


THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE
BY-LAW 1991-185

A by-law to designate 257 Dundas Street East
as a property of architectural
and historical significance

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as 257 Dundas Street East is hereby designated as a property of architectural and historical 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.



G. W. Brown 9/11/91
 MAYOR



 CLERK

SCHEDULE "A"
TO BY-LAW 1991-185

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

The house at 257 Dundas Street East was known for many years as the "Squire" James Appelbe House. James Appelbe was descended from a family of French Huguenots who left France for Ireland during the religious persecutions of the 17th Century. James was the son of Pierce and Patience Appelbe and was born in Baudou, County Cork, Ireland in 1802. James came to Canada around 1820 with his widowed mother to join his elder brother, William, who had settled at Stewarttown in 1815. After being apprenticed to a merchant in Hamilton, James taught school at Munn's Corners. In 1831, James married a young widow named Jemima McDuffy and settled near 257 Dundas Street E. in Postville.

Jemima was a member of another of Trafalgar Township's earliest families. Born in Saltfleet on February 4, 1807, Jemima was the granddaughter of a United Empire Loyalist (Andrew Pettit of Grimsby) and eldest daughter of Elizabeth Biggar and John Kaitting (John Kaitting was a "Yankee" from New Jersey, born during the Battle of Bunker Hill, within sound of the guns on June 17, 1775).

The Kaittings had been reared in the Church of England in New Jersey. They married in 1806, and moved to Trafalgar Township in 1808, which was, at the time, a wilderness. According to Mrs. Ellen Appelbe, daughter of James and Jemima, in a letter written at the turn of the century to her sister Sabina in England:

"The Kaittings came across Lake Ontario from the Niagara Peninsula and entered Sixteen Mile Creek on the banks of which Oakville now stands. Paddling up the stream, they landed where later

the Great Western Railway Bridge would stand. Here, they camped and spent the night. Rising early in the morning following the party cut their way a distance of three miles, having as their guide the blazed trees which marked the trail. Camping again on the day following, they began to build their log cabin in which our mother (Jemima), then about a year old, spent her childhood. Her brother William Kaitting, born shortly afterwards, was the first male child of European background born in the County of Halton. In this neighbourhood, Mamma (Jemima) lived seventy-two years, was married twice, yet never moved over a mile from the spot on which her early home was built. In 1826 she married Peter McDuffy, who died in 1828, leaving a daughter, Sarah. Her second marriage was to James Appelbe on the 30th of March, 1831."

James Appelbe was one of the most successful figures in this area of Trafalgar Township and eventually became a man of great influence and means, and as a result, James Appelbe was known by all as "Squire Appelbe". James initially became established at Postville as the owner of a store and the post office. As time passed, he came to own most of the land in the village, and in 1850, he built a pleasant stucco house for his family, behind his store. This house still stands today at 257 Dundas Street East.

James assumed a number of important positions during his life. He was one of the first directors of the Bank of Toronto, Justice of the Peace, Treasurer of Trafalgar Township, and as an ardent Methodist, he was Recording Steward of the Nelson circuit for many years until his death in 1878. In 1871, Squire James Appelbe made a very brief foray into the world of politics, a career that lasted all of four days.

"Squire Appelbe began and ended his political life when he was in his late sixties. Becoming a candidate in a provincial election required that Appelbe resign as postmaster at Trafalgar, and this he did in a letter to Sir Alexander Campbell, postmaster-general, on 11 March, 1871, requesting at the same time that his son John be appointed to the position. For some reason Appelbe changed his mind about running for office almost immediately, and thus four days later, in both a letter and a telegram to Campbell, he withdrew his resignation. This was not easily done, however, for there were political ramifications which became evident when Campbell

received a letter, dated 10 April, from John Sandfield Macdonald, first premier of Ontario and a man who believed in 'supporting his supporters'. In his letter he said: 'My dear Campbell ... It would be a most dangerous practice to allow a party to go back to an office which he had vacated for the purpose of furthering himself in antagonism to the government.' The unfortunate Appelbe's position as postmaster was eventually restored to him when fifty-eight local citizens submitted a petition on his behalf and the authorities decided that, although he had planned to run as an independent, Appelbe had not actually worked against the government."

Byers and Mcburney, The Governors Road, Pg. 82-83

Another position assumed by Squire James Appelbe was that of President of the Trafalgar, Esquesing and Erin Road Company. This was a joint stock company established in 1846. The company was formed when the traffic coming down to Oakville Harbour from the North grew so heavy that it became necessary to improve the 7th Line. The Trafalgar, Esquesing and Erin Road Company was commissioned to build a 20 foot wide plank road from Oakville to Fergus. Construction on the initial 18 mile section from Oakville to Stewart's Town began in April, 1850 and was completed seven months later at a cost of 14,411 pounds, 14 shillings.

James Appelbe died in late June, 1878. According to Sumners Diary, there was a very large funeral service in Oakville and the whole Town mourned. Less than one year after James' death, Jemima Appelbe died on February 25, 1879. The children of James and Jemima Appelbe, who were brought up at 257 Dundas Street East, became important figures in their own right.

Robert Swanson Appelbe, who was born in 1834, established himself as a solicitor in Oakville in the early 1860's in the house at 159 Trafalgar Road. In 1870, R.S. Appelbe acquired the Frontier House, a former hotel at 29 Navy Street. Robert's wife Clemintina, was a daughter of Thomas Jeffrey Robertson, who in 1847 was appointed first headmaster of the Normal School founded by Dr. Egerton Ryerson. Thomas J. Robertson was also the first commodore of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club.

John Kaitting Appelbe was born in 1832. He continued in his father's footsteps and became Clerk of Trafalgar Township and a storekeeper in Postville on the southeast corner of Dundas Street and Trafalgar Road, where the Trafalgar Memorial Hall now stands. In October, 1872 John Kaitting Appelbe presided over the auction which saw the sale of Oakville Harbour from the Chisholm Family to John T. Shewell for \$6,600.

Sabina Appelbe was born in 1846. She was later married to Charles Hanson, who had come to Canada in 1867. Charles Hanson became a successful financier and in 1891, he returned to England with his wife Sabina, and their children. Charles continued his success in business and soon after, entered public life as an Alderman and Sheriff of London. Charles was later knighted by King Edward VII and at the end of World War I, Sir Charles and Sabina Hanson became Lord Mayor and Mayoress of London respectively. After serving their one year term, in 1918 King George V created for Sir Charles the hereditary title of Baron of Fowley Hall, and as a result, Sabina Hanson, daughter of James and Jemima Appelbe of Trafalgar, spent her remaining years as Lady Hanson of Fowley Hall, Cornwall, England, where she died in 1924.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 257 Dundas Street East is a good example of the rural Oakville vernacular. It is a one and a half storey farm residence with a side gable roof, and a central cross-gable dormer. The dormer window is round-arched, with a single awning pane. Decorative pierced vergeboard with a finial accent the dormer.

The facade of the house has five bays and is symmetrical. The central door has a transom and side lights, and four unique full-length windows with transoms distinguish the front elevation.

Built c. 1850, the original house is constructed of double brick walls, stuccoed over at a later date. There is one addition to the rear which is sympathetic in style, but not stuccoed over.

4 97 2

SCHEDULE "B"

TO BY-LAW 1991-185

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 in the Town of Oakville, in the County of Halton) and being composed of part of Lot number 13, in the 1st Concession, North of Dundas Street in the said Town of Oakville, and which said parcel may be more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at a stake planted in the north-westerly limit of Dundas Street as widened by Plan 443 distant Seventeen feet six inches (17'6") measured on a course north forty three degrees, forty six minutes west (N.43 46'W) from a point in the original north westerly limit of Dundas Street distant seven hundred and twelve feet, four inches (712'4") measured south westerly therealong from the south westerly limit of the Seventh Line as widened by by-law 515 Halton;

THENCE North forty three degrees, forty six minutes West (N.43 46'W) along a wire fence five hundred and seventy four feet, six inches (574'6") to a stake planted;

THENCE SOUTH forty nine degrees, forty nine minutes West (S.49 49'W) one hundred and forty nine feet, ten and one half inches (149' 10 1/2") along a wire fence to a stake planted;

THENCE SOUTH forty three degrees, twenty minutes east (S.43 20'E) one hundred and thirty feet, nine inches (130'9") to a stake planted;

THENCE SOUTH seventy seven degrees, twelve minutes east (S.77 12'E) seventy six feet three inches (76'3") to a stake planted.

THENCE NORTH forty five degrees, thirty two minutes East (N.45 32'E) eighty one feet, three inches (81'3") to a stake planted in the line of a wire fence extending south easterly therefrom;

THENCE SOUTH forty four degrees, nine minutes East (S.44 09'E) therealong three hundred and ninety three feet, seven and one half inches (393' 7 1/2") more or less, to the said north westerly limit of Dundas Street as widened;

THENCE NORTH thirty eight degrees, thirty nine minutes East (N.38 39'E) therealong, twenty five feet (25'0") more or less to the point of commencement.

SUBJECT TO A RIGHT OF WAY unto Wilfrid Samuel Hall, his heirs, and assigns over, along and upon the driveway now in use leading to the King's Highway #5 over the said lands, the said Wilfrid Samuel Hall, his heirs and assigns to maintain the said driveway in reasonable state of repair, as previously described in Instrument #733739.