

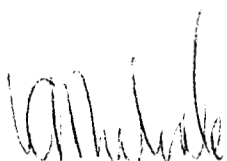
**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE**  
**BY-LAW 1995-45**

A by-law to designate 2495 Bronte Road as a property of  
historical, architectural and contextual significance

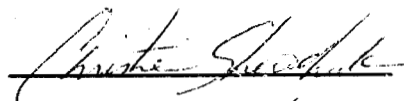
The Council enacts as follows:

1. The property municipally known as 2495 Bronte 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" which is attached to this by-law.

Passed by the Council this 27th day of March, 1995.



MAYOR

  
CLERK

## **SCHEDULE "A"** **TO BY-LAW 1995-45**

### **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The house at 2495 Bronte Road was built in 1860 by Dr. Anson Buck on the site of an earlier building built c. 1825.

Dr. Anson Buck was one of the most important figures in the history of Palermo and the surrounding district. He was descended from a family of United Empire Loyalists who came to Upper Canada in about 1776, fleeing as refugees during the American Revolution. Anson's grandfather, Philip Buck I had fought on the side of the British with Butler's Rangers during the revolutionary war, but was eventually captured by the rebels and imprisoned in Philadelphia. To avoid further persecution, Philip's wife, Margret Buck, ventured off on horseback with four other women, taking with them over 30 children through the bush to Canada. En route, Philip Buck II was born, and later, after escaping from prison, Philip Buck I joined the trek.

Philip Buck I and Margret originally settled near Fort George, building their log cabin on a 200 acre Crown grant. They raised twelve children, each of whom as children of United Empire Loyalists were also granted 200 acres. At times, this property was of little value, and those displeased with their allocation used it for bartering or simply sold or traded. This was apparently the case with Philip Buck II, who was granted land in Wilmot Township but traded it for a property on Lot 23, Concession 1, South of Dundas Street in Trafalgar Township.

In 1819, Philip Buck II married Juliana Boehm at Black Creek, north of Toronto, and settled on their farm near Palermo. Owing to their farm's proximity to Dundas Street, which, at the time, was the major thoroughfare between Toronto and London, the Bucks established a tavern that soon became a major coaching stop.

Philip and Juliana Buck had eleven children, of whom the tenth, born on August 17, 1833 was Anson Buck. Anson Buck was a physician in Halton County, who was renowned for his dedication and expertise in his profession. After attending local schools, Anson Buck began his medical training at the Rolph School of Medicine in Toronto. After graduation, he earned a degree from the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and another from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in London, England.

While studying medicine in England, Buck kept a detailed diary of his time there. One of the more interesting events he described was his attendance at the funeral of the Duke of Wellington (former Prime Minister and Victor of the Battle of Waterloo) in 1853. In addition to the education he received in Britain, Dr. Buck also gained practical experience serving on the staff of Guy's Hospital in London.

On his return from England, Dr. Buck established his medical practice in Palermo. He travelled around his large district on horseback, and gained a reputation for his devotion to his patients, seeing them in all weather and at all hours of the day. By 1860, he had built the house at 2495 Bronte Road, which remains virtually intact today. In this house, Dr. Buck had his family residence, surgery and office. In view of the large size of this house, it seems likely that lectures for the Halton School of Medicine would have been held there. This school was established by Dr. Buck, in conjunction with Dr. Van Norman of Bronte and Dr. Flock of Oakville, and offered "regular lectures in all courses in connection with the profession".

When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, Dr. Buck, along with Dr. Clarkson Freeman of Milton, volunteered for service as surgeons in the Northern Army Medical Corps at Washington, D.C. They were attached to the operating staff at the front in the 2nd division of the 6th Corps in General Ulysses Grant's Army of the Potomac, and were at the Nine Days Battle before the taking of Petersburg and Richmond, and the subsequent

engagements with the army in its forced marches until the surrender of General Robert E. Lee at Appomattox.

In a letter to his family written shortly after the war ended, Dr. Buck described his exploits as a surgeon in the Union Army. In it he states:

"Dr. Freeman and I visited the Army of the Potomac and were with it during the spring campaign. We saw the surrender of Petersburg and Richmond and General Lee's Army. We saw President Lincoln, General Grant, General Mead, General Sherman, General Warren and a host of other leading officers. We also saw Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Grant. We were all together upon the parapet of a fort and had a good view of the battle. General Grant handed us his field glasses to look through. The medical doctor of the Army of the Potomac sent us about four miles with a two horse carriage to attend a review with the above distinguished parties. About twelve thousand soldiers were reviewed. A most splendid sight. It was the night before Richmond was evacuated. The north opened on the rebel lines, with about two hundred cannon, all throwing shells. The sight was most terrifically sublime. The flash of guns, the sound of the cannon, many of the shells bursting in the air made it a most splendid sight. The line of armies extended about thirty miles from the James River to a place called Hatcher's Run. We were about the centre of the lines of fortification. This was kept up without cessation until three o'clock in the morning, when the rebel earth works were assaulted in two places, and carried without any serious loss to either side. We then followed on for sixty miles, after General Lee's flying columns, fighting now and then until he was compelled to surrender to General Grant at Appomattox."

Dr. Buck remained in Washington and Virginia for a number of months after the cessation of hostilities. While there, he considered the purchase of a southern plantation, marched with the victorious Union Army through Baltimore, and was reportedly in the audience at the Fords Theatre in Washington when President Lincoln was assassinated.

Dr. Buck returned to Palermo after the war and resumed his medical practice. He would continue in this operation for a further forty years. Over that period of time, Dr. Buck earned a significant place in the hearts of the people of Palermo and the surrounding township, for in addition to curing people of sickness, Dr. Buck delivered most of the babies in the area.

To commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of Anson Buck's birth, a fair and celebration was held in Palermo in 1933 at which hundreds of relatives, friends, and former Dr. Buck-delivered babies were in attendance. As a measure of the significance of Dr. Buck, the festivities were opened by the Ontario Premier of the day.

In addition to his medical activities, Anson Buck was also active in politics during his lifetime. He served as Councillor, Deputy-Reeve and Reeve of Trafalgar Council for forty years, and during that time missed only one meeting, when he went to Iowa, U.S.A. to see his ailing sister. He was Warden of Halton County in 1891, and in 1886, a defeated Liberal candidate for the Ontario Legislature.

On April 18, 1919, Dr. Anson Buck passed away after a lengthy illness at the age of 86. His remains were buried in the Palermo United Church Cemetery by the side of his wife, who had died thirteen years earlier. Soon after the death of Anson Buck, his family sold the house at 2495 Bronte Road.

Anson and Ketarah Buck had two daughters, both of whom were raised in the house at 2495 Bronte Road. The second daughter, Minnie Julia Beatrice Buck, born in 1862, rose to great prominence following her marriage to Colin H. Campbell of Winnipeg. Although the couple moved to Winnipeg immediately following their marriage, she was consistently referred to as Minnie Campbell of Palermo. She is named among the founders of the Winnipeg I.O.D.E. (Independent Order of the Daughters of the Empire). In 1908, Minnie

campaigned to build the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital and the city's first soldiers' infirmary. She was also active in the YMCA, the ward aid effort of St. John's Ambulance, and establishing a home for women in need, among her numerous causes and social reforms.

During World War I, Minnie Campbell raised approximately a half million pounds to aid Polish refugees as a member of the National Committee for Polish Relief. For this effort, she was awarded Poland's Order of Merit in 1945. That same year, Minnie was also made an Officer in the Order of the British Empire by King George VI, recognizing her half century of service to Canadians and was nominated for the Manitoba Senate.

In honor of the Campbell's outstanding contributions, they were present by Royal Command at the coronation of Edward VII in 1901 and again ten years later at the coronation of George V.

Colin died in 1913 at the age of 54 and Minnie followed in 1954 in her 90th year.

Throughout her life, Minnie remained in close contact with her roots in Palermo, and was an active recorder of the history of the village.

### **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The house at 2495 Bronte Road was built c. 1860 and is an example of the asymmetrical L-shaped Italianate style with some Gothic Revival influences. The major Italianate features include the L-shaped form of the main section of the house, widely overhanging eaves supported by large decorative paired brackets, small round vents in the gables of the main house, and a roof of lower pitch than the Gothic Revival style. The main windows are 2/2 with plain stone lintels and sills. Three single storey bay windows project from the northwest and south facing sides of the main (west) section of the house. The principal construction material of the entire house is of reddish/orange clay brick. The roofing material is currently asphalt shingle, which has replaced an earlier roofing material that was most probably wood shingle.

The basic form of the main section of the house is a two storey L-shaped plan. Gables face to the north and south with a major gable projecting from the head of the L and a minor gable projecting from the recessed part of the L. The wooden entrance to the house which extends across half of the main facade is of recent construction. Photographs from the 1950's show a smaller wooden porch. To the rear of the main section of the house there exists a large rear addition which continues many of the architectural features of the main section of the house, including wide overhanging eaves with large decorative paired brackets. The rear section, however, expresses distinctly more Gothic Revival influence than the main section, with its steeper roof pitch and gables, and arch radiating voussoir window heads of brick composition. A brick chimney sits near the southwest corner of the house.

The house at 2495 Bronte Road is an excellent example of the construction of its period, and of an 1860's Doctor's residence.

### **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The house at 2495 Bronte Road is a highly visible feature from its sitting on Bronte Road and nearby Highway 5. As a former home of the doctor and political representative of Palermo, the Anson Buck home would have represented an important gathering and focal point in the once thriving village during the late nineteenth century.

## **SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW 1995-45**

Part of Lot 30, Concession 1, South of Dundas Street, Town of Oakville, Regional Municipality of Halton more particularly described as follows:

PREMISING that the southeasterly limit of part 12 according to a plan of reference filed in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Halton (No. 20) as Number 20R-201 has an astronomic bearing of North 39 degrees 34 minutes 40 seconds West and relating all bearings herein thereto;

COMMENCING at the most northerly angle of the said Part 12, Plan 20R-201 which may be located by beginning at the most westerly angle of the said Lot 30, Concession 1, South of Dundas Street;

THENCE South 45 degrees 24 minutes East along the southwesterly limit of the said Lot 30 a distance of 264.31 feet to an iron bar found therein;

THENCE North 44 degrees 07 minutes East 23.77 feet to a Standard Iron Bar found marking the said point of commencement;

THENCE North 44 degrees 16 minutes 20 seconds West 18.52 feet to a round iron bar planted;

THENCE North 45 degrees 24 minutes 40 seconds West 37.75 feet to a round iron bar planted;

THENCE North 43 degrees 09 minutes 40 seconds West 89.02 feet to a round iron bar planted;

THENCE North 46 degrees 20 minutes 10 seconds West 19.00 feet to a round iron bar planted;

THENCE North 38 degrees 02 minutes 50 seconds East 67.00 feet to a Standard iron Bar found;

THENCE North 41 degrees 22 minutes 50 seconds East 126.10 feet to a Standard Iron Bar Found;

THENCE South 48 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds East along the line of a post and wire fence 229.77 feet to an iron bar found;

THENCE South 45 degrees 33 minutes 50 seconds West 204.77 feet to an iron bar found;

THENCE South 44 degrees 27 minutes 30 seconds East 18.00 feet to an iron bar found;

THENCE South 46 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds West 72.24 feet to an iron bar found;

THENCE South 75 degrees 13 minutes 00 seconds West along the line of a wire fence 30.17 feet to an iron bar found;

THENCE South 44 degrees 53 minutes 00 seconds West along the line of a wire fence 26.02 feet to an iron bar found at the most easterly angle of the said Part 12, Plan 20R-201;

THENCE North 39 degrees 34 minutes 40 seconds West along the said southeasterly limit of Part 12, Plan 20R-201, a distance of 153.49 feet more or less to the point of commencement.

The aforementioned parcel contains by admeasurement 1.529 acres to be the same more or less.

As described in Instrument No. 614049.