

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE
BY-LAW 1993-42

A by-law to designate 38 Burnet Street
as a property of historical and
architectural value and interest

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as 38 Burnet Street is hereby designated as a property of historical and architectural 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 26th day of May, 1993.

W. H. Lusk
MAYOR

Christine Shewell
CLERK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 1993-42

Reasons for Designation:

The house at 38 Burnet Street was built in 1855 by Michael Quinn, who was born in Ireland in 1824. The late 1840's were the time of the great Potato Famine in Ireland, and as a result, Michael Quinn and his family, like so many other Irish families at the time, left their native country for North America. The Quinns came to Oakville, where Michael soon established himself as a shoemaker.

Michael Quinn's sons did not follow their father in his profession, but instead all became sailors on the Great Lakes. The most famous of Quinn's sons was James, the eldest, who eventually became owner and Captain of the "Jessie Drummond", a schooner built in the Sixteen by Captain Arthur Clarkson. In her later days, when she belonged to Captain James Quinn, she was reputed to have been the last sailing vessel to deliver coal to Toronto Harbour about 1900. Having sailed as mate in the Baltic under Captain Hiram Williams, Captain Quinn knew the water ways from Duluth to Cape Breton, and was in command of the Jessie Drummond when she came ashore near Port Hope. According to Hazel Chisholm Matthews in her book, "Oakville and the Sixteen":

"Captain Jimmy and his crew barely escaped with their lives in the accident, and he insisted that they attend service the following Sunday in a nearby church. Dressed in their oilskins, the men created quite a stir. After the service, a lady congratulated them on their narrow escape and welcomed them to the church, whereupon Captain Jimmy drew himself up, bowed most punctiliously, and his

booming voice replied, 'Madam, we're damned glad to be here'! Not long before his death, he asserted proudly, 'I never drifted into port, I always went in sailing'."

Sadly, the Lakes were not always kind to the Quinn Family. Tragedy struck in 1878 when two sons were lost on the steam hooker, Pinta, which went down in a sudden high wind in plain view off Oakville. The following notice appeared in a local newspaper on November 24th:

LOST!

LOST!

On Thursday morning, the 20th inst. the scow "Pinta" under command of William Quinn, left Oakville Harbour, laden with store, for Toronto, and when running down about 4 miles at 10 o'clock a.m. reefing to the then terrible wind the vessel went down, and while sinking, it was discovered by Mr. George Schofield, that two of three persons then aboard escaped in a small scow; one of these bodies was recovered (Samson Howell) at Port Dalhousie.

The bodies of William Quinn, described as having the "Tattoo of a full rigged ship on right arm of some four or five inches in diameter" and Joseph Quinn, aged eighteen, were never recovered.

Michael Quinn carried on his shoemaking business for many years and lived to be seventy-five years of age. His descendants continued to live in the house he had built at 38 Burnet Street until the mid-1940's.

The simple frame dwelling at 38 Burnet Street is an example of the Oakville vernacular style with its simple 1 1/2 storey

rectangular plan, narrow horizontal siding and symmetrical window composition. The house also projects some features of the classic revival style with its door surround with thin pilasters, temple like form on the east and west sides with projecting cornice and returns.

To the rear of the house, projecting from the south side there is a more recent, but compatible addition. The original roofing material, most likely wood, has been replaced by asphalt shingles. The original narrow weatherboard siding has been replaced by a more modern material, but with a similar appearance. To the west side a rectangular window has been cut into the side of the house. This has been constructed of similar materials to the original windows and does not greatly detract from the integrity of the house. A small porch extends over the front (north facing) doorway. Although not original, this porch with its gabled roof is compatible with the overall form of the house.

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW 1993-42

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Town of Oakville, in the Regional Municipality of Halton (formerly County of Halton) and Province of Ontario, being composed of Lot number 14 in Block number 73 in the said Town of Oakville, Plan 1.