


**THE CORPORATION TOWN OF OAKVILLE  
BY-LAW 1995-122**

A by-law to designate 139 Thomas Street (Old Radial Station)  
as a property of historical, architectural and  
contextual value and interest

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as 139 Thomas Street 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 2nd day of August 1995.

  
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MAYOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ASSISTANT CLERK

## SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 1995-122

### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Hamilton Radial Electric Railway laid tracks from Hamilton to Oakville in 1905. A combined passenger building and substation was built at Randall and Thomas, now commonly referred to as the Old Radial Station. The Radial Station was occupied by The Hamilton Radial Electric Company, which was owned by The Dominion Power and Transmission Company. The company was an early developer of the transmission of power. The substation serviced the Town of Oakville from 1908 until after the Second World War. Excess electricity was used to operate The Radial Railway.

Radial cars ran along what is now Rebecca Street, and until the bridge was built across Sixteen Mile Creek, the line terminated at the west side of the river. It states in *Oakville and the Sixteen*, that "in January of 1906, the last span 634 foot bridge was lowered into place." From then on, the cars ran directly through Town along Randall Street to the terminal at the corner of Thomas Street.

In *Oakville: A Small Town*, Frances Ahern states that "... many students living west of the Town who attended Oakville High School regularly used the service, as did the day-boys travelling to Appleby School, who got off and on the radial every day at McCraney's Corners (Fourth Line)".

As a result of the high speed that the train travelled (40 - 60 miles per hour), and the smooth comfortable ride, many people who used to come to Oakville by steamship now came by radial, making the service extremely popular. The Radial Station located at 139 Thomas Street was the easterly most radial station on the line. The Hamilton Radial Railway did have plans to expand into Toronto, but unfortunately, with the advent of the automobile, the company went bankrupt in 1925. The Old Radial Station is the last building on the Oakville-Hamilton line left in its original state.

### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This building's architecture would appear to be more a result of functional requirement than style or "period". Built circa 1906, it remains the only remnant of the "radial railway era" in Oakville.

The building's solid, unadorned appearance, rusticated stone lintels and sills, flared eaves creating a broad overhang supported on large brackets, and the station agent's bay window are its most significant features. It would appear that the two flat-roof portions of the structure with clay tile parapet coping and corner buttresses required to house the generating equipment, might have preceded the station facility facing Randall Street.

Renovations presumed subsequent to its use as a radial station have altered numerous masonry openings; the most notable of which are the openings to the right of the front bay and around the corner on Thomas Street, which presumably was the passenger entrance and windows to the waiting room, and the luggage door to the left of the bay.

### CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Radial Station is predominantly situated within the Downtown area. It can and often is used as a point of reference. The east half of the property is a modern substation, and is of no historical significance.

**SCHEDULE "B"**  
**TO BY-LAW 1995-122**

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Oakville in the County of Halton, and composed of Lot "A" in Block 2, Plan 1.

EXCEPTING AND RESERVING from the land hereby granted the 27.6 kv line strain insulators and associated line clamps.

As described in Instrument No. 21818V.