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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF OAKVILLE  
BY-LAW 1993-56

A by-law to designate 457 Maplegrove Drive  
as a property of historical  
and architectural value and interest

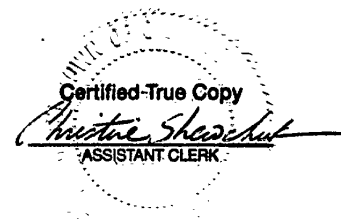
AUG 10 1994

THE COUNCIL ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The property municipally known as 457 Maplegrove Drive is hereby designated as a property of historical and architectural 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 26th day of May, 1993.

Batholomew M. Graham Christine Sheehy  
A / MAYOR A / CLERK



SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW 1993-56

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, more specifically described as Part of Lot 5, Concession 3 S.D.S. being Part 3 on Reference Plan 20-R-2093, Town of Oakville, Registry Division of Halton (No. 20).

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SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW 1993-56

REASONS FOR DESIGNATIONS:

The house at 457 Maplegrove Drive was built during the mid to late 1850's by James Wesley Hill. James Wesley Hill was born a slave in the Southern United States. In 1850, the "Fugitive Slave Law" brought about a large exodus of blacks from the United States to Canada, considered by runaway slaves to be "The Promise Land", where they could no longer be pursued. Travelling by night and "following the north star", the fugitives were guided through the northern states by groups of sympathizers, known as the "Underground Railroad". After many dangers and hardships, they streamed across the border into the safety of British North America.

James Wesley Hill was one who "followed the North Star to Canada". He had crossed the Potomac into Pennsylvania and, so it is said, over the border in a packing box, thence to Oakville. Here he worked clearing stumps on a newly-cut timber site near town, and sent his first earnings to his former owner in the South as payment of his purchase price.

Hill rented farmland on the Ninth Line (Maple Grove), south of the railway. There he built his original farmhouse (457 Maplegrove Drive). His daughter Ruth was born in the house in 1859, living there and in the immediate vicinity until her death in 1946 at the advanced age of eighty-seven.

Hill himself became an agent for the "Underground Railroad", penetrating the deep south to assist many of his people to escape. He hid them in cornfields, and

sometimes carried the women on his shoulders. After they reached Canada, he gave them work on his farm, thus enabling them to repay their expenses.

James Wesley Hill and his family were members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and in the early 1890's, they lent their support to the construction of the Turner Chapel to house their congregation. This building still stands today on the north side of Lakeshore Road.

The main (West) section of the house at 457 Maplegrove Drive is a good example of a Victorian Gothic Revival, one and one-half storey cottage. This small centre gable farmhouse has such characteristics as a balanced three bay facade, traditional Gothic influenced gable window, moderately sloping roof and original door and window openings. The front porch is not of the Gothic revival style, representing more the influence of Edwardian or Queen Anne styles. The porch may have been added or replaced an earlier porch in approximately the 1920's. Since its construction in the 1850's, a number of additions have been attached to the rear of the original structure of 457 Maplegrove Drive. These are generally compatible and do not obstruct the facade of the original farmhouse.

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