

COMMUNITY: Vanzant House on land expropriated for airport

Dilapidated Reesor Rd. heritage home to be razed

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A heritage dwelling at 11206 Reesor Rd., just south of Stouffville, is poised to be destroyed after the Town of Markham's development services committee voted reluctantly Tuesday to support a demolition application.

The existing 1.5-storey frame

dwelling is owned by Transport Canada and located on the Pickering Airport Lands. It's located near Bushwood Golf Club.

NEAR BUSHWOOD

The house, built in the Gothic Revival style, is severely deteriorated and has been vacant for a number of years.

Identified as the Vanzant

House, it was constructed circa 1834 for Almer Vanzant and his wife, Sarah Wideman.

The underlying construction is plank-on-plank with the upper storey raised with conventional framing in the 1870s.

Transport Canada originally proposed demolition of the house in 1996, but didn't pursue it after the issue was reviewed by Heri-

tage Markham.

The house was instead boarded up and left vacant and Transport Canada is seeking demolition now due to its poor condition.

BEYOND REPAIR

"The house is too far gone and can't be repaired at this point," said Markham commis-

sioner Jim Baird.

Town staff is recommending that Transport Canada be reminded again of Markham council's desire to have heritage buildings on the Pickering Airport Lands repaired, maintained and re-tenanted to preserve local heritage resources, as opposed to the abandonment, boarding and neglect of them.



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