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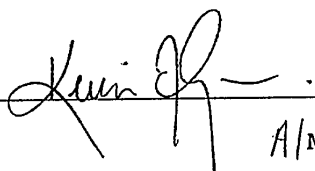
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE  
BY-LAW 1993-5


A by-law to designate 241 Trafalgar Road  
as a property of historical, architectural,  
and contextual value and interest

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as 241 Trafalgar 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" attached to this By-law.

PASSED by the Council this 8th day of March, 1993.

  
A/MAYOR

  
CLERK



SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 1993-5

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 241 Trafalgar Road was built circa 1870. The house has been known throughout its history as "Potter's Folly" after the man who is believed to have been its builder, John Potter.

John Potter was born in Nova Scotia in 1811 and came to Oakville as a young man where he found work as a carpenter on the piers. Within a short time, he was working as a shipwright for William Chisholm, and it was not long before he was building houses as well. John Potter and his wife, Elizabeth, had two daughters, Mary and Jerusha, and the records report that Potter and his family were renting a house during the 1840s. The Census of 1851 states: "John Potter, joiner, born Canada, W. Methodist, age 42, Framed House, 1 storey, 1 fam. occup. wife Elizabeth, ch. Mary E. and Jerusha". The Collector's Rolls of 1852 list Potter as a tenant on Lot 3 of Block 44 and Charles Biggar as the owner. Biggar had purchased the land (now 241 Trafalgar Road) from William Chisholm in 1839. It has been suggested that Potter was given the contract to build a small frame house on the lot, similar to the Melancthon Simpson House (235 Trafalgar Road), and then rented the house from Biggar for a number of years before purchasing the property.

In 1842, Potter was responsible for the construction of the Congregationalist Church that stood at Wilson and John Streets, a large frame structure, capable of seating 150 persons. He was a member of the Oakville Temperance Reformation Society, and in 1843, he was one of the men instrumental in the construction of the Temperance Hall. He served as Councillor for the new Town of Oakville in 1857 and 1858.

From his shipyard on the Sixteen, Potter launched many illustrious sailing vessels. The most notable were the *Smith* and *Post* which he built for Thompson Smith, the 100-ton schooner *Kate* for George Chisholm, and the 175-ton *Dauntless* for Captain Hiram Williams. By 1859, however, Potter was in financial difficulties, and he sold his home on Trafalgar Road to Thompson Smith "subject to certain trusts, creditors being parties of fourth part". In 1861, Thompson Smith, assignee of John Potter, sold the property to Solomon Savage, who on June 1, 1869, sold to John Barclay and Peter MacDougald. On Sunday, June 20 of that year, just nineteen days after the purchase, Barclay and MacDougald lost the house to a fire. George Sumner wrote in his journal: "This afternoon, Mary Maneer and Potters old place was burned to the ground. The wind blew very hard."

Although the earliest known record of the present building on the site at 241 Trafalgar Road is in the Collector's Rolls of 1874, it is believed that Barclay and MacDougald contracted the start of the building shortly after the fire. The newly completed building was rented to the Presbyterian Congregation.

Exactly how the building became known as Potter's Folly is not certain, and although there is no proof for the supposition, it is possible that Barclay and MacDougald let the building contract out to John Potter. Potter never lived in it, and according to the Collector's Rolls of 1874, he was a tenant, living with his daughter, Jerusha, and his son-in-law, Dr. Charles Lusk, at 205 Trafalgar Road. He was still living there in 1888, and it is believed that he lived there until his death. In his later years, he listed himself as a boat builder, and although he was obviously still active, he was not affluent. In 1892 and again in 1899, George Sumner

recorded in his diary that he had been up to visit old Mr. Potter, who was quite weak, and on January 8, 1908, Sumner wrote, "Old Mr. John Potter died this a.m. in his 98th year".

The Presbyterian Congregation bought the property in 1881, and numerous other ministers dwelt there over the years, with the Reverend Mr. Wallace being the last to reside in the Manse. The property and three adjoining lots were sold in 1927 to William Robert Adamson of Toronto. Adamson died just two years after the move to Oakville, but in that time he became very involved in the operations of Knox Church as a member of the Board of Managers.

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The house at 241 Trafalgar Road was built circa 1870. Although in 1978 the structure was jacked up and moved forward to permit a new, full basement to be built and the sale of lots on Reynolds Street, the structure retains much of its original character and detail.

The structure is a fine example of the Italianate Villa style, which was a Classical alternative to the contemporary Gothic Revival style. The Italian Villa embraced the irregular outline and composition of the picturesque with the balance and harmony of Classical architecture romantically inspired from northern Italian country houses or villas.

The most striking feature of this style is the tall tower or campanile with balconied window located at the corner or juncture of the L-shaped plan. In addition to this tower, other characteristics described by the English architect, J. C. Loudon, in his Encyclopedia of 1833, include irregular massing, closely spaced or grouped windows, at times arched, a portico, an arcade or loggia and a mildly pitched roof with cantilevered eaves.

As an architectural style, the Italianate Villa was popular throughout the third quarter of the nineteenth century in Ontario, and designs for such could be found in countless builders' pattern books.

Some of the outstanding features of Potter's Folly at 241 Trafalgar Road include richly detailed cornice and roof brackets, classical window and door crowns, 6/6 double hung windows, original shutters (some are exact replacements), and the tower balcony (a replica of the original). Although of recent construction, the tent-shaped balcony with veranda and fine trellage captures much of the form and detail of the original.

#### CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Potter's Folly at 241 Trafalgar Road is an attractive landmark, and an important contributor to the streetscape along Trafalgar Road. The house is one of a number of architecturally significant buildings located along this area of Trafalgar Road.

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW 1993-5

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, and Province of Ontario, and being composed of all of Lot 3 and part of Lot 5, in Block 44, according to a Plan registered in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Halton (No. 20) as Plan Number 1, and which parcel may be more particularly described as follows:

PREMISING that the northeasterly limit of Trafalgar Road (formerly Dundas Street) has a bearing of North 62 degrees 10 minutes west and relating all bearing herein thereto;

THEN COMMENCING at the most southerly angle of the said Lot 3 which angle is marked by a standard iron bar;

THENCE north 62 degrees 10 minutes west along the southwesterly limits of Lots 3 and 5, being the northeasterly limit of Trafalgar Road, a distance of 101.68 feet to an iron bar planted in a line of cedar hedge running northeasterly, which iron bar is distant 6.15 feet measured southeasterly from the southwesterly limit of Lot 5 from the most westerly angle of Lot 5;

THENCE north 36 degrees 25 minutes 10 seconds east along the line of cedar hedge a distance of 138.67 feet to an iron bar planted at the most northerly angle of Lot 5;

THENCE south 52 degrees 29 minutes east along the northeasterly limits of Lots 5 and 3 a distance of 105.89 feet more or less to the most easterly angle of Lot 3;

THENCE south 38 degrees 55 minutes 50 seconds west along a line of post and wire fence marking the southeasterly limit of Lot 3, a distance of 121.59 feet to the point of commencement; all of which contains by admeasurement, 13,406 square feet, be the same more or less, and shown as Part 1 on a plan of survey prepared by Kenneth H. McConnell, O.L.S., dated November 13, 1978.

Being the lands described in Instrument No. 476358 save and except Lots 4 and 6 in Block 44 according to Plan 1.