

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE
BY-LAW 1991-187

A by-law to designate 2463 Lakeshore Road East
as a property of historical, architectural,
and contextual significance

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as 2463 Lakeshore Road East is hereby designated as a property of historical, architectural and contextual value and interest pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act for reasons set out in Schedule "A" to this By-law.
2. The property designated by this By-law is the property described in Schedule "B" attached to this By-law.

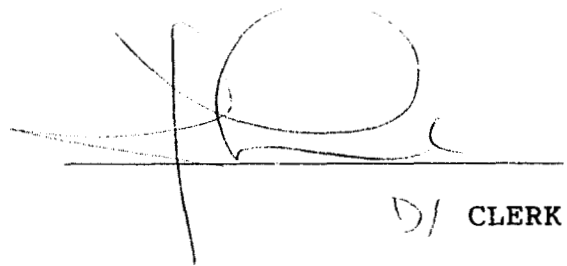
PASSED by the Council this 9th day of September, 1991.



R. W. Robinson

Acting

MAYOR



D/ CLERK

SCHEDULE "A"

TO BY-LAW 1991-187

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The house which stands today at 2463 Lakeshore Road East was built in 1902/03 by Isaac Cort Wilson and has remained in the Wilson Family to the present day. Isaac Cort Wilson was born to a family of gentlemen farmers in the village of Lorton, near Keswick in the English Lake District. Possibly because they may have had an elder brother who, according to the tradition of primogeniture practiced so thoroughly at the time, would have inherited the entire family estate, Isaac Cort Wilson and his brother John Wilson came to Canada in the 1880's to become landowners in their own right. The Wilson brothers had intended to travel to Winnipeg and then to the wide open spaces of the Canadian Prairies, but when visiting Oakville to see a family friend on their journey west, they were so impressed by Oakville and the surrounding area that they decided to stay. John Wilson purchased a property to the west of Oakville near the present Coronation Park, and Isaac Cort Wilson purchased a property in the east of Oakville on which the house at 2463 Lakeshore Road East would later be constructed. Isaac Cort Wilson established a market garden farm on his 100 acre property providing such crops as raspberries, beets, peas, etc.

Isaac Cort Wilson soon met and married Annie Snyder, possibly of the Snyder Family at Snyder's Corners. For their first 16 years in Oakville, Isaac and his family (they had a son Ernest Lancaster who was born in 1883 and another child born in 1891) lived in a house that had been built by a previous owner of the property.

By the turn of the century, the Wilson Family had outgrown their original home, and it was decided that a new brick house would be constructed on the property. The plans for the house were for a lavish two storey building with arched windows, stained glass, and a projecting entry piece. These were probably based on one of the many late Victorian patterns which were fashionable at the time. (A house which is almost identical to this exists in Bronte Creek Provincial Park; its designers may have used the same patterns.)

As the house was to be financed by Isaac Cort Wilson's father, the plans for the house had to be sent to England for his approval before construction could begin. Evidently, he felt that the projecting entry was too extravagant and ordered that it not be constructed. This accounts for the unusually small entry for a house of this size. (The original plans showing the intended entry are still in the possession of the owners of the house). The house was constructed over the years 1902 and 1903. The length of the construction was so long because of all the lumber for the house came from the property and had to be cut, planed and dried before it could be used for construction. After much attention to detail on the exterior and interior, the Wilson family was able to move in to their new home for Christmas, 1903.

Isaac Cort Wilson was very active in church life in the area. He was a founder, Sunday School leader and for some time, superintendent of the Non-Denominational Church called St. Cuthberts, which was at one time located on the Tenth Line near Lakeshore Road. This small church eventually became an Anglican Church because the Anglicans were the only church who were able to provide St. Cuthberts with a Minister.

An interesting parallel to Isaac's activities at St. Cuthberts is that his brother, John Wilson, was instrumental in the founding of the Church of the Epiphany in Bronte. Services for the church were held in his home from 1909 to 1927, and when the permanent church building was to be built in 1931, John Wilson donated the land. John served as the first Rectors Warden from 1931 until his death in 1941.

In 1888, Isaac became a member of the Trustee Board of St. John's United Church in Oakville. This involvement with St. John's continued through to his son Ernest Lancaster Wilson who wrote a history of St. John's United Church in the 1970's for the Church's Centennial year. Isaac was also involved as a member of the school board of the Ninth Line (now Maple Grove) School and he can be seen prominently in a series of photographs taken of the school with local people in 1899.

In December, 1918, Ernest Lancaster Wilson returned home from World War I and assumed the responsibility of the running of the farm from his father, Isaac. Soon after, Isaac transferred the house and property to his son and built a second house where the original house had once stood on the southeast corner of the property for himself and his new wife Laura (Annie Wilson had died in 1919). Unfortunately, Isaac did not live long in the new house he had constructed as he became stricken with "consumption" (T.B.) and had to spend some time at the Gravenhurst Sanitarium. He eventually died of the disease at the age of 58 on April 23, 1923.

The house built by Isaac shortly before his death was eventually destroyed by fire in the 1960's. Ernest Lancaster Wilson and his family continued the success of the market garden farm which had been begun by his

father. During the depression, however, when times were hard for many people, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson decided to open up their large house to guests as a Bed and Breakfast. This venture, although since discontinued, was initially a success because in the days before the super highways of the Q.E.W. and the 401, virtually all traffic heading west from Toronto would pass the Wilson Farm along Lakeshore Road.

The Wilson family have an interesting anecdote about the early life of Ernest Lancaster Wilson. The Wilson's have on display in their house an old spoked wheel with a wooden rim. According to Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, this wheel was part of a bicycle owned by Ernest, on which he would ride all the way to and from the college he attended in Buffalo, New York.

The farm continued until the 1960's when most of the land was expropriated by Halton County for the construction of the Water Pollution Control Centre. The house and immediately surrounding land, however, continued to remain in the Wilson family. Today, the house at 2463 Lakeshore Road East is owned by Ernest F. Wilson and his wife, Louise Wilson. Ernest F. Wilson is the son of Ernest Lancaster Wilson and grandson of the builder of the house, Isaac Cort Wilson.

The Window openings on the upper storey show Romanesque Revival influence in their rounded arches. The windows in these openings are double hung with double sash.

A variety of window types appear at the lower level. Facing south are two large symmetrically positioned, segmental windows. The upper portion of the windows are of stained glass. The lower section is a single pane with

sidelights. A bay window projects from the west side, its roof continues the cornice and detail found on the roof of the house. The windows found on the bay window and the lower east and west walls are semi-elliptical and double hung. Original shutters exist for the windows but these are presently being repaired. A large porch extends from the easterly side of the house. This appears to have been added on at the time or shortly after the house was constructed. The porch continues the detail of the cornice returns and brackets which are found on the roof.

The house at 2463 Lakeshore Road East is an attractive feature along Lakeshore Road in Oakville. With the Kelley New Estate, a designated building situated immediately to the southwest of 2463 Lakeshore Road East, these two buildings form an attractive gateway at the eastern boundary of Oakville.

SCHEDULE "B"
TO BY-LAW 1991-187

Those lands and premises located in the following municipality, namely, in the Town of Oakville (formerly the Township of Trafalgar) in the Regional Municipality of Halton and being composed of part of Lot 1, in the Third Concession, South of Dundas Street, the boundaries of said lands being more particularly described as follows;

PREMISING the south-westerly limit of Lot 1 has a bearing of North 44 degrees 28 minutes 40 seconds West and relating all bearings herein thereto.

COMMENCING at a point on the south-easterly limit of Lot 1, distance 280.0 feet measured north-easterly therealong from the southerly angle of said lot;

THENCE north-westerly parallel with the said south-westerly limit of the said lot, 150.0 feet;

THENCE south-westerly parallel with the south easterly limit of Lot 1, a distance of 100.0 feet;

THENCE north-westerly parallel with the south-westerly limit of Lot 1, a distance of 56 feet;

THENCE north 37 degrees 32 minutes east, a distance of 240 feet;

THENCE south 64 degrees, 01 minutes east, a distance of 66.49 feet;

THENCE south 51 degrees, 14 minutes, 30 seconds east,
138.86 feet to a point on the southeasterly lot limit,
distant 179 feet measured north-easterly therealong from
the point of commencement;

THENCE south-westerly therealong 179.0 feet to the point
of commencement as previously described in Inst. #564952.

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