

## **APPENDIX M**

### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value – Markham GO Station**



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## Metrolinx Interim Heritage Committee – Statement of Cultural Heritage Value

### **Property Name: Markham GO Station, Markham**

#### **Description of property:**

The Markham GO Station, located at 214 Main Street North in Markham, Ontario, and retains its original location and proximity with the track. It is located on a triangular site of just over 1.2 hectares (3 acres) of land, as originally acquired by the Toronto & Nipissing Railway Company from Peter Reesor in 1871. Today, the site is framed by Main Street, Station Street, and the new housing development of Marmill Way. The Markham GO Station, although retaining clear sightlines from the north when looking south from Main Street North, is surrounded by three large parking lots that service the station. The site is owned by Metrolinx, with the exception of the station itself, owned by the Corporation of the City of Markham, and is designated individually under Part IV of the OHA, and within the Markham Village Heritage Conservation District under Part V of the OHA.

The building is a striking, long, low structure of an asymmetrical medium-pitched roof of cedar shingles. Exposed rafters and exposed strut supports provide a feeling of weightlessness above the sheltered platform. It is ornamented by paint with horizontal division of light and dark halves, and painted structural members. The building is located in proximity to the track, with two platforms with contemporary shelters on either side. A utility structure, located adjacent to Station Street, is designed in keeping with the colour palette and exposed strut supports of Markham GO Station.

It is recommended that Metrolinx proceed with identifying Markham GO Station as a Conditional Provincial Heritage Property.

#### **Cultural Heritage Value:**

The Markham GO Station is of cultural heritage value or interest for its design-physical, historical associative, as well as its contextual values.

The Markham GO Station represents an early modest type and style of railway station building, adopted by the Toronto & Nipissing Railway Company in the late 19th century. This ‘standard design’ is characterized by its long and low simple board-and-batten and clapboard wooden structure with asymmetrical roof that appears weightless with its exposed rafters and strut supports. The structure’s ornamentation derives from simple wood detailing and, more notably, from paint by horizontally dividing the building into light and dark halves and highlighting structural members.

The Markham GO Station was one of a series of modest ‘standard design’ Toronto and Nipissing Railway Company stations built on the Scarborough – Coboconk line in 1871. This line was constructed under TNRC’s first president, William Gooderham of Gooderham and Worts Distillery in Toronto, and was the first publicly-operated narrow-gauge railway in North America. It is a rare remaining vestige of the brief era of the narrow-gauge railway construction from 1871 to 1883, and the important role which it played as commuter and freight feeder lines in the development and growth of villages in Upper Canada.

The Markham GO Station was located north of the Village of Markham, between the village and the Mount Joy neighbourhood. Its location encouraged the village's northward growth towards Mount Joy and largely aided the economic prosperity of the area's industries and businesses when originally constructed in 1871.

### **Heritage Attributes:**

The key attributes essential to the cultural heritage value or interest of Markham GO Station are:

- The modest long and low structure of the TNRC 'standard design' railway station type
- Asymmetrical medium-pitched roof
- Exposed roof rafters and strut supports
- Extended projection of roof above platform
- Cedar shingle roof
- Painted horizontal division of the building into dark and light halves
- Painted structural members
- Board-and-batten and clapboard cladding
- Intricate wood work and verticality of the Operator's bay
- Its exterior signage referring to the 1909 (GTR) period of restoration

### **Metrolinx Heritage Property Location:**

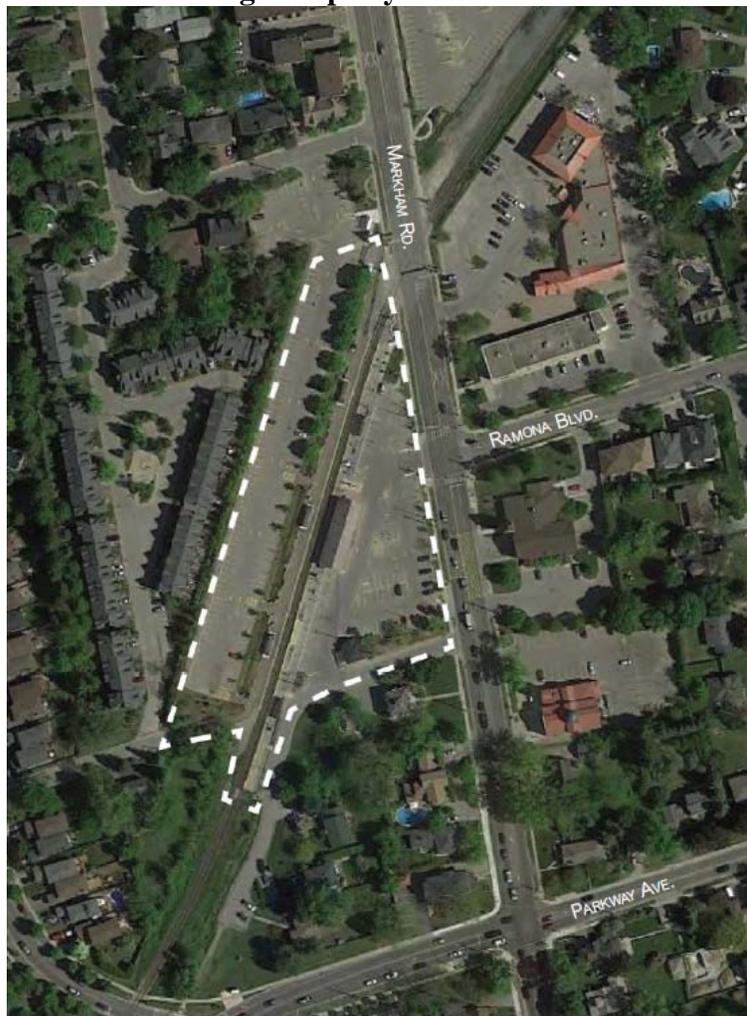


Figure showing the location of Markham GO Station (white), Markham.