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Hutton

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE

1225 TRAFALGAR ROAD  
P.O. BOX 310  
OAKVILLE, ONTARIO  
CANADA L6J 5A6  
TEL. (416) 845-6601

REGISTERED MAIL

January 3, 1991

ONTARIO HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
77 Bloor Street West  
2nd Floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 2R9

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: TOWN OF OAKVILLE BY-LAW 1990-229  
DESIGNATION OF 125 THOMAS STREET (MASONIC HALL), OAKVILLE

Pursuant to Section 29(6)(a) of the Ontario Heritage Act, attached is a certified true copy of By-law 1990-229 being "A by-law to designate a certain property as a property of historical and architectural value and interest (125 Thomas Street, Masonic Hall)".

Also attached for your information is a copy of the staff report that was presented to Council on this matter.

Yours very truly

Carol L. Moloney  
Committee Co-ordinator  
and Assistant Clerk  
TOWN OF OAKVILLE

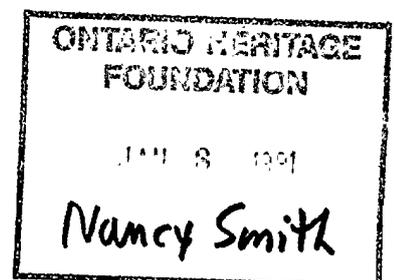
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CORR-115

cc: R. Boddington, Heritage Planner

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IN THE OFFICE

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ARCHITECTURE AND  
PLANNING  
HERITAGE BRANCH



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE  
BY-LAW 1990-229

A by-law to designate a certain property as a property of historical and architectural value and interest (125 Thomas Street.)

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as 125 Thomas Street is hereby designated as a property of historical and architectural value and interest pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act for the 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 10th day of December, 1990.

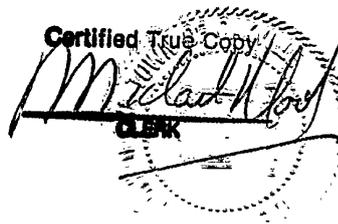


MAYOR



CLERK

10523



SCHEDULE "A"

BY-LAW 1990-229

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Historically, the long line of the Masons in Oakville can be traced back to their beginnings in 1868. It states in the book A History of Oakville Lodge Number 400.G.R.C. that "the Masons met at William Robertson's Hardware Store on Tuesday on or before the full moon". It also states that the first members of the White Oaks Lodge were:

George K. Chisholm, Worshipful Master  
William Robertson, Senior Warden  
John Kaitting, Junior Warden  
Robert K. Chisholm, Secretary/Treasurer  
Dr. D.D. Wright, Senior Deacon  
John Doty, Junior Deacon  
James Kelley, Inner Guard  
Aaron Matthews, Steward  
Captain Peter Lyons, Tyler  
T.J. Brown, Chaplain  
Richard Wood, Director of Ceremonies

During the latter part of the 1870s, the Town became embroiled in political strife. The animosity inevitably resulted in the disbanding of the White Oaks Lodge. It is stated in Oakville and The Sixteen that "...because of the feelings of two members, one a Tory and the other a Grit, it became impossible to secure new members as each 'black-balled' the proposed names of those belonging to the opposite political party." The Lodge was closed on Tuesday, March 31, 1882. Some of the members of the White Oaks Lodge submitted a petition and subsequently were granted a new Lodge, The Oakville Lodge, on Tuesday, December 19, 1882. The meeting room for The Oakville Lodge was above John Barclay's store in the Romain block. Unfortunately, on Sunday, April 17, 1883, a fire broke out and destroyed the Masonic Hall. John Barclay rebuilt his store in 1884 and the Masons rented the second floor. This Masonic Hall was dedicated on January 28, 1884.

As the lodge grew, it became increasingly more evident that the Masons would require a lodge of their own, they set out to purchase a plot for the new lodge site. As stated in the deed, they purchased the lot which is now 125 Thomas Street on July 2, 1919, from "...Joel Mackinder of the Town of Woodstown, in the State of New Jersey, one of the United States of America." Construction of the new hall at 125 Thomas Street started in 1923. The Masonic Hall was completed during the summer 1924. The first meeting was held on September 2, 1924. This facility has since become the meeting place of all three Masonic Lodges in Oakville. There has not been any modifications to the exterior of the building, however, the interior has been redecorated.

Architecturally, the building is a modest expression of the Beaux Arts period and has remained intact as one of the few examples of the period in Oakville.

Typical for the period, the main building facades are an expression based on the "classical elements". The Grecian Temple effect is achieved through the column-like pilasters with simplified masonry infill panels. The columns rest on a cut-stone building plinth and are topped with cut-stone capitals causing an entablature consisting of stepped, masonry architraves, flush masonry frieze, and applied wood cornice. The effect is further strengthened with the introduction of a frontal pediment and portico supported by paired columns of the Truscan Order.

For this building, corner siting is important in that it permits a perspective (3-D) view of the buildings "colonnaded" effect. The main floor windows have been broken into a four (4) sash, as a result of heavy vertical and horizontal mullions. The paired transom lights are each broken into five (5) panes with the introduction of circular and intersection muntins.

As the lodge grew, it became increasingly more evident that the Masons would require a lodge of their own, they set out to purchase a plot for the new lodge site. As stated in the deed, they purchased the lot which is now 125 Thomas Street on July 2, 1919, from "...Joel Mackinder of the Town of Woodstown, in the State of New Jersey, one of the United States of America." Now that they had the land, the Masons began to raise funds in earnest so that they could afford to build their hall. By June of 1923, there had been two (2) sets of plans prepared, one suggested that the existing hall above John Barclay's store be renovated and the other proposed the construction of a brand new facility at Church and Thomas Street (125 Thomas Street). The decision was to build a new hall and construction started in 1923. The Masonic Hall was completed during the summer 1924. The first meeting was held on September 2, 1924. This facility has since become the meeting place of all three Masonic Lodges in Oakville. There has not been any modifications to the exterior of the building, however, the interior has been redecorated.

#### Architectural Significance

Although a modest expression of the Beaux Arts period, this building has remained intact as one of the few examples of the period in Oakville.

Typical for the period, the main building facades are an expression based on the "classical elements". The Grecian Temple effect is achieved through the column-like pilasters with simplified masonry infill panels. The columns rest on a cut-stone building plinth and are topped with cut-stone capitals causing an entablature consisting of stepped, masonry architraves, flush masonry frieze, and applied wood cornice. The effect is further strengthened with the introduction of a frontal pediment and portico supported by paired columns of the Tuscan Order.

For this building, corner siting is important in that it permits a perspective (3-D) view of the building "colonaded" effect which would not be as well presented if viewed only in elevation. The main floor windows have been broken into a four (4) sash, as a result of heavy vertical and horizontal mullions. The paired transom lights are each broken into five (5) panes with the introduction of circular and intersection muntins.

#### References:

Deed of Land, between Joel Mackinder and Trustees for the Masonic Lodge, 1919  
A History of Oakville Lodge Number 400 G.R.C., Dick Marshall, 1982  
Old Oakville, Hazel Chisholm Matthews, 1971

Discussion

The Masons have been in Oakville since 1868. Their first meeting place was a member's hardware store on Lakeshore Road. However, with the growth of the Masons, it became evident that they would need a building of their own. By 1923, the Masons decided to build the Masonic Hall at Church and Thomas Street (125 Thomas Street). This building was completed in 1924 and the exterior remains unchanged to this day. The Masonic Hall is one of the few examples of the Beaux Arts period in Oakville. A detailed heritage structure report on this building is attached.

Submitted By:

Approved By:

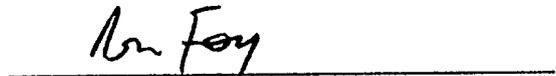


Jamie Olmstead  
Planning Assistant



Lynne Gough, Manager  
Policy and Research

Authorized By:



Ron Foy, Director  
Planning and Development



JO/lh  
Attach.  
10315

SCHEDULE "B"

BY-LAW 1990-229

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Oakville and County of Halton, and Province of Ontario and being composed of the southeast one half of Lot D, Block 2, Plan 1.