

***ART EXHIBITION + STUDIO SPACE  
RENTAL PROGRAM***



**J.E.H./THOREAU MACDONALD HOUSE**

121 Centre Street  
Thornhill, Ontario

**RENTAL SITE INFORMATION**

# J.E.H./THOREAU MACDONALD HOUSE

## Site Features

### Heritage Notes

Situated on a scenic 4-acre parcel of land, the MacDonald House is one of the most historically significant buildings owned by the City of Vaughan. It was once the home of famed Canadian painter, J.E.H. MacDonald, a founding member of the Group of Seven and his accomplished son, illustrator Thoreau MacDonald.

Built in the later 19<sup>th</sup> Century and purchased by the MacDonalds in 1914, the house is an excellent example of modest Gothic Revival architecture. It features a clapboard exterior with decorative bargeboard in the front gable. The interior reflects a typical centre hall floor plan with two main rooms flanking a centrally located staircase and hallway.

In 1974, Thoreau MacDonald donated the entire property to the City of Vaughan. The house and grounds were designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1983 and subsequently restored. Portions of the picturesque garden were recently interpreted to recreate the idyllic landscape that inspired J.E.H. MacDonald's iconic 1916 oil painting, the *Tangled Garden*.

### Programming Rooms

- Six small rooms and a few peripheral areas provide suitable programming space in this home: two rooms are located on the main level and four rooms on the upper level.  
NOTE: The largest room on the upper level measures only 13' (L) x 13' (W) and all rooms on this level feature a number of low ceilings.



Main Level (Program Room 1)  
Measurements: 20' (L) x 10' (W)



Main Level (Program Room 1)  
Measurements: 20' (L) x 10' (W)



Main Level (Program Room 2)  
Measurements: 20' (L) x 13' (W)



Staircase to Upper Level and  
Hallway to Program Rooms



Upper Level (Program Room)



Upper Level (Program Room)



Upper Level (Program Room)

# J.E.H./THOREAU MACDONALD HOUSE

## Site Features

### Art/Artifact Display Fixtures

- MacDonald House features a contemporary picture hanging system in all programming rooms to facilitate installing artwork on selected walls. The system consists of @ 140 running feet of track rails supporting perlon cables and picture hooks that can accommodate double-hanging artwork to maximize display space. NOTE: Artwork cannot be affixed directly to walls with nails, screws, adhesive tape or any fixatives that may damage wall surfaces. Museum tack may be used though, to adhere labels and lightweight paper materials directly to walls.
- It is recommended that clients bring their own easels, pedestals and temporary display fixtures to exhibit artwork or feature displays as a complement to the picture hanging system.

### Lighting

- This home features track lighting to spotlight artwork/displays in all programming areas.
- Large windows illuminate most programming areas with ample natural light during the day and provide picturesque vistas of the scenic grounds.

### Event Furniture

- Stackable chairs and collapsible tables are available through the City by request (please indicate quantities and placement under facility requirements on the Application Form).

### Amenities

- The main floor is wheelchair accessible.
- Two washrooms are located on the main level and one on the upper level.
- There is ample parking on the lot of the neighbouring Holy Trinity Church located at 140 Brooke Street in the Thornhill Heritage Conservation District. NOTE: The distance between the parking lot and MacDonald House requires walking approximately 5 minutes across gravel and interlocking paved surfaces; so it is highly recommended that clients bring dollies or other means of portable transportation to facilitate the movement of heavy artwork and supplies.
- It is recommended clients bring cell phones.
- There is a formal kitchen that includes a sink, warming stove and refrigerator.
- All programming rooms have electrical outlets to accommodate low voltage appliances.
- Maximum indoor occupancy 25 people; maximum outdoor occupancy: 75 people.

# J.E.H./THOREAU MACDONALD HOUSE

## Site Features

### Surrounding Grounds

- MacDonald House is situated amidst four acres of picturesque property that can accommodate a range of outdoor programming during fair weather.
- A raised patio area, wheelchair ramp and bench seating at the back entrance of the property invite appreciation of the scenic grounds especially suited for displaying artwork, conducting studio art classes or hosting music concerts.
- Interpretive panels provide an informative complement to the recreated *Tangled Garden*.



Exterior View: From Back Entrance to Grounds



Exterior View: Raised Patio



Exterior View: Interpretive Panel



Exterior View: Site of *Tangled Garden*

### Security

- Clients receive a PIN code to activate and de-activate the security alarm system.
- Clients receive a key to secure the main door (located at the back entrance of the house).

### Suggested Programming

- Art and craft exhibitions or sales
- Cultural heritage displays, lectures or celebrations
- Studio art lessons, clinics, or workshops
- Art appreciation seminars or lectures
- Short-term artist in residence sessions
- Music lessons or clinics for portable instruments or voice

**To rent this home to host cultural programs or events, please complete an Application Form and submit it along with all required support material to:**

Nadia Vidiri  
Cultural Programmer  
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario, L6A 1T1  
905.832-8585 ext. 8055, E-mail: [nadia.vidiri@vaughan.ca](mailto:nadia.vidiri@vaughan.ca)

**Application forms and additional details relating to the Art Exhibition + Studio Space Rental Program are available online at:** [www.vaughan.ca](http://www.vaughan.ca) under Recreation and Culture/Culture/Art Exhibition + Studio Space Rental Program.

**Applicants may make arrangements to view the J.E.H./Thoreau MacDonald House by contacting:**

Facility Bookings  
Recreation and Culture Department, City of Vaughan, (905) 832-8500