

APPENDIX B

Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report
Holyrood Gate Pillars
24 Holyrood Avenue, Oakville, Ontario



The gates at the entrance to Holyrood Park, 2023. *Source: Town of Oakville Planning Services Staff*

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report, or CHER, is to determine if the subject property merits designation under Part IV, section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA). A Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER) provides an overview of the property based on primary and secondary research and visual inspection of the property. It also includes an evaluation against the prescribed criteria of Ontario Regulation 9/06, including design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value. This CHER also includes a draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and identification of heritage attributes.

The designation of heritage properties is legislated by the OHA and is supported at a provincial level by the Provincial Policy Statement (2020) and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2019). The conservation of cultural heritage resources is also supported by the Region of Halton Official Plan, the Livable Oakville Plan, the North Oakville East Secondary Plan, and the North Oakville West Secondary Plan.

The subject at 24 Holyrood Avenue is located at the southwest corner of Holyrood Avenue, south of Lakeshore Road West. The gate pillars are located within the territory covered by Treaty 14, which was signed in 1806 between the Mississaugas and the British Crown. The subject was added as a 'listed' property to Oakville's *Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (NOT Designated)* for its potential cultural heritage value for its "gate remnants, historically associated with the Holyrood Estate."

This CHER has evaluated the subject in accordance with the requirements of the OHA and finds that it meets four of the criteria of Regulation 9/06. It is therefore recommended that the property be designated under Part IV, section 29 of the OHA.

2. Subject Property

The Holyrood Gate Pillars at 24 Holyrood Avenue are located at the southwest corner of Holyrood Avenue, south of Lakeshore Road West, on Block A of Plan 513, at the entrance to what is now Holyrood Park. The property is located within the territory covered by Treaty 14, which was signed in 1806 between the Mississaugas and the British Crown. It was historically a part of the Fourth Concession South of Dundas Street, also known as the Broken Front, Lot 17. The original house associated with the stone pillars still stands at 2 Holyrood Avenue, down the street.



Location map: Subject is in the highlighted blue area of Holyrood Park. October 2023. Source: Town of Oakville GIS

Legal description: PLAN 513 BLK A; TOWN OF OAKVILLE

3. Background Research

Design and Physical Value

The two pillars at the entrance to Holyrood Park are the only remnants left of the four stone pillars and iron gate and fence that once stood at the entrance to Holyrood Estate on Lakeshore Road West.



Left: William T. Stuart in front of the gates in their original location at the entrance to Holyrood Estate at Lakeshore Road West (now Holyrood Avenue and Lakeshore Road West), circa 1900. Note that the smaller pillars also had cannon balls. Right: the two central pillars stand at the entrance to Holyrood Park. Sources: *Oakville Historical Society, Town of Oakville Planning Services staff*

Based on the historical photo above, we can see that many original details on the pillars remain. The shape and stone construction are the same, with the crenellated stone top, designed to look like a battlement that would be found on the top of military forts and castles. The Stuart family crest on the left pillar is still present, and includes a lion figure and the motto “Avito viret honore”, “He flourishes in ancestral honour”. The signage reading “Holyrood” remains on the right pillar. Notes from former groundskeeper Roy Lessels indicate that the crest and sign were made of brass, as he had to regularly polish them.¹

The two central pillars of the gate had five cannon balls affixed to the top; over time the right has gone to four and the left, to three; it is unknown what happened to the others.² Also on the pillars is the hardware where the gates used to attach to the pillars. It is not known what happened to the other two pillars or the iron gates.³

¹ Trafalgar Township Historical Society, “Gates, Holyrood House, Oakville”, TTJRL000513.

² Based on historical photos it is difficult to tell if four or five originally, but according to TTHS archives, there were originally five. Trafalgar Township Historical Society, “Gates, Holyrood House, Oakville”, TTJRL00051; based on visual study

³ Note noted in any Town of Oakville planning files or articles researcher could find.

The overall design of the stone pillars was meant to impress, especially when the original four pillars were together with large, imposing black wrought iron gates and fencing. The battlement at the top of the pillars, the pile of cannons at the ready and the family crest are reflective of both the original Holyrood Palace in Scotland, and the Stuart family's Scottish history.



18th century engraving of Holy Rood Place.
Source: Wikipedia.



Left: the crest on the left pillar. Right: The right pillar with Holyrood name plate. Source: Town of Oakville Planning Services Staff, 2023



Left: a close up of the cannon balls on top of the pillars. Right: A view of the hardware for the original iron gates. *Source: Town of Oakville Planning Services staff, 2023*

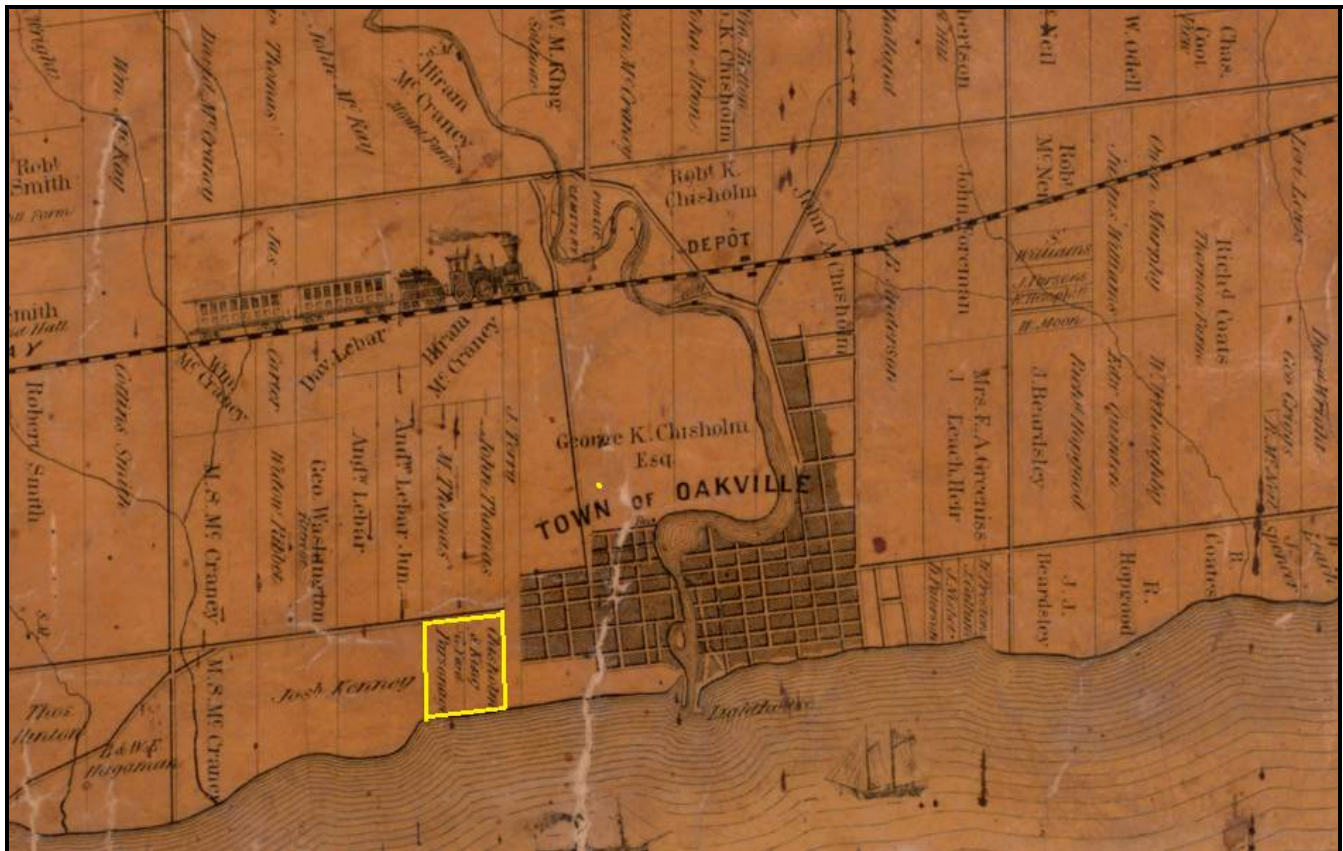


A view of the gates at the entrance of the park in 2008. *Source: Town of Oakville Planning Services Staff*

Historical and Associative Value

The Holyrood Gate Pillars at 24 Holyrood Avenue are located on lands that were part of the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. In 1805, the Mississaugas and the British Crown reached an agreement in which the Mississaugas ceded almost 71,000 acres of land. In return they were given £1000 of trade goods, promised the sole right of the fisheries in the Twelve Mile Creek, Sixteen Mile Creek, and the Credit River, and a strip of land on the banks of these waterways. The agreement was formalized with the signing of the Head of the Lake Treaty, No. 14, on September 5, 1806.⁴ The subject property is in the territory of Treaty No. 14.⁵

The creek lands were ceded by the Mississauga in Treaty No. 22, which was signed in February of 1820, when the Mississaugas were experiencing duress due to land encroachment, the depletion of fish stocks, and a population that was in severe decline. Treaty 22 stipulated that in exchange for ceding “about 20,000” acres of their land to the British Crown, the Mississaugas would receive a 200-acre parcel of land on the Credit River, and the profits from the sale of the remaining lands on the Twelve and Sixteen Mile Creeks.⁶



George Tremaine's "County of Halton" survey, 1858, with Lot 17, Concession 4 SDS outlined in yellow. Note that the lot was split early on. Source: University of Toronto

Below is a summary of the owners of the property from the Crown patent to the current owners. Some owners held the property for relatively short periods of time. In many cases, information about the purchasers was limited to only that contained within the real estate transaction documents. As such, not all owners will be discussed in the CHER. Rather, the focus will be on persons of note, with a focus on the most likely candidate to

⁴ Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project, *Treaties 2 & 23, 1820*, pg. 9

⁵ 1806 Wilmot Survey; Mississaugas of the Credit GIS Treaty Map

⁶ Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project, *Treaties 22 & 23, 1820*, pg. 10

have built, or commissioned the construction of, the property's building or buildings; on anyone who was significant to the community; or on anyone who lived on the subject property for an extended period.

Name of Owner(s)	Acreage or Lot	Years of Ownership
Crown	Lot 17 (46 acres)	1806-1811
William Stanton	46 acres (all)	1811-1812
William Stanton	26 acres (sold 20)	1812-1831
James R Stanton	26 acres	1831-1847
Robert Kerr Chisholm	26 acres	1847-1848
George W. Griggs	26 acres	1848-1851
Reverend Saltern Givings	26 acres	1851-1853
St. Jude's Church	26 acres	1853-1887
Mary Ann Olivers	7 acres	1887-1893
W.J. Stuart	17 acres	1893-1918
Mary Robinson Scott, widow	17 acres	1918-1921
J.H. Gundy	17 acres	1921-1929
Gordon and Kathleen Lefebvre	Part Lot 17	1929-1945
Grace and Herbert Corbett	Part Lot 17	1945-1948
Donald Davis	Part Lot 17	1948-1955
David and Emily Knapp	Part Lot 17	1955-1958
Canadian Stackpole Ltd.	Part Lot 17	1955-1969
Norman Webster	Part Lot 17	1969-1995
1118059 Ontario Inc.	Part Lot 17	1995-1998
Richard Schooling	Lot 14, Plan 20M-648	1998-1999
Scott Leggat	Lot 14, Plan 20M-648	1999
Current owners	Lot 14, Plan 20M-648	1999-present

The historic gate pillars are situated on what was historically Lot 17, Concession 4 South of Dundas Street. In 1811, the Crown granted all 46 acres of Lot 17 to William Stanton. Stanton was an officer in the British Royal Navy and had seen service in the Indian Ocean, Mediterranean at the Siege of Gibraltar, and the Revolutionary War.⁷ In 1786 he entered civil service in Lower Canada. He was also granted Lots 18, 19, and 23 in the Fourth Concession.⁸ In 1812, he sold 20 acres (approximately the eastern half of Lot 17)⁹, and then passed along his land to James Stanton in 1831.¹⁰

James Stanton and his wife sold their portion (26 acres) to Robert Kerr Chisholm in 1847. Chisholm only had the land for a year before he sold it to George W. Griggs and his wife in 1848.

⁷ Mathews, Hazel C., *Oakville and the Sixteen: The History of an Ontario Port*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press Incorporated, 1953, pg. 276

⁸ LRO Abstract, Lot 17, Patent, dating May 11, 1811, between the Crown and William Stanton

⁹ LRO Instrument [illegible], being a Bill and Sale, dated July 30, 1812, between William Stanton and Griffis Collver [?]

¹⁰ LRO Instrument 602K, being a Bill and Sale, dated November 8, 1831, between William Stanton and James R. Stanton, 26 acres



1806 Wilmot Survey map, showing the historic lot highlighted in yellow. Source: 1906 Wilmot Survey



1858 Tremaine Survey highlighting the western half of Lot 17, Concession 4 SDS as the "G. Yard [graveyard] Parsonage". Source: 1858 Tremaine Survey

Meanwhile, St. Jude's Church, located in Oakville at the corner of Thomas Street and Colborne Street, had a congregation that was outgrowing its amenities. In 1848, Archdeacon A.N. Bethune wrote, "...the spot upon which the Church is situated I represented as wholly insufficient, being only a quarter of an acre. While land is comparatively cheap I advised their augmenting this quantity to what would be required for a Burial Ground, as well as for a Parsonage."¹¹ In 1851, Archdeacon Bethune's advice to expand the church's land was adopted. Under the leadership of Reverend Robert Shanklin, the western portion of Lot 17 in Concession 4 SDS was purchased from George W. Griggs and his wife for the use of a burial ground and a rectory.¹²

¹¹ Mathews, Hazel C., *Oakville and the Sixteen: The History of an Ontario Port*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press Inc., 1953, pg. 275.

¹² Town of Oakville, "Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy Implementation – Phase Two: Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report, St. Jude's Cemetery", 2019, pg. 13

In the spring of 1853, a two-day bazaar was held in Oakville’s Temperance Hall for “the purpose of creating a fund to assist the erection of a Parsonage House.”¹³ The church built the rectory between 1853 and 1861.¹⁴ It was made of brick and constructed in a simple Georgian style and was originally one storey. Its entryway originally faced east, and a long driveway was cut through the white pine forest to get to the rectory from Colborne Street (now Lakeshore Road West).¹⁵ Some of the forest was also cleared further south for a view of the lake from the rectory.¹⁶

The cemetery, which still exists today as a town-owned designated heritage property known as St. Jude’s Cemetery, was laid out in the northeast corner of the lot.¹⁷ Many of the mature white pine trees remain in the cemetery today.

As the rectory was located a mile and a half west of the church, a new one was selected closer to the church on William Street just west of Dunn Street.¹⁸ Since the old rectory was no longer needed, it was sold in 1887, along with two acres of the original cemetery lands.¹⁹ The church later expanded the cemetery in 1927 by purchasing 13 acres to the east, stretching from Lakeshore Road down to the lake, bringing the cemetery property to approximately 39 acres in size.²⁰

In 1887, the property was sold to Margaret Ann and Samuel Oliver and later in 1894, to Dr. William Theophilus Stuart and his wife Mary. The Stuarts named the estate ‘Holyrood’, after the ancient Holyrood Palace of the Scottish Kings in Edinburgh.



19th century view of the Palace of Holyrood in Scotland. Source: Wikipedia.

¹³ Mathews, Hazel C., *Oakville and the Sixteen: The History of an Ontario Port*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press Inc., 1953, pg. 277.

¹⁴ Canada West Census, 1861, shows Reverend Shanklin living in the Parsonage in 1861; the Church bought the property in 1853, so the build date is confirmed in that date range.

¹⁵ Town of Oakville, “Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy Implementation – Phase Two: Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report, St. Jude’s Cemetery”, 2019.

¹⁶ Mathews, Hazel C., *Oakville and the Sixteen: The History of an Ontario Port*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press Inc., 1953, pg. 277.

¹⁷ “Parsonage on the Lake,” sales brochure, Oakville, 1996; Canada West Census, 1861

¹⁸ Mathews, Hazel C., *Oakville and the Sixteen: The History of an Ontario Port*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press Inc., 1953, pg. 416.

¹⁹ Lightbourn A.H., *St. Jude’s Church Oakville, 1842-1957*, Oakville, Ontario: St. Jude’s Church, 1957, pg. 11

²⁰ Town of Oakville, “Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy Implementation – Phase Two: Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report, St. Jude’s Cemetery”, 2019, pg. 21

The Stuarts had a lasting impact on the property and undertook several house renovations and numerous landscaping changes. They were the owners who installed the stone pillars and gate at the entrance of the driveway at Lakeshore Road West.²¹

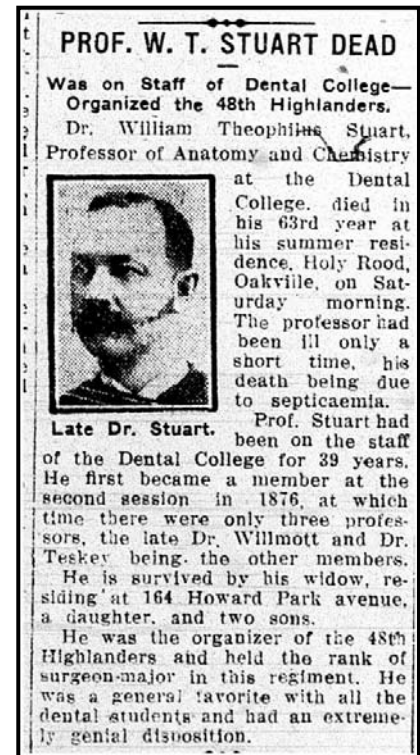
William Theophilus Stuart (1853-1915) was a professor of anatomy and chemistry at the Dental College at the University of Toronto. He was one of the founders of the Dental College and for many years a professor at Trinity Medical College. He held four honorary degrees from the University of Toronto.²² According to his obituary, he died at his “summer residence, Holy Rood [Holyrood], Oakville”, indicating he and his family did not live at Holyrood full time. He had been on the staff of the Dental College for 39 years. His obituary goes on to say that “he was a general favorite with all the dental students and had an extremely genial disposition.”²³

After William Stuart’s death, his wife Mary Stuart sold the property in 1918 to Marie Robinson Scott, a widow.²⁴ She sold it to James Henry Gundy three years later, who never lived in it but rented out the grounds to the Girl Guides every year.²⁵

Gundy and his wife sold the property, then consisting of 17 acres, to Gordon and Kathleen Lefebvre in 1929. They also purchased more land from St. Jude’s Church.²⁶ The Lefebvres would own the property until 1945 (one portion into the 1950s) and made extensive changes to the grounds and property, including additions to the house, the construction of outbuildings, and considerable landscaping.

Gordon Lefebvre was a well-known businessman in Ontario. He was the Vice-President in charge of operations of the Pontiac division of General Motors in the US, and previously Vice-President and General Manager of General Motors Canada.²⁷ At the time they purchased Holyrood, it was 17 acres of “well-wooded land” and about 1,000 feet east to west.²⁸ An article at the time of purchase says this:

“Mr. Lefebvre, though just under 40, is one of the leading figures in the American automobile world . . . Under his control production in both lines and particularly in the Pontiacs, has increased by prodigious proportions. Mr. Lefebvre is a skilled engineer and is able to demonstrate to any of his foremen or workmen just what he means by any order he gives. He resembles Henry Ford in that he spends very little of his time in an office but can be found, day or night, actually in the plant . . . ”²⁹



PROF. W. T. STUART DEAD

Was on Staff of Dental College—
Organized the 48th Highlanders.
Dr. William Theophilus Stuart,
Professor of Anatomy and Chemistry
at the Dental
College, died in
his 63rd year at
his summer resi-
dence, Holy Rood,
Oakville, on Sat-
urday morning.
The professor had
been ill only a
short time, his
death being due
to septicaemia.

Late Dr. Stuart. Prof. Stuart had
been on the staff
of the Dental College for 39 years.
He first became a member at the
second session in 1876, at which
time there were only three profes-
sors, the late Dr. Willmott and Dr.
Teskey being the other members.
He is survived by his widow, re-
siding at 164 Howard Park avenue,
a daughter, and two sons.
He was the organizer of the 48th
Highlanders and held the rank of
surgeon-major in this regiment. He
was a general favorite with all the
dental students and had an extreme-
ly genial disposition.

²¹ Mathews, Hazel C., *Oakville and the Sixteen: The History of an Ontario Port*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press Incorporated, 1953, 416.

²² *Toronto Daily Star*, “Prof W.T. Dead”, Nov 13, 1915

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ LRO Instrument 6976, being a Grant, dated June 20, 1918, between Margaret Blakeley Stuart and Marie Robinson Scott.

²⁵ *Toronto Daily Star*, “Gordon Lefebvre purchases Holyrood Estate, Oakville”, January 7, 1929.

²⁶ LRO Instrument 10629, being a Grant, dated May 18, 1929, between Reverend Daniel Russel Smith [sp], and Gordon Lefebvre, for 6.62 acres.

²⁷ *Toronto Daily Star*, “Gordon Lefebvre purchases Holyrood Estate, Oakville”, January 7, 1929; *Toronto Daily Star*, “Important new post for Gordon Lefebvre”, September 16, 1941.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Toronto Daily Star*, “Gordon Lefebvre purchases Holyrood Estate, Oakville”, January 7, 1929



Holyrood in 1910 when it was owned by the Stuarts. *Source: Library and Archives Canada*



oakvillehistory.org

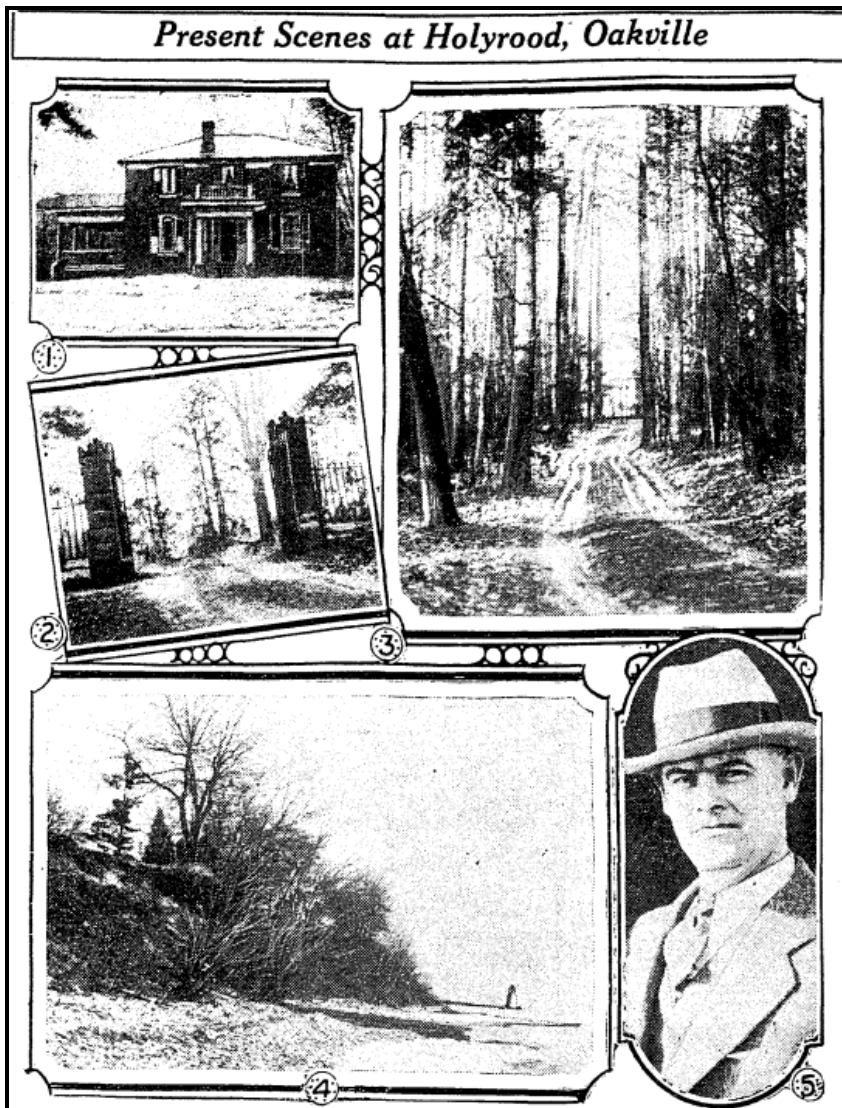
Another photo of the property taken circa 1920s. *Source: Oakville Historical Society*



William Stuart built the entryway pillars to the Holyrood Estate, originally on Colborne Street (now Lakeshore Road West). From top left, clockwise: a close-up of the pillars from 1950; William T. Stuart in front of the pillars in a buggy, 1900; pillars on their own with the large pine forest behind, 1924; and Jack Stuart, William's son, in front of the pillars, n.d. *Source: Oakville Historical Society*

While living in Oshawa, the Lefebvres had a 42-foot yacht, which was “used in many cruises during the summer of 1927 on Lake Ontario.” He then replaced it with a 78-foot yacht, the *Virginian II*. It was the intention that he was going to build a pier at the subject property for the yacht. The article states: “he hasn’t made definite plans yet as to the development of the property, but he proposes big improvements.” The article goes on to say that he planned on tearing down the property and replacing it with a “more modern country house” but this was never undertaken. The whole property will be “cleaned up and developed” the article states, and stables built.

When the family moved in, it was recorded in the newspaper that the estate consisted of “fine old primeval forest, containing a fine variety of Canadian trees, the pine and maple that predominate are particularly majestic”, and that “Mr. Lefebvre began at once to make extensive improvements. During the past weeks men have been employed doing the necessary preparatory work; clearing out the underbrush, cutting down the decaying trees, removing the old fences . . . the old house, that has been a social centre for three-quarters of a century, is being completely transformed . . .”³⁰

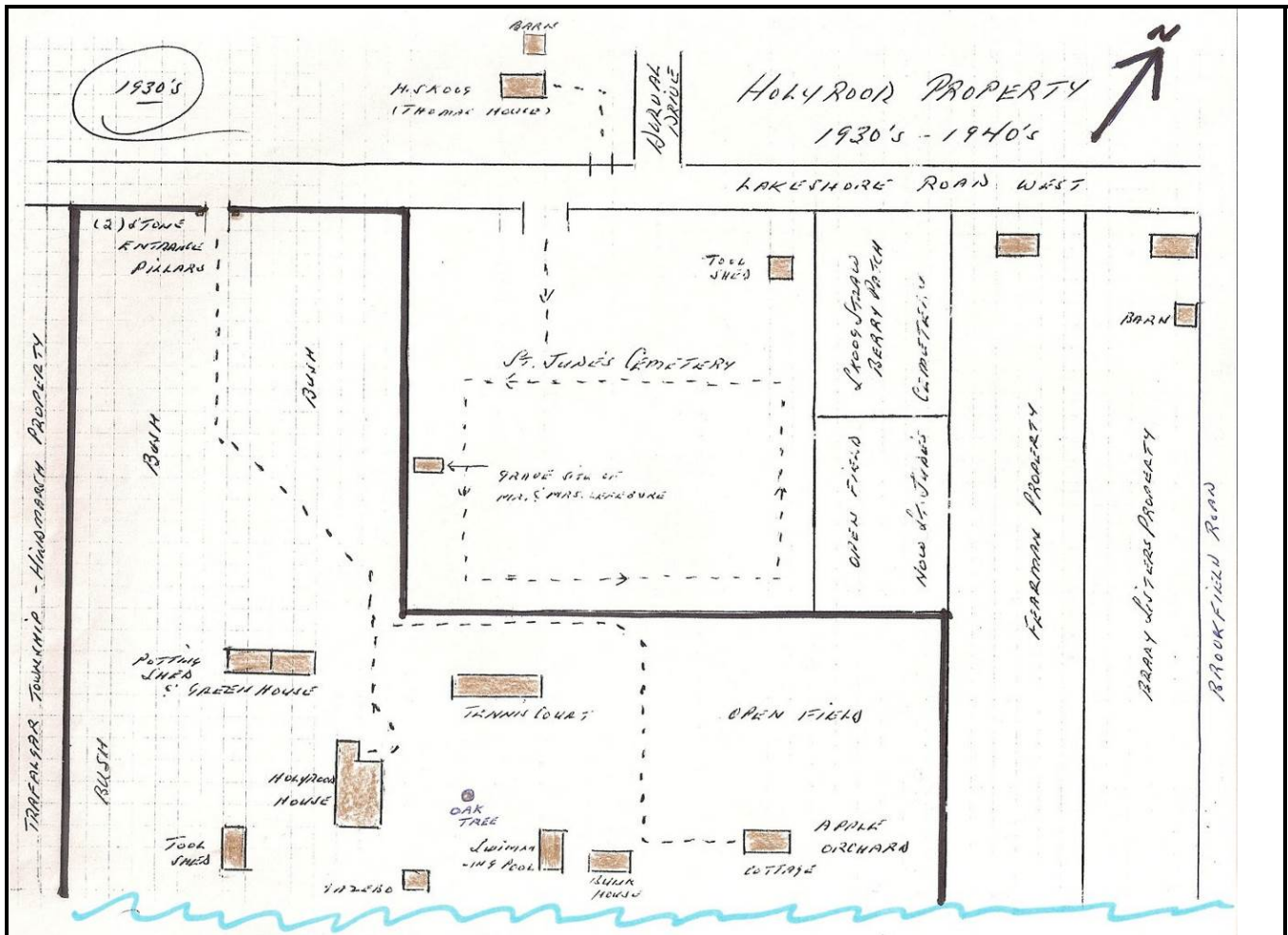


Images from an article in the *Toronto Daily Star*, profiling the Lefebvres and the estate before they moved in. The images feature (from top left, clockwise): the subject house and historical gates; the driveway into the estate; the beach with its lighthouse; and Gordon Lefebvre. Source: *Toronto Daily Star*, January 9, 1929, pg. 16

³⁰ *Toronto Daily Star*, “Transforming Lakeshore Estate”, April 26, 1929

Below is a hand-drawn map of the Holyrood Estate and House as it was under the ownership of Gordon and Kathleen Lefebvre. The map shows the driveway curving past the stone pillars and cedar rail fencing along Lakeshore Road and through a wooded area of tall white pine trees, similar to the ones remaining in the cemetery and throughout the neighbourhood today. Typical of a rural estate of its era, Holyrood included several outbuildings, tennis courts, pool and guesthouse, and numerous gardens. The map also marks the road to the caretaker's cottage and orchards to the east of the house. Much of this layout was designed and built by the Lefebvres, including the caretaker's cottage.³¹

They also made extensive renovations to the house. The family enclosed the south verandah, built a sleeping porch overhead, added a three-car garage to the north elevation with second-storey apartment, modernized the kitchen, plumbing, and heating, and built a swimming pool, guest bungalow, caretaker's cottage, pier, and tennis court, and also landscaped the gardens, built greenhouse, footpaths, a viewpoint, and cultivated an orchard.³²



Hand-drawn map of the estate circa 1930s when it was owned by the Lefebvre family, demonstrating its "L shape" with the cemetery to the northeast. The stone pillars are noted at the top of the map. Source: Township of Trafalgar Historical Society, TTRJL000500

³¹ Stephenson, Patricia, "Growing up at Holyrood", <https://www.oakvillehistory.org/growing-up-at-holyrood.html>

³² Laurie Smith Heritage Consulting, "Inventory Report, 2 Holyrood Avenue: Holyrood Estate House", 2015



Photos of the lookout and the path leading to the lookout from when the Lefebvres owned the property. Source: Oakville Historical Society



The front of the house during the Lefebvre ownership. The house had been painted, and the south porch built by the Stuarts was enclosed, with the upper floor extension covered in cedar shingles. Source: Trafalgar Township Historical Society, TTHS003235536f

Jack Lessels was the groundskeeper for the Lefebvres while they lived at Holyrood, as well as for the following owners, from 1929 to around 1954.³³ Roy Lessels, Jack's son, was born in the house and has shared many photographs and stories of growing up on the estate in the groundkeeper's cottage.³⁴

In 1945, most of the property was sold by Kathleen Lefebvre to Herbert and Grace Corbett. They subdivided the northern portion of the estate and sold it for housing lots.³⁵ The Lefebvres kept 6.53 acres of land (the eastern

³³ Stephenson, Patricia, "Growing up at Holyrood", <https://www.oakvillehistory.org/growing-up-at-holyrood.html>

³⁴ A collection of these images, maps, and stories can be found through the Trafalgar Township Historical Society digital archives, <https://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/advancedsearch>, as well as in the Oakville Historical Society: "Growing up at Holyrood", by Patrica Stephenson, <https://www.oakvillehistory.org/growing-up-at-holyrood.html>

³⁵ "Parsonage on the Lake," sales brochure, Oakville, 1996.

orchard portion) until 1954, when it was sold to Norman Z. Alcock, who subdivided and sold it, and built a house to live in on one of the lots.³⁶

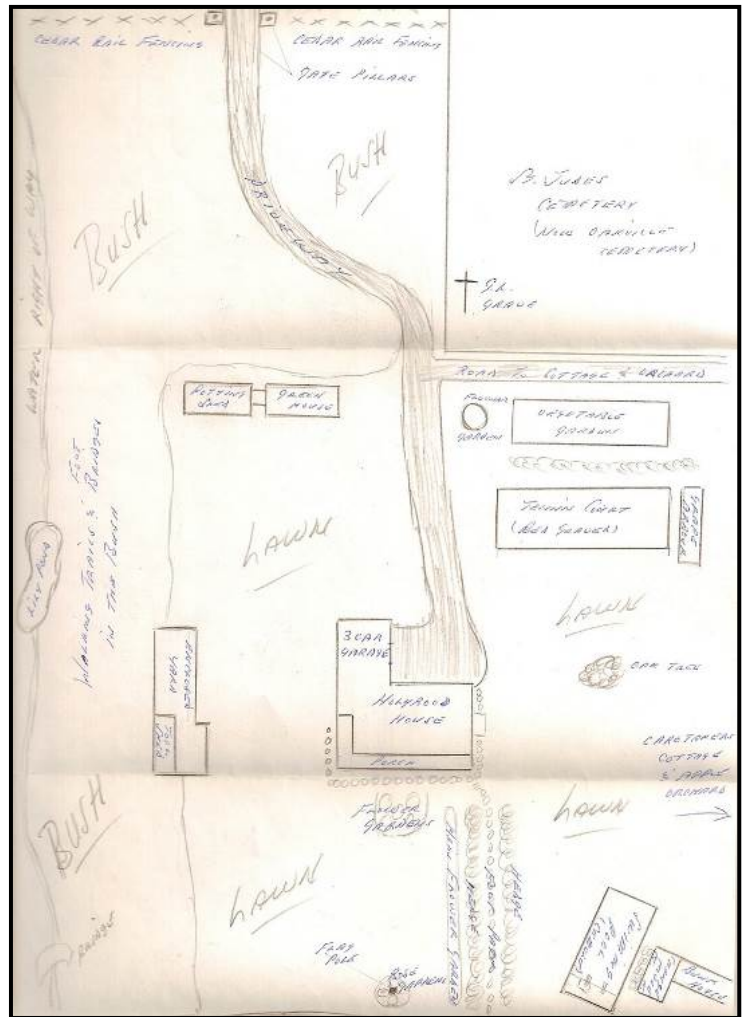
Norman Alcock was also an interesting Canadian figure. A nuclear scientist, he was the founder and director of the former Canadian Peace Research Institute in 1961, which applied scientific approaches to the study of peace.³⁷ He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1984 for this work.³⁸

The Corbetts sold the house and its remaining 5.5 acres of property to Donald G. Davis in 1948.³⁹ Davis owned a national magazine subscription agency and lived in Oakville for more than 50 years after serving in both the First and Second World Wars. He was a former semi-professional basketball player and played with the Oakville Oaks amateur team.⁴⁰ Davis owned the property for seven years before selling to David and Emily Knapp.⁴¹

David Knapp was the general manager of Canadian Stackpole Ltd., which manufactured carbon brushes, powder metal parts, and biomedical electrical equipment.⁴² He sold the land to the company, which then sold it to Norman Webster.

According to Roy Lessels, the son of longtime groundskeeper John Lessels, the gate pillars were moved about two-thirds down Holyrood Avenue, to the entrance of the smaller lot during David Knapp's ownership in the 1950s.⁴³

Norman Webster bought the house in 1969 and remained the owner until 1995, when the remaining 5.5 acres were sold for the development of a subdivision.⁴⁴ An agreement between the developers and the Town of Oakville meant the house would be retained and moved to a new lot 200 feet away from its original location.



An early 1950s hand-drawn map of the estate, prior to its subdivision in the 1990s. Source: Trafalgar Township Historical Society

³⁶ LRO Instrument 21244, being a Grant, dated July 28, 1954, between Kathleen Lefebvre and Norman Z. Alcock; Science for Peace, "Norman Alcock, 1918-2007: Grieving, Remembering and Celebrating", 2007, <https://www.scienceforpeace.org/post/norman-alcock-1918-2007-grieving-remembering-and-celebrating>

³⁷ The Governor General of Canada, "Mr. Norman Z. Alcock", <https://www.gg.ca/en/honours/recipients/146-361#:~:text=The%20founder%20and%20director%20of,of%20peace%20and%20its%20applications>

³⁸ *The Globe and Mail*, "Norman Alcock, Physicist and Peace Activist, 1918-2007", April 6, 2007, pg. S10

³⁹ LRO Instrument 15414R [?], being a Grant, dated 1948, between Grace Corbett and Donald G. Davis

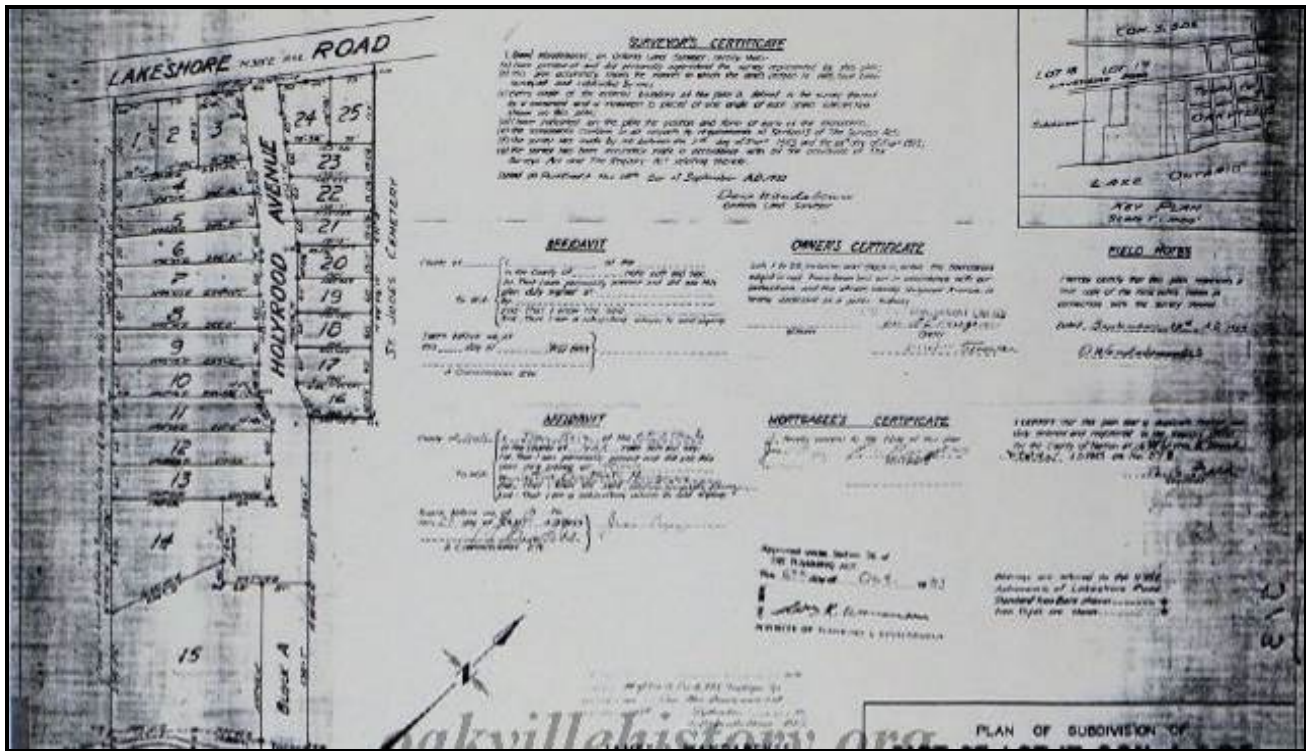
⁴⁰ *The Globe and Mail*, "Donald G. Davis", June 17, 1965, pg. 3

⁴¹ LRO Instrument 2184 [illegible], being a Grant, dated January 28, 1955, between Donald G. Davis and David and Emily Knapp.

⁴² *The Globe and Mail*, "Canadian Stackpole Limited", November 4, 1976, pg. B9

⁴³ Trafalgar Township Historical Society, "Gates, Holyrood House, Oakville", TTJRL000513

⁴⁴ LRO Instrument 835449, being a Transfer, dated March 1, 1995, between Norman Webster and 1118059 Ontario Inc.



1953 survey of the western subdivided portion of Part Lot 17, with zoomed out view in the top right corner. Source: Oakville Historical Society

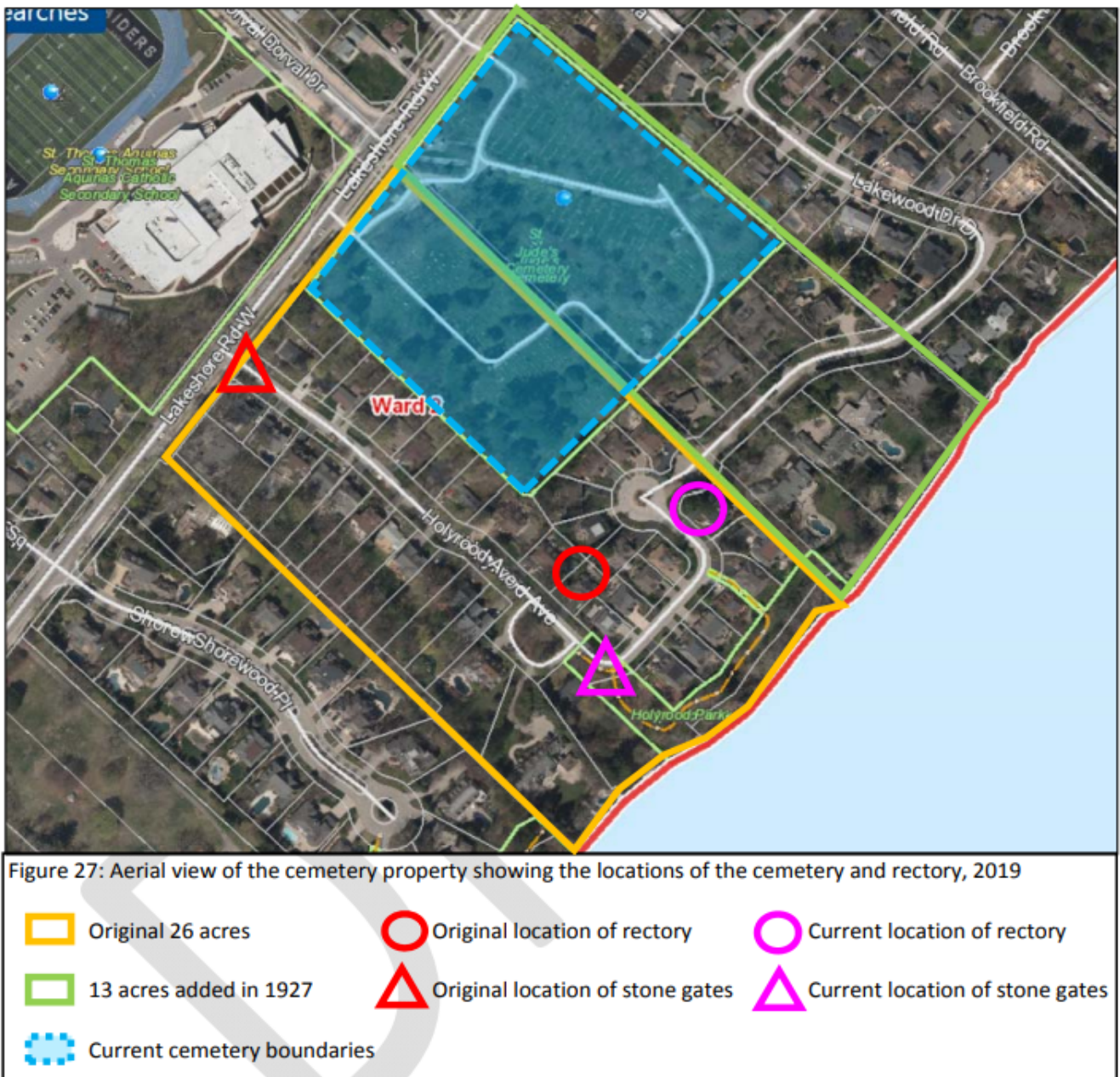


1962 aerial photo of historical Lot 17. The earlier subdivided western portion is now built on, as well as the small square section to the east, which was subdivided in the 1950s. The historic house is the large yellow circle, and the pillars and their second location are in the smaller circle.⁴⁵ Source: McMaster University Library, Queen Elizabeth Way and Highway 2 Corridor

⁴⁵ Base on Roy Lessels story shared to Oakville Historical Society: <https://www.oakvillehistory.org/growing-up-at-holyrood.html>

The developers then stated they were selling the house for just \$1 plus the price of the lot to “an individual or group who can demonstrate their desire, ability, and experience in restoring the home to its former glory.”⁴⁶ The house was purchased by a builder, but then sold to the current owners in 1999, who undertook extensive renovations. During the development, it was noted that developers were attempting to keep as many large trees as possible and that a professional tree maintenance firm was overseeing construction.⁴⁷

It is likely that at this time, the pillars were moved once again, further south to the entrance of the new Holyhood Park. They have stood in this location since. It is not known what happened to the other pillars or the fence, although it is likely they were removed during the 1950s subdivision and not saved.



Map showing the 26-acre lot, the changing cemetery lands, and the movement of the house and historic gates. Source: Town of Oakville, “Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy Implementation – Phase Two: Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report, St. Jude’s Cemetery”, 2019.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

Contextual Value

The Holyrood Gate Pillars are important in defining the character of the local area. The boundaries and design of the surrounding subdivisions and Holyrood Park were influenced by the former Holyrood Estate, which included its stone pillars, along with the former estate house, large mature trees and other landscaping elements of the estate that remain today. As historic stone pillars in a contemporary subdivision, these features clearly link the neighbourhood to its historical past and former land use.

The Holyrood Gate Pillars have cultural heritage value, along with the former estate house just down the street, because they are historically linked to their surroundings, land that once formed part of the Holyrood Estate. Oakville has a long history of wealthy lakeshore estates and the stone pillars remain an important remnant of Holyrood Estate, whose presence contributed, and continues to contribute, to the city's unindustrialized lakeshore today. This is underscored further by Holyrood Park, the peaceful lakeside public park in which the stone pillars stand today.

The streetscape of the area consists of mature trees and moderate sized lots which contain medium to large sized houses. Many of the large pine and oak trees are over 100 years old and are remnants of the forest that once stood in the area and on the historical estate. The houses in this area range in age and architectural style, some dating to the 1950s and 60s (the eastern and northwest portion of the historic estate) and others from the 1990s (the houses just north of the subject property). Contextually, the stone gate pillars have been moved from their original location, but still stand on the same historic estate grounds and have a connection to the area.



View of the pillars looking south on Holyrood Avenue, to the right. *Source: Google Street View*



Contextual photo of the property in Holyrood Park, as well as the view of the lake, 2023. This area was historically a part of the estate.
Source: Town of Oakville Planning Services staff



View of the lake from Holyrood Park, 2023. *Source: Town of Oakville Planning Services staff*



Looking east on Holyrood Avenue toward subject property, 2023. *Source: Town of Oakville Planning Services Staff*

4. Evaluation under Ontario Regulation 9/06

Evaluation of the cultural heritage value of the subject property is guided by the criteria outlined in the *Ontario Heritage Act's, Ontario Regulation 9/06: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest*. This Regulation outlines several criteria for determining whether a property is of cultural heritage value or interest. For a property to be designated under section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, it must meet two or more of these criteria, which are outlined below.

Ontario Regulation 9/06 Criteria	Evaluation	Criteria met (Y/N)
1. The property has design value or physical value because it:		
i. is a rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method;	The stone pillars are a representative example of early 1900s estate gate pillars that formed part of an impressive and regal entrance to a large wealthy estate.	Y
ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit;	The property does not display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	N
iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	The property does not demonstrate a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.	N
2. The property has historical value or associative value because it:		
i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community;	The stone pillars are associated with Holyrood Estate and its house which still stands east of the pillars. It is associated with the development of wealthy lakeshore estates in Oakville and its previous prominent owners, including the Stuart and Lefebvre families.	Y
ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture;	The property does not yield or have a strong potential to yield information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.	N
iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community.	The house does not demonstrate or reflect the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist significant to the community.	N
3. The property has contextual value because it:		
i. is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area;	The stone pillars are important in defining the character of the area, which was influenced by the former Holyrood Estate. The area still retains the former estate house, large mature trees and other landscaping elements of the estate, in addition to the stone pillars which act as an important anchor to the area's past.	Y
ii. is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings;	The stone pillars are historically linked to their surroundings and the lands of the former Holyrood Estate. While the pillars have been moved, they remain on the original estate property and contribute to the character of the neighbourhood and lakeside public park.	Y
iii. is a landmark.	The property is not a landmark.	N

5. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The subject property has been researched and evaluated to determine its cultural heritage value or interest according to the criteria outlined in Ontario Regulation 9/06. By using these criteria, staff have determined that the property's cultural heritage value or interest merits designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Description of Property

The subject property at 24 Holyrood Avenue is located on the southwest corner of Holyrood Avenue, south of Lakeshore Road West. The property is a town-owned park known as Holyrood Park and contains two stone pillars built circa late 1800s to the early 1900s as part of the former Holyrood Estate.

Design Value or Physical Value:

The Holyrood Gate Pillars are a representative example of early 1900s estate gate pillars that formed part of an impressive and regal entrance to a large wealthy estate. Designed specifically for the Stuart family, the stone pillars are reflective of both the original Holyrood Palace in Scotland that inspired the name for the estate and the Stuart family's Scottish history. The battlement with cannons at the top of the pillars, the metal family crest and the metal 'Holyrood' signage were purposefully selected and maintained to commemorate these historical connections to Scotland.

Historical Value or Associative Value:

The Holyrood Gate Pillars have cultural heritage value for their direct associations with Oakville's history of lakeshore estate development, a significant theme of development in Oakville in the late 1800s into the mid-1900s. Estates along the lakeshore, including the Holyrood House, shaped many physical aspects of Oakville today; the town's unindustrialized lakeshore can be linked to the existence of these significant and wealthy estates extending to the waterfront. The property also has cultural heritage value for its direct associations with its notable Oakville residents, such as Dr. William T. Stuart and Gordon Lefebvre, who not only contributed to the property and surrounding area, but to the development of the town as well.

Contextual Value:

The Holyrood Gate Pillars are important in defining the character of the local area and clearly link the neighbourhood to its historical past and former land use. The boundaries and design of the surrounding subdivisions and Holyrood Park were influenced by the former Holyrood Estate, which included its stone pillars. The Holyrood Gate Pillars also have cultural heritage value because they are historically linked to their surroundings, land that once formed part of the Holyrood Estate. Oakville has a long history of wealthy lakeshore estates and the stone pillars remain an important remnant of Holyrood Estate, whose presence contributed, and continues to contribute, to the city's unindustrialized lakeshore today. This is underscored further by Holyrood Park, the peaceful lakeside public park in which the stone pillars stand today.

Description of Heritage Attributes

Key heritage attributes of the pillars at 24 Holyrood Avenue, that exemplify their cultural heritage value as a representative example of early 19th century estate gate pillars, include:

- The stone pillars with large square stones and crenellated tops;
- The metal decoration including the Stuart Family crest, Holyrood nameplate, and cannon balls on each pillar;
- The remnant metal hardware from the original gates; and
- Its location on the previous Holyrood Estate lands.

6. Conclusion

This property meets four of the criteria of Ontario Regulation 9/06, including historical/associative value and contextual value. It is therefore recommended that the property be designated under Part IV, section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

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