

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE
BY-LAW 1992-164

A by-law to designate 385 Trafalgar Road as a
property of historical, architectural
and contextual value and interest

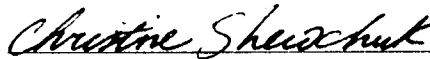
THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as 385 Trafalgar Road 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 5th day of August, 1992.



MAYOR



A/CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 1992-164

Reasons for Designations:

The land on which the house at 385 Trafalgar Road now stands was originally cleared and settled by John Alexander Chisholm (1816-74), second son of the founder of Oakville, Colonel William Chisholm. John A. Chisholm was originally a farmer in Nelson Township until the death of his father in 1842, when he took possession of the northeastern section of the townsite where the mills were situated. He ran the mills, and clearing the land east of the Sixteen gradually converted it into a farm on which the main activity was the raising of sheep. John A. Chisholm's original farm house, although considerably remodelled and moved closer to Trafalgar Road after the turn of the century still stands today as No. 407 Trafalgar Road. When the Town spread north, Chisholm employed Henry Winter, Provincial Land Surveyor and County Engineer to lay out a survey along the southern boundary of his farm. The John A. Chisholm survey, comprising two blocks bounded by Trafalgar, MacDonald, Allan and a new street named Spruce Street, was opened in 1861. 385 Trafalgar Road stands today at the northwestern corner of this survey.

In the mid-1800's, the Oakville area was rapidly gaining a reputation as the strawberry bed of Canada. Owing to the favourable geological and geographical conditions, many farmers in the vicinity were specializing in the growing of strawberries. One of the earliest of Oakville's strawberry growers was John A. Chisholm, now working with his sons, William Bigger Chisholm and Charles P. Chisholm. Realizing a need for containers for the strawberries grown on their farm, the Chisholms were among

the first to manufacture wooden baskets in Oakville. The business grew rapidly from its humble beginnings in a shed on the Chisholm farmland. By 1871, the staff of four boys and eight men turned out 300,000 baskets each year during the four months of the Winter season that the plant was in operation. John A. Chisholm died in 1874 and in that year, his sons William B. and Charles P. bought the Victoria Brewery, then idle for four years, and converted the building into a basket factory.

The basket factory brought considerable revenue to farmers in the country from the sale of logs. In 1877, nearly three-quarters of a million were manufactured. The log piles along the east bank of the Sixteen in the vicinity of the basket factory extended farther up and down Trafalgar Road until finally the practice was loudly condemned in letters to the press. It claimed that horses had suffered injuries, sleighs had been overturned, and the public greatly inconvenienced by logs encroaching on the roadway. The affair caused considerable stir in the Town Council, but in general, the opinion was that if log piles were necessary to an industry which afforded the Town great benefits, any inconvenience they caused was incidental, and there the matter rested.

At the time the basket factory was moved into the brewery, W.B. Chisholm lived in a house situated on the northeast corner of Reynolds and Division Streets, although Reynolds Street was not open this far north nor would be until well into the seventies. The house was later incorporated into the residence that is now 315-317 MacDonald Road. In 1881, W.B. Chisholm moved his family into the new house he had built on Dundas Street North at the southeast corner of Spruce Street, now No. 385 Trafalgar Road. It was here that he died, after a series of strokes in 1889. Mary Rebecca Chisholm, widow of William Bigger Chisholm continued to live in the house at 385 Trafalgar Road until 1907, when the property was sold to Thomas Granger

Wilson. In 1919, the property was again sold to William Thomas Merry, who owned the property until 1944.

William Bigger Chisholm was a very active member of the Oakville community. The area of his most significant interest was in politics. William Bigger Chisholm was a Councillor for Ward III from 1872 to 1878, he was the Reeve of Oakville from 1880 to 1885, and in 1886, three years before his death, he again served as a Councillor for Ward III.

During his lifetime, William Bigger Chisholm was a great friend of George Johnson Sumner, author of the Sumner Diaries. As a result, William Bigger Chisholm was mentioned frequently by Sumner in his daily accounts of life in Oakville, participating in day to day activities of the era.

While working with William Bigger Chisholm at the basket factory, William's younger brothers, C.P. and John, experimented with processing vegetables by evaporation, and soon had in operation five kilns in which finely cut cabbages, potatoes, corn, turnips, peas and apples were evaporated on a revolving screen over a fire pit. After being packaged in one-pound boxes, the vegetables were sold in large quantities to the British Government and used by the Royal Navy in all parts of the world for making soup.

The house at 385 Trafalgar Road was built in 1881. The mass and presence of the home on the corner of Trafalgar Road and Spruce Street is a measure of the importance and prosperity of its builder. Although the house has undergone alterations and additions in the latter parts of the 20th Century, the Spruce Street and Trafalgar Road facades and the south side facade on the second floor to approximately half way back remain largely unchanged.

The house at 385 Trafalgar Road is a blend of several styles of Victorian architecture. The Classic Revival style is evident in the medium pitched roof, centered gable on the Spruce Street facade and the ogee-shaped medallions in the gables.

The Italianate style is also evident in the architecture of this house, most notably at the main entrance. Some of the Italianate features present are the bay window with buff coloured brick detailing, intricate leaded glass, the double doorway with full length transom panel, and side panels with flush lights, and the double sash windows with rounded brick arches. Other features include original shutters, ornate ironwork, a brick and glass sunroom, and detailed chimneys above each gable. The house was recently restored and appears to be in excellent condition.

The house at 385 Trafalgar Road is of contextual significance as it is an important landmark on Trafalgar Road and is pivotal to the concept of a gateway to Historic Oakville.

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW 1992-164

THOSE lands and premises located in the following municipality, namely, in the Town of Oakville, in the Regional Municipality of Halton and being composed of Part of Lots One, Two and Three, Block C, Plan Thirty-Five, and more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at a stake planted at the intersection of the southeastern limit of Spruce Street with the northeastern limit of Dundas Street, the said intersection being the most western angle of the said Lot 1;

THENCE northeasterly along the southeastern limit of Spruce Street one hundred and fifty (150') feet to a stake planted;

THENCE southeasterly at right angles to the southeastern limit of Spruce Street two hundred and eight feet, three and one-half inches (208' 3 1/2") more or less to a stake planted in the southeastern limit of said Lot No. 3;

THENCE southwesterly along the southeastern limit of Lot No. 3, one hundred and thirty feet four and one-half inches (130' 4 1/2") to an iron pipe planted in the northeastern limit of Dundas Street at the most southern angle of said Lot No. 3;

THENCE northwesterly along the northeastern limit of Dundas Street two hundred and eight feet six inches (208' 6") more or less to the place of beginning.

PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED IN INSTRUMENT #517602.