 Passmore Avenue, is commemorated by an Ontario Heritage Foundation plaque as the oldest Canadian church of that denomination in continuous use.

## 2.2 CLARK-REESOR HOUSE

The patent for Lot 8 in Concession of 5 of Scarborough Township was awarded to John Oliver in 1840. William Nelson acquired the property in 1845, selling it to William Hall in 1857. Tremaine's Map of 1860 does not record a building on the site. According to the Decennial Census for Canada in 1861, Thomas Hall (possibly the son of William Hall) occupied a single-storey log dwelling on the property. William Hall sold 60 acres to James Clark in 1864. It is likely that Clark erected the present 1½-storey wood frame house at that time. A building is shown at this location in the Historical Atlas for Toronto and York County, published in 1878.

After retaining the site for nearly 40 years, James Clark sold the property to David N. Reesor in 1902. Reesor was a member of the prominent Mennonite family that accumulated land on either side of the Markham-Scarborough Town Line. The family's origins in North America date to 1739 when Peter Reesor (originally Risser or Reiser), a minister in the Mennonite Church, emigrated from Switzerland to Pennsylvania. In 1804, his son, Christian Reesor (1747-1806) moved to Markham Township where Markham Village was originally known as "Reesorville". According to the Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York, published in 1907, "the living descendants of the...six living children of Christian, the first Canadian ancestor, are now estimated to number not less than 900" (77).

David N. Reesor (1870-1959) was the great-great grandson of Christian Reesor. His grandfather, Rev. John Eby Reesor, bought the adjoining Lot 7, Concession 5 in 1849 where the Simeon Reesor House (1857 ff.) at 18 Reesor Road is located. David N. Reesor sold the five-acre site now identified as 6601 Steeles Avenue West in 1942 prior to the expropriation of the property by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

## 2.3 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark-Reesor House is historically significant as the site of a pre-Confederation farmhouse that is linked to the Reesor family of Scarborough and Markham Townships.

## 3.0 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE:

### 3.1 ARCHITECTURAL STYLE

The Clark-Reesor House reflects the simplicity and symmetrical arrangement of openings of the Georgian style, popular in 19th century Ontario. According to The Ancestral Roof, the style ranged from the smallest, simplest "colonial Georgian" houses introduced by the Loyalists to the more elaborate residences that featured brick cladding and classical detailing.

The Clark-Reesor House is similar in appearance to the Cornell House (1858), originally built on Markham Road and relocated to Thomson Memorial Park where it is occupied by the Scarborough Historical Museum. The Cornell House is designated under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### 3.2 ARCHITECT, BUILDER OR CRAFTSMAN

The builder or craftsman of the Clark-Reesor House is not known.

### 3.3 ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER: DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

#### 3.3.1 EXTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

The Clark-Reesor House features a T-shaped plan with a 1½-storey main body (north) and a single-storey rear (south) kitchen wing. Rising from a rubblestone base, the exterior walls feature clapboard cladding with cornerboards.

The main body of the house is protected by a gable roof with mouldings and paired brackets along the east and west eaves. Single buff brick chimneys are inset on the east and west ends of the roof. The red brick chimney on the south slope is an alteration. The principal (north) façade is symmetrically organized into three bays. A wood plank door with a simple wood surround is positioned between single flat-headed window openings. Containing six-over-six sliding sash windows, the openings display louvered wood shutters and simple wood lintels and sills. The side (east and west) walls under the gable ends of the roof feature a single flat-headed window opening in the first floor. In the half-storey, a pair of flat-headed window openings is slightly reduced in height.

Attached to the south wall of the house, the kitchen wing has a gable roof with extended eaves that covers an open verandah on the east side and an enclosed verandah on the west. The open verandah, supported on a pair of turned posts, shelters a panelled door and a single window opening. This pattern of openings is repeated on the west wall of the wing. The windows on the south wall are placed according to the interior plan.

#### 3.3.2 INTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

The Clark-Reesor House features a six-room plan exclusive of the rear wing, with three rooms on each floor of the main body and a staircase in the southwest corner. In describing Georgian house plans, The Ancestral Roof notes that “a bedroom or bedrooms usually opened off the drawing room and the kitchen occupied a space behind the dining parlour. If a house boasted wings, the kitchen was usually banished to one of these...” (20). The front (north) door of the Clark-Reesor House opens directly into the largest room on the first floor, positioned in the northwest corner of the building. Important features in this room are the fireplace on the west wall and the wood window surrounds. The fireplace has a classically-detailed wood surround and mantel and is placed beside a built-in wood cabinet, described as a “fireplace cupboard” (Ancestral Roof, 24). Behind (south of) this main room, enclosed stairs lead to the upstairs hall, which is lighted by a window on the west wall of the house.

### 3.4 ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark-Reesor House is an important surviving example of a small-scale pre-Confederation farmhouse with simple Georgian styling.

## 4.0 CONTEXT

### 4.1 CONTEXT AND SETTING

The Clark-Reesor House is located on the south side of Steeles Avenue East between Reesor Road (east) and Sewells Road (west). Set close to the street, the house is surrounded by trees, including mature black walnut trees. The property to the east, with access from Reesor Road, contains the Simeon Russell House (1857 ff.) that is identified as a property of historical and architectural significance on the Inventory of Historic Sites in Scarborough compiled by the Scarborough LACAC Panel.

### 4.2 CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Clark-Reesor House is contextually important as a surviving mid-19th century farmhouse on the northern edge of Scarborough. Its placement on a lot with mature trees reflects the rural character of Steeles Avenue West.

## 5.0 SUMMARY

The property at 6601 Steeles Avenue West is historically significant for its long-term association with two Scarborough families, those of James Clark and David N. Reesor. Architecturally, the Clark-Reesor House is an important example of a pre-Confederation farmhouse with the hallmarks of Georgian styling.

## 6.0 SOURCES

Abstract Index of Deeds, Scarborough, Concession 5, Lot 8.

Adamson, Anthony, and Marion MacRae. The Ancestral Roof. Domestic Architecture of Upper Canada. Toronto: Clark-Irwin, 1963.

Bonis, Robert R., ed. A History of Scarborough. Scarborough, Ont.: Scarborough Public Library, 1965.

Champion, Mary B., ed. Markham Remembered. Markham, Ont.: Markham District Historical Society, 1988.

Commemorative Biographical Record of Toronto and the County of York. Toronto: J. H. Beers and Company, 1907.

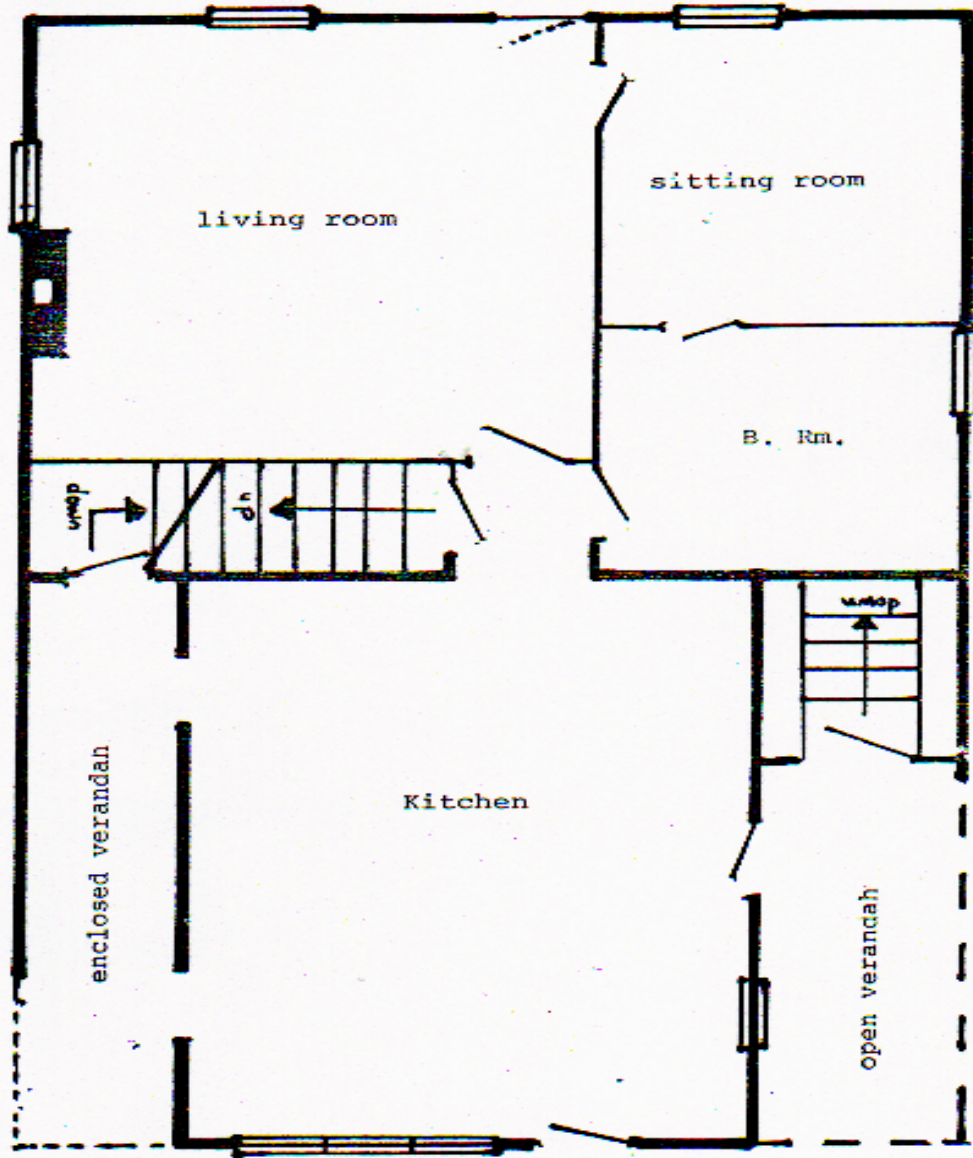
Decennial Census of Canada, Scarborough Township, 1861.

Home Sweet Scarborough. Scarborough, Ont.: Scarborough LACAC, 1996.

Myrvold, Barbara. The People of Scarborough: A History. Scarborough: The City of Scarborough Public Library Board, 1997.

Clark/Reesor (C 1864) main floor

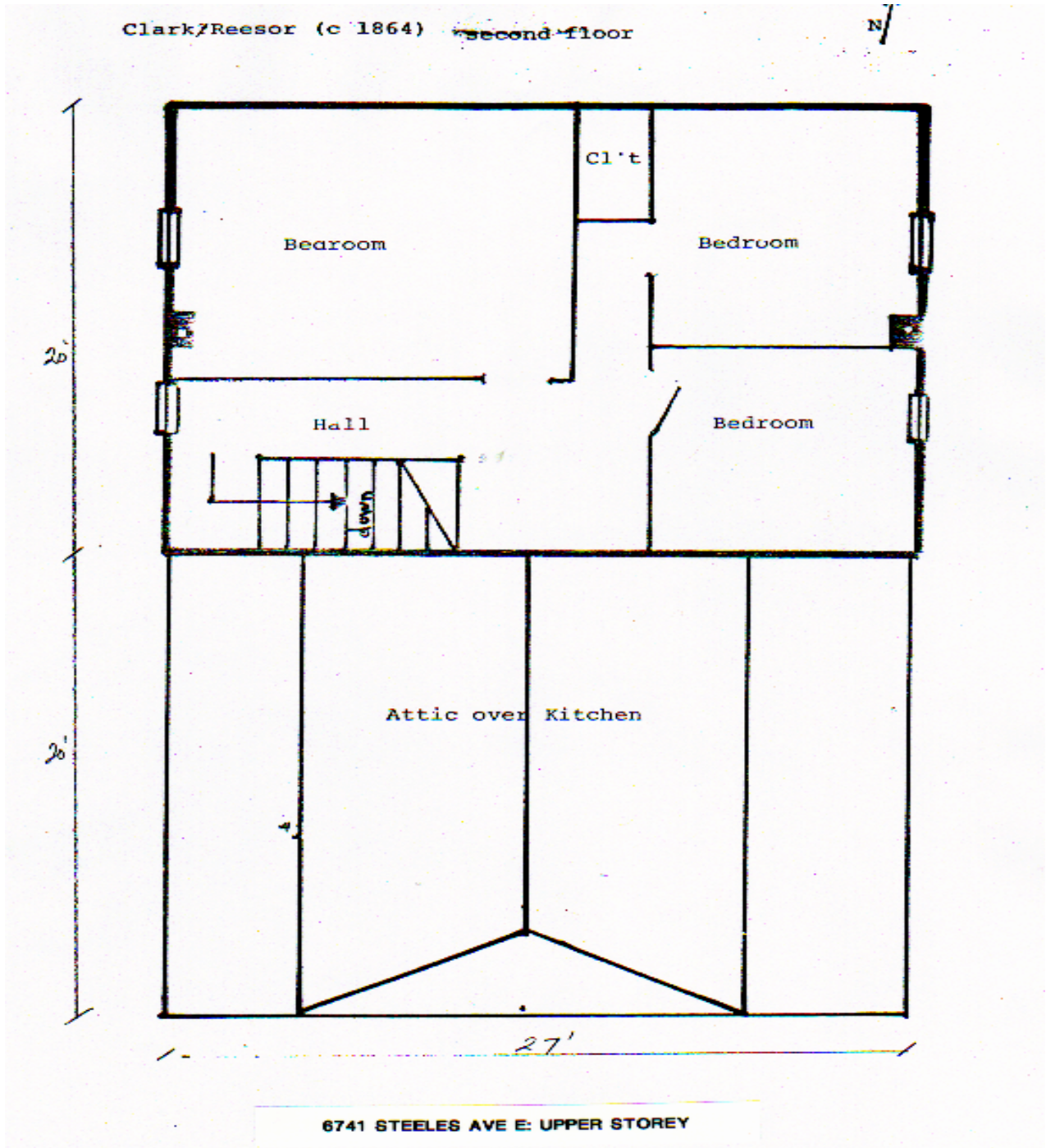
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6741 STEELES AVE E: LOWER STOREY





**SCHEDULE “B”**

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Part of PIN 06053-0343 (LT).

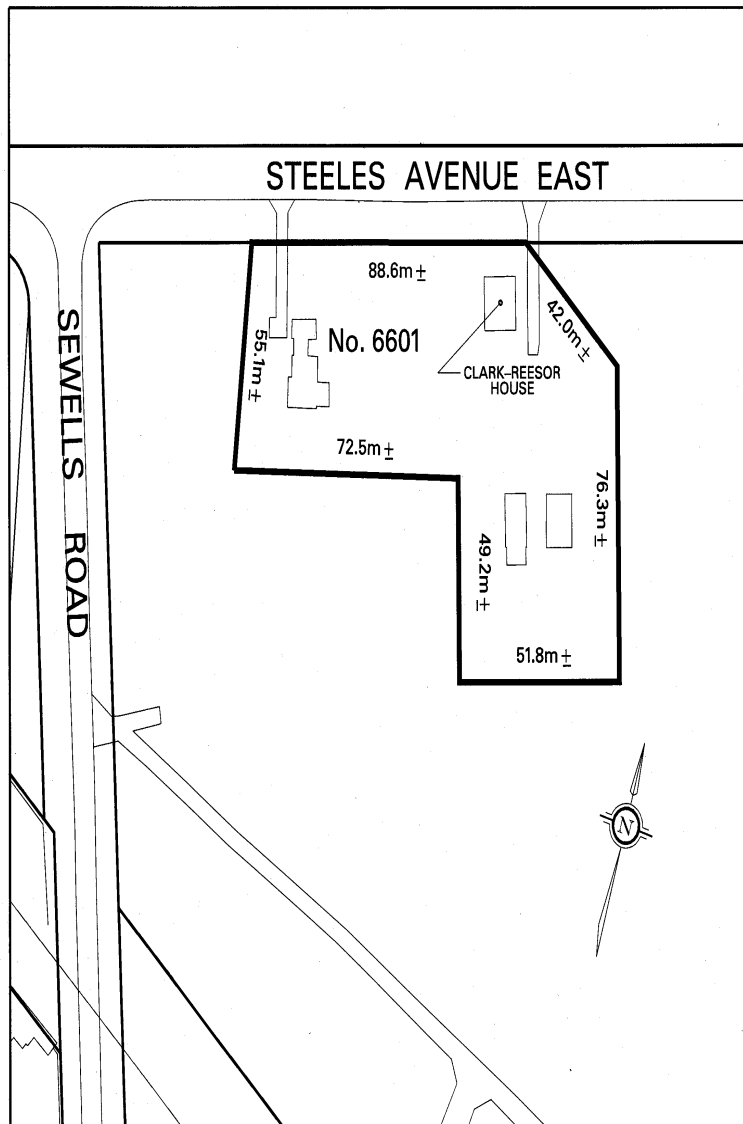
Part of Lot 8 in Concession 5 designated as PART 2 on Plan 64R-7813.

Land Titles Division of the Toronto Registry Office (No. 66)

City of Toronto (formerly in the City of Scarborough) and Province of Ontario.

The hereinbefore described land being delineated by heavy outline on Sketch No. PS-2002-005 dated January 15, 2002, as set out in Schedule “C”.

SCHEDULE "C"



**TORONTO**

WORKS & EMERGENCY SERVICES  
TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION  
SURVEY & MAPPING

NOTE:  
THIS SKETCH IS NOT  
A PLAN OF SURVEY  
AND HAS BEEN COMPILED  
FROM SURVEY NOTES AND  
OFFICE RECORDS. IT SHALL  
NOT BE USED EXCEPT FOR  
THE PURPOSE INDICATED  
IN THE TITLE BLOCK

PROPERTY INFORMATION SHEET

No. 6601 STEELES AVENUE EAST  
(CLARK-REESOR HOUSE)  
LAND DESIGNATED AS BEING OF  
ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL  
VALUE AND INTEREST  
(NOT TO SCALE)

WARD 42 SCARBOROUGH-ROUGE RIVER  
DATE: JAN. 15, 2002

SKETCH No. PS-2002-005