

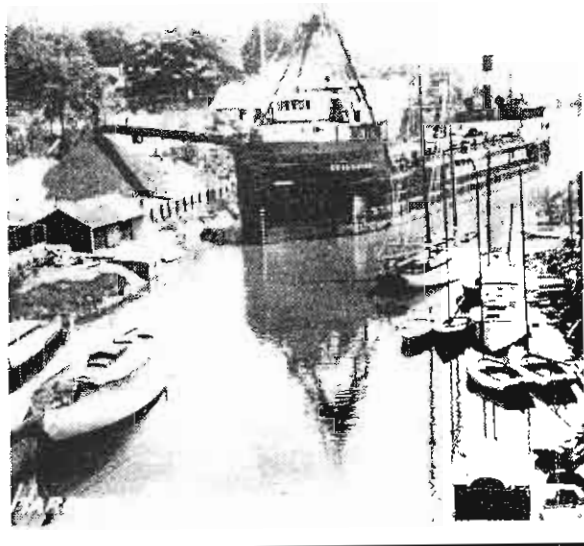
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# The Walker's Guide

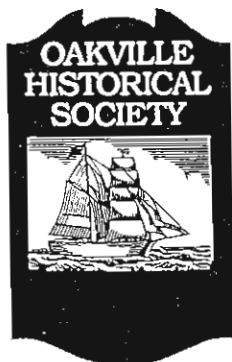
to

# OLD OAKVILLE

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THE OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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# The Walker's Guide

to

# OLD OAKVILLE

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The Oakville Historical Society, pursuing its purpose — the preservation and promotion of the history of Oakville — has produced this booklet to aid both visitors to, and residents of the Town in their appreciation of its origins and its early inhabitants.

The booklet is intended to assist those privately walking through the area of Oakville's first development, or to accompany groups taking guided walking tours of this part of the community. A map included as part of the booklet, indicates a route which will allow the walker to view the majority of the locations.

In two cases, only the sites of early construction remain; but pictures of what stood there in earlier years have been taken from Society Archives for inclusion.

Apart from these the photographs in the booklet are recent, taken by Society Volunteers.

Walking tours for groups starting at the Office of the Society at 110 King Street, are scheduled on alternate Sunday afternoons in the summer.

For information on them, call the Oakville Historical Society, at 905-844-2695.

The Office, which also houses the Society's Archival Collection, is open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, from 1:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., or at other times by appointment.

Photo credit: For the most part the pictures used are the work of Society Volunteer, Tom Burrow.

THE OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**1 29 Navy Street, *The Frontier House c. 1838***

Barnett and Nancy Griggs came to Trafalgar Township in 1811, first living in a log house on property about a mile to the east of the Sixteen. They built a frame home on the land, and enlarged it into a stage stop, an inn called the Half-Way House.

Their daughter, Sally, married mariner and ship owner John Moore, and lived at Thomas and William Streets. Moore bought this lot on Navy Street and built a home upon it. In 1838 it was acquired by Barnett Griggs, who enlarged it into a hotel which he leased to Jesse Belyea of Bronte. Named the Frontier House, it particularly served steamboat passengers arriving at and leaving the Harbour.

It was returned to a private dwelling about 1870, and was the home of the Appelbe family until the 1940s. During that time, in 1906, a part of the house was separated and moved to King Street, becoming what is now 154 King Street.



**2 19 Navy Street, *The David Patterson House 1835***

David Patterson, of Scottish descent, was born in Belfast and was there apprenticed as carpenter and ship builder. Born in 1807, he came to Canada in 1826 and moved to Oakville in 1827 to become employed in the Chisholm shipyard and in building of the piers for the harbour. On his marriage to Agnes Griggs, about the year 1835, he built a frame house on the site. In its basement was a large stone oven, used until the 1860s for the baking of bread for the family. In the year 1857, when Oakville became a Town, David Patterson was appointed "Pathmaster" for Ward two. It was the duty of Pathmaster — there was one in each of Oakville's three Wards — to keep account of statute labour for the maintenance of the Town's streets, or the "commutation fee" for those who chose to pay rather than work. At that time the "commutation fee" was three shillings and nine pence (seventy five cents) per day.

David Patterson died in 1877. Shortly after, the home was purchased by Joseph Milbourne, and in the 1880s, veneered with brick.



**3 8 Navy Street, *Erchless and The Custom House 1835-56***

The first building erected for businessman William Chisholm on the 1827 purchase of the Sixteen lands from the Crown was a store on William Street. William himself did not live in Oakville until 1838, but it is likely that his son R.K. Chisholm, acting for him, lived there on its being built in 1828.

Land on the southeast bank of the Sixteen was reserved for the family, and in about 1835 the north wing of what is now "Erchless" was built. It served as store, customs and toll house, and there Robert Kerr Chisholm lived, most probably in its upper storey. The centre wing of "Erchless" was added in 1839 when the rented property in which William, his wife Rebecca and younger children had been living for a year, burned.

The home was extended again prior to R.K. Chisholm's marriage to Flora Matilda Lewis in 1858; construction on the south wing was started in 1856 and the home was named "Erchless".

The adjacent Custom House was built by R.K. Chisholm in 1855. It provided a new location for the collection of customs duties and harbour tolls and also provided an office for a branch of the Bank of Toronto. The Custom House is now operated as a museum with staff offices on the upper storey. "Erchless" is furnished as a display home of the 1920s.



**4 Lakeside Park and "*Mount Vernon*" c. 1890**

The Town of Oakville acquired the harbour in 1874 and shortly afterward proposed to create a park ("a public pleasure ground") along the Lake where cordwood fuel for steamers had been piled. In return for the land R.K. Chisholm was allowed to close the Water Street and Front Street sections between King Street and Navy Street, adding that property to the Erchless estate. It took some twenty years before the park was improved and named Lakeside Park.

Originally, Lakeside Park did not include the property immediately to the south of Front Street (between Navy and Thomas Streets). On that land, at the southeast corner of Front and Navy a summer home, "Mount Vernon" was built in the 1890s by Mr. and Mrs. John Alexander Chisholm who had their permanent home in New York State. "Mount Vernon" faced the Lake, overlooking the "Lakeside Park".

Mount Vernon was rented to a series of tenants after John A. Chisholm's death in 1903. It burned down in 1928.



**5/6 Lakeside Park, The Thomas House 1829 and Old Post Office 1835**

The Thomas house and the Old Post Office did not originally stand on their present foundations at Lakeside Park.

The Old Post Office first stood at the southwest corner of Navy Street and Lakeshore Road, (at the time "Colborne Street") facing the Sixteen. It was built for William Chisholm, as first postmaster, in 1835, though the duties of postmaster were handled by his assistant, Robert Kerr Chisholm. It served as a Post Office until 1856, after which it served successively as a blacksmith shop, boat building shed, a wood storage shed, and a storage shed for Kendall's Tannery. Saved from destruction in 1951 by Mrs. Hazel Mathews, she had it moved to the site on Lakeside Park, then owned by the Chisholm family. The land was deeded to the Town in 1952. The Old Post office now operates in the summer months as part of the Town's Museums.

The Thomas House was originally erected on the farm of Merrick Thomas located on either side of Lakeshore Road, where the St. Thomas Aquinas High School and St. Jude's Cemetery are now. Added to over the years, it was saved in its turn by the newly formed Oakville Historical Society, who purchased it in 1955 and had the original portion of the structure moved to its present location. It is operated by the Society in the summer months as a pioneer farm home of the 1830s.



**7 143 Front Street, The Peter McCorquodale House 1834**

The McCorquodales were a family of mariners. Peter, born in Scotland in 1807, came to Canada in 1830 arriving in Oakville in 1832 and purchased the lot on which the house stands. The house itself was built in 1834. Peter McCorquodale was both captain and part owner of his schooner, the Royal Tar. The vessel was not apparently built at Oakville. The McCorquodale sons all became Captains: Duncan and Robert of schooners, James a steamship Captain. Although Peter McCorquodale died in 1850 the home remained in the family until the 1890s.

Later tenants, the Ralph Youngs, added an artist's studio to the east, Gwyneth Young being a talented painter and sculptor.

Recently the interior of the home has been completely restored to its original style.



**8 18 - 26 Thomas Street "The Workmen's Houses" 1852 Duncan Chisholm**

While these homes were built in about 1852 as workmen's homes for his shipyard workers, Duncan Chisholm did not himself live in them. Duncan was a son of George Chisholm, William Chisholm's brother. Born at Burlington Bay in 1824 he came to Oakville in the year 1848 and opened an iron and tin business.

He first lived at Colborne and Dunn Street, sharing half a frame building with Mrs. Mary Wilson, who operated a bakery in her half to the east. In about the year 1853 Duncan Chisholm built a new brick residence and shop at the S.W. corner of Dunn and Colborne, and lived there until his retirement.

It was in the late 1850s that Duncan Chisholm established a shipyard on the Sixteen at William Street. He built there the "Victoria", the "Monarch" and the last boat to come from his yard in 1867, the "White Oak". Launched on July 1st, 1867, it was expected that she would be named the "New Dominion", but niece Kate christened her the "White Oak".

Duncan Chisholm was also ship owner and a master mariner, serving as Captain on the "Oddfellow", the "Royal Oak", and "Three Bells", among others. He was the instigator of Captain Maurice Felan's epic Christmas voyage of the "Victoria" - they shared her ownership - to Oswego and back.



**9 176 Front Street, The James McDonald House 1837**

James McDonald, born in Scotland in 1771, arrived at Oakville in 1830 and in 1837 bought the land on which he built this house.

A carpenter, his first work at Oakville was on pier construction in the harbour. Builder as well as carpenter, James McDonald was the man who built Oakville's first Presbyterian Church, the Scotch Kirk, a frame building, able to seat three hundred worshippers, completed and opened in 1850.

His son, James McDonald Junior, also a carpenter by training, followed his father's footsteps in 1887 by being the builder of the new Knox Presbyterian Church. For his work on Knox James Junior took in part payment the Scotch Kirk, remodelling it into three homes.

Number 176 Front Street remained in the McDonald family many years, though divided in the 1880s with half being rented.

James McDonald Junior was the proprietor of a planing mill on the banks of the Sixteen, near Dundas Street (Trafalgar Road), bought in 1887 from the Wood family.



**10 212 Front Street, "The Worn Doorstep" c. 1870**

The first recorded building on this site was put up around the year 1870 and operated as a paint factory. When electric lighting was first introduced to Oakville, and a wood fuelled boiler failed to provide enough power for the dynamo, the power production was moved to the paint factory, with a coal fired boiler driving the dynamo. The electricity generating plant operated from 1892 to 1906. Remodelled into a private home named "The Electric Light Cottage", it later became a tea room, popular with summer visitors. Converted back to a residence after World War II, the house retains the tea room name "The Worn Doorstep".



**11 260 King Street, The Marlatt Coach House c. 1888**

This home, built at about the same time as the Marlatt House, (see #17) originally served as the Marlatt Coach House. The family home had large grounds containing gardens and fruit trees, but also equipped with a tennis court, two pools, one deep enough for children to swim in, and lawns for croquet or a game of cricket.

Mr. Marlatt, journeying frequently to Toronto, would travel by train, but use his carriage to get to the Oakville Station.

After the First World War this style of "gracious living" gradually declined. The Coach House was converted into apartments.



**12 295 King Street, Justus Williams c. 1850**

Justus Williams and his wife Nancy Aikman, came to Oakville in the year 1831. They bought two lots on Colborne Street, east of Dunn Street and there built a store from which they sold hardware, dry goods and medicines.

The family moved to this home on King Street in 1850. Justus Williams was a Methodist and a Temperance worker, helping to build the Temperance Hall in 1843.

He was in charge of Oakville's first Board of Health in 1834, a Trustee of Oakville Common School in 1836. He became vice-president of the Mechanic's Institute (library and adult education) in 1852. A Justice of the Peace for Trafalgar Township, on the incorporation of Oakville as a Town in 1857, he became Town Treasurer, serving in that capacity until his death — at age 77 — in 1875.

13



**St. Andrew's Church,  
41 Reynolds Street  
1840**

This Roman Catholic Church is the oldest surviving church structure in Oakville and is little changed from when it was built in 1840. Following early work by Father Gordon at "Stations" across a very extended territory, with headquarters at York, a mission was created at Oakville in 1836, with Father McDonagh in charge.

The land for the building of the Church was given by William Chisholm. John Caven, carpenter, provided a great deal of the labour.

It is reported that other assistance in building was supplied by Presbyterian

name, St. Andrew's, was assigned. Scots, and it is in their honour that the

Of "Colonial" design, the only significant changes are a stucco covering of the original frame building, and an extension in more recent times.



**14 308 William Street, Rose Cottage c. 1850**

The land on which "Rose Cottage" stands passed back and forth in its early years between many owners.

It was bought from William Chisholm in 1839 by William Dalmdage Junior, son of a local tavern keeper, but living in Port Dalhousie. In 1848 it was sold to William Jones (of Elgin County) who sold it in 1856 to R.K. Chisholm for £50. That same year Chisholm sold the lot for £100 to Isaac Clark.

Isaac Clark built the home on the land, and on his death in 1862 it passed to his brother Joseph Clark.

In 1899 the cottage and land passed to Arthur Clark, a farmer in Trafalgar Township who rented it out until selling it in 1905 to Hugh Strathnairn Hamilton Rose.

Hugh Rose died that same year but his wife, her sister and niece lived on in it.



**15 295/297/301 William Street, "The Scotch Kirk" 1850**

The Canadian Presbyterian Church, a branch of the Free Church of Scotland, began to form a congregation in 1836; later that year acquiring their first pastor, Rev. Mr. Murray. The building itself, completed in 1850 was largely the work of James McDonald (see the James McDonald House, #9).

At the time it was described as "a neat plain building" and could seat three hundred. It was valued at £430, or about \$2000. It was a white, frame structure, with arched windows and a gallery over the entrance where some of the Sabbath School pupils were instructed.

The Kirk was extended in 1868.

The Congregation set about building a new Church, Knox Presbyterian Church, in 1887, on the site of the old White Oak Hotel. The new Church was built by James McDonald Junior, son of the builder of the Kirk. James Junior took as part payment the Kirk and its site, remodelling it into these three homes, the double house 295 and 297, and the single house to the east, number 301.

16

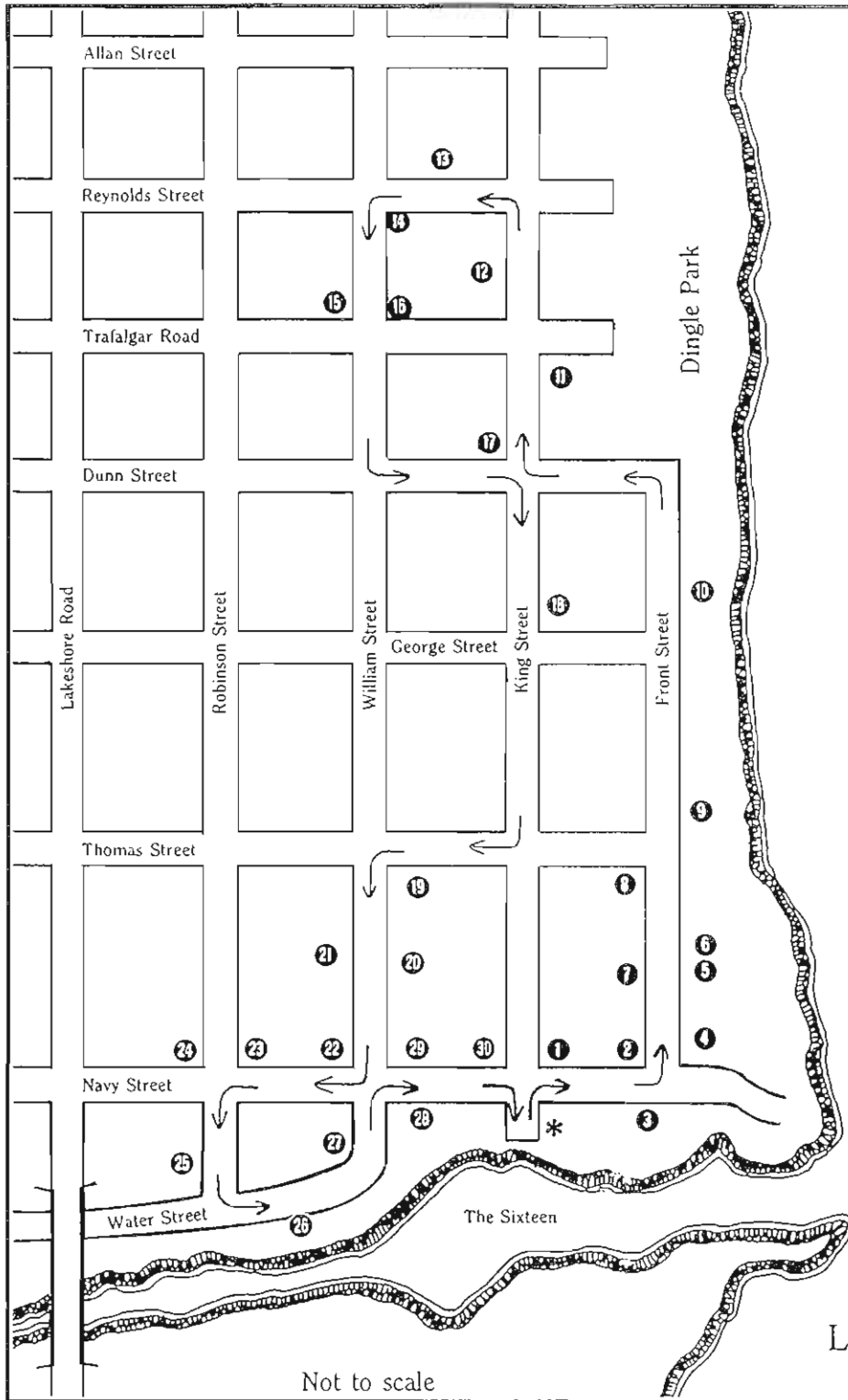


**288 William Street,  
The Joseph Boon  
House c. 1878**

The brothers Isaac and Joseph Boon came from Devonshire where they learned the trades of stonemason and bricklayer. They reached the Village of Oakville about the year 1849. By the 1860s Joseph had prospered in his trade and contracting, so that he was able to buy and enlarge the Royal Exchange Hotel on Lakeshore Road, but he sold it again in 1870.

Both Isaac and Joseph Boon were employed on the Market Building, completed in 1862, at the Market Square on the

west side of Navy Street between William and King Streets. Building this home at 288 William Street circa 1878. Joseph lived in it until the year 1903.



### LEGEND

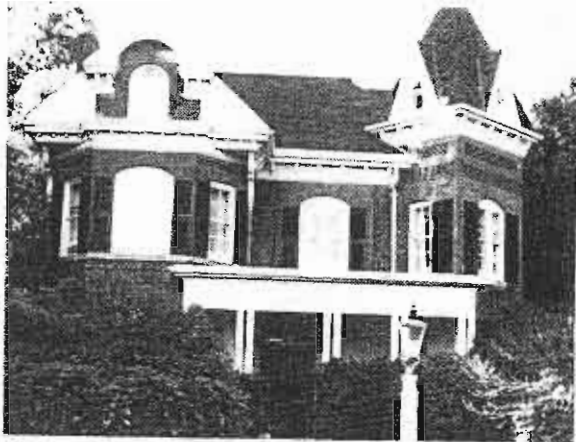
- \* Oakville Historical Society Office & Archives (Start of Tour)
- 1 The Frontier House
- 2 The David Patterson House
- 3 Erchless and The Customs House
- 4 Mount Vernon
- 5 The Thomas T'house
- 6 The Old Post Office
- 7 The Peter McCorquodale House
- 8 The Workmen's Houses
- 9 The James MacDonald House
- 10 The Worn Doorstep
- 11 The Marlatt Coach House
- 12 The Justus Williams House
- 13 St. Andrew's Church
- 14 Rose Cottage
- 15 The Scotch Kirk
- 16 The Joseph Boon House
- 17 The Marlatt House
- 18 The James Kelley House
- 19 St. Jude's Church
- 20 The Sexton's House
- 21 The William Sumner House
- 22 William Sumner House No. 2
- 23 The Murray House Hotel
- 24 The George King Chisholm House
- 25 The Granary
- 26 The Oakville Club
- 27 The Capt. James Audrew House
- 28 The Town Hall
- 29 The Capt. William Wilsou House
- 30 The Capt. Robert Wilson House



Lake Ontario

Not to scale





17 43 Dunn Street, *The Marlatt House c. 1888*

Cecil Gustavus Marlatt, who had this elaborate house built late in the 1880s, was the son of Stafford Dean Marlatt. Stafford Marlatt, born in Grimsby in 1830, married one of the Triller daughters and became owner of much of the Triller farm to the west of Bronte. Late in the 1880s Stafford bought from Captain Felan his interest in the Tannery for his sons Cecil Gustavus and Wilbur Triller Marlatt. As the Marlatt and Armstrong Tannery, it became well known for the making of "patent" leather.

Life at the Marlatt home is vividly described by Mary Marlatt Oliver, as it was in the 1900 to 1930 period, served by a cook (Martha Adams), a gardener, a housekeeper and two maids. ("Oakville, A Small Town" by Frances Robin Ahern.)

Cecil Marlatt was the owner of the famous yacht, "Aggie", named after his first wife. The "Aggie" won more than eighty races for the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, of which Marlatt was from time to time Commodore, Vice-Commodore and Rear-Commodore.



18 212 King Street, *The James Kelley House 1860*

James Kelley came to Oakville in the 1840s, conducting his blacksmith business and living in a house and shop at Robinson and George Streets, the southwest corner. The shop was demolished in 1949. His son, Peter, operated a furniture store at Colborne and Dunn. James Kelley went into the hardware business in 1878, taking the store immediately to the west of Peter's furniture store.

The home, built in 1860, was enlarged later by the addition of a renovated barn.

This home was once occupied by the grandparents of author, Farley Mowat.



19 160 William Street, *St. Jude's Church 1883*

The first mission of the Church of England and Ireland established at Oakville began in the year 1839.

The Anglicans acquired their first Church, St. Jude's, a frame building with a tinned spire on Colborne Street (Lakeshore Road East) at the northwest corner of the intersection with Thomas Street. It was bought from the Methodists, who built it, but within a year of its completion (1840) could not afford it. The original St. Jude's served the Congregation for forty five years.

The land on which the new St. Jude's was built, earlier served for the penning of cattle and horses related to the Market Building.

The land was bought in 1878, but building did not start until 1883. The Church and adjacent parish hall were dedicated in 1889. The building included the bell and organ from the earlier St. Jude's. The Tower was raised in 1895, and in 1906 a clock and peal of bells were added.



20 148 William Street, *The Sexton's House c. 1860*

This little home, built around 1860, was first occupied by Edward Anderson and his family.

After the Andersons, and a series of tenants, the house was purchased by W.S. Davis and given by him to St. Jude's Anglican Church to serve as a residence for the Sexton. It continues to serve this purpose. Built in the Gothic Revival style, its simple lines of gables and round-headed windows make it a pleasing example of homes built in this period.



**21 145 William Street, The William Sumner House 1831**

William Johnson Sumner was a neighbour of William Chisholm in Nelson Township. He was the proprietor of the Grove Inn, at Hannahsville, as that part of Nelson was then known.

At Oakville William Chisholm built an inn, the Oakville House, and leased it to his friend Sumner, about the year 1831. Sumner bought the Inn in 1834.

In 1831 William Sumner bought adjoining lots on William Street and Navy Street, building this home on William Street that same year. Passing into the possession of his son William Chisholm Sumner, it was purchased in 1855 by his brother, George Johnson Sumner. George Sumner, carpenter, Chief Constable and Diarist, lived here until his death in 1911. The home remained in the family into the 1920s.



**22 65 Navy Street, William Sumner House No. 2 1832**

This, the second house built by William Johnson Sumner, proprietor of the Oakville House, was built a year after the house on William Street (see Number 21).

The two adjacent lots were purchased in 1831 for twenty pounds (about \$80. at the exchange rate of the time). In 1839 he sold both homes for one hundred pounds.

It is for William Johnson Sumner that Sumner Avenue in Oakville is named.



**23 75 Navy Street, The Murray House Hotel c. 1857  
John Williams**

The Murray House Hotel stands on the site of a home of Captain Nicholas Boylan, second master of the "Trafalgar", the first schooner built at Oakville in the shipyard of William Chisholm. The hotel was built in 1857 by John Williams, brother of Captain Hiram Williams. It was opened for business on December 15th, 1857. The Hotel was originally named the "Canadian Hotel", and offered its patrons twenty-one bedrooms (but small, many only six feet by six feet) and four parlours. For the security of his customers' valuables John Williams provided hidden cupboards in the cellar stairway.

John Williams sold the hotel to James Teetor in 1867 (for \$2005) and returned to operating the "Oakville House", the inn at Navy and Colborne, which he had previously owned. He had also been the proprietor of the "Railway Station Hotel" which he built in 1856.

In 1896 the "Canadian Hotel" returned to the Williams family, being purchased by Murray Williams, John's nephew. It was Murray who changed the name to the "Murray House Hotel", the name it still carries.

Murray Williams brought the hotel back to the standards set by uncle John, for the establishment had gone down hill under a dozen proprietors since James Teetor.

Standing in lawns, with a fountain playing water in the centre, it was generously supplied by waggon sheds for its customers. But it was Murray Williams who introduced the automobile to Oakville, to begin the demise of the waggon.



**24 85 Navy Street, Glen Prossen, c 1849  
George King Chisholm**

George King Chisholm was born in 1815 at Nelson Township. In 1840 he married Isabella Land, granddaughter of the founder of Hamilton. They had eight children, five of whom survived childhood. The family moved to Oakville in 1847 and in 1848 he purchased the lot on which the house stands from the Gore Bank, building the home around the year 1849.

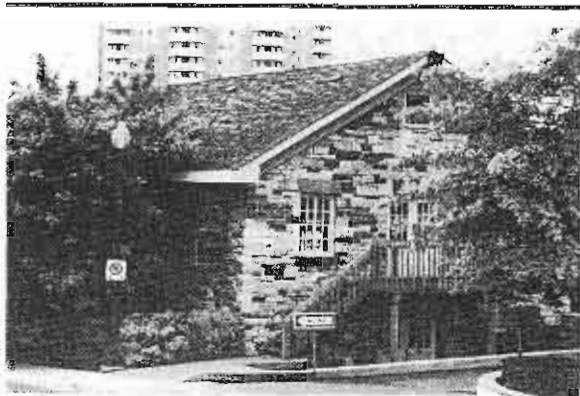
In 1857, the year in which Oakville become a Town, and George King Chisholm its first mayor, he sold the home to Dr. Elwy J. Ogden and his wife Mary and moved to a new home which he had built at his farm west of the Sixteen.

Ogden in his turn sold the home in 1868 to Richard Shaw Wood and Isabella Wood. Wood, a native of Bermuda, had come to Oakville in the 1850s and founded the Oakville Oil Refinery. Wood added to the home to the rear. The addition was supposed to serve as a bank, but there is no evidence that it did.

The home was sold again in 1878 to Mary Ann and Thomas Patterson. Mary Ann was a milliner, Thomas a tailor. Thomas Patterson became mayor of Oakville in 1894.

In the early part of this century the house became the home of Captain Maurice Fitzgerald, a Lake mariner who became a coal and lumber dealer in Oakville. He lived at Glen Prossen until his death in 1931.





**25 105 Robinson Street, The Granary c. 1855**

Wheat from the farms of Trafalgar Township and lands to the north, followed timber as the second important commodity for Oakville and its harbour. Dealers in wheat at Oakville were among its most prosperous citizens.

The Granary was built on the site of an earlier warehouse (1836) owned by Alexander Proudfoot, merchant of Trafalgar Township, on Dundas Street. Proudfoot disposed of his Oakville interests, moving to Montreal in the 1850s.

At about that time, essentially on the Proudfoot warehouse site, Romain and MacDougald built this stone warehouse, using limestone ballast brought in by the Lake schooners, and stone from the Lake bottom, harvested by stone hookers. Internally, massive pine timbers support the floors of the building.

The Granary is the only Ontario stone warehouse of its type still standing on its original location.



**26 56 Water Street, The Oakville Club 1908**

The Oakville Club, situated at the foot of William Street close to the Sixteen, stands where two or more warehouses once served the trade of Oakville. The grain warehouse of William Chisholm was built in 1828, a little closer to the creek than his first shop and chandlery. (see No. 27 following.) The building was acquired by Obadiah Marlatt in the 1850s and probably rebuilt by him. In 1878 it was acquired by a farmers' co-operative, the "Crangers", and the warehouse enlarged. Their building was taken over in 1894 by John Wales, a flour and food merchant.

In 1908 it was acquired by the Oakville Tennis Club and remodelled to become a private Club.

The Trafalgar Agricultural Association, who annually held a fall fair, on moving from Reynolds Street to Trafalgar Park (west of the Sixteen, north of Rebecca), purchased and moved an aeroplane hangar from Beamsville, to serve as a display hall. When the Oakville Fair folded, the hangar was bought by the Oakville Club and moved again to serve as a badminton court.

In excavating to install the hangar, the old foundation of George Chalmers' warehouse, built circa 1840, was uncovered.



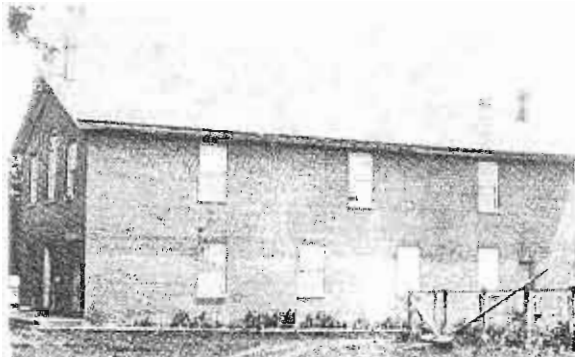
**27 115 William Street, Captain James Andrew House 1828**

James Andrew came from Scotland as a youth and took up a career on the Lakes, becoming a master mariner. Changing to shipbuilding about the year 1861, he built many swift schooners before the demand for large sailing ships dropped. His yard then turned to the building of small steamers and tugs.

In 1887 his yard on the west bank of the Sixteen was commissioned by Armstrong and the Marlatt brothers to build a yacht, the "Aggie". In 1896 he built the "Canada", winner of the trophy which afterwards became known as the "Canada's Cup".

In 1891 he moved to this home on William Street, where he lived with his sisters.

The west wing of this home began its life as the Oakville branch of the general store and ships' chandlery at Burlington Beach run by partners William Chisholm and Joel Smith. The "Oakville Establishment" or the "Oakville Shop" was operating in 1828, within a year of William Chisholm's purchase of the lands at the mouth of the Sixteen in 1827.



**28 Civic Park, Navy and Williams Streets, The Town Hall and Lock-Up, 1859.**

Very soon after the Town was incorporated as a Municipality in 1857, the Council declared the Temperance Hall the Town Hall for the time being. In 1859 the land designated by William Chisholm on the plan of Oakville Village as "the Market Square" was secured by Council and buildings were erected on it. First a brick structure for a "Lock-Up", then a larger building of wood and brick on the north side of the square, with Council Chambers on the upper floor, Market stalls on the lower.

The larger building was available for public entertainment use. Newly arrived immigrants were also housed and fed in it, until finding employment. The Lock-Up burned in 1876; cells for offenders then were built in the Market Building and the Council Chambers, too, occupied the ground floor. From this time the name "Town Hall" came into use. It burned down in 1911.



**29 45 Navy Street, *The William Wilson House 1830***

William Wilson was a younger brother of Robert Wilson (see No. 30 following). Both William and their brother, George, followed Robert into marine careers. William Wilson acquired this home about the year 1859. It had earlier stood on the east bank above the Sixteen, on the portion of Front Street now incorporated in the Erchless Estate. In its first location it was probably built at the instigation of William Chisholm. Moved to this site, it was next door to Robert Wilson's first home on King Street, around the corner. (Robert and William married sisters from Port Nelson.)

In the early years of the 1860s, when Robert built and moved to "Mariner's Home", Captain William Wilson built a new brick home on Colborne Street, at First Avenue.

Another house built by Captain Wilson, apparently an investment, was the store at Colborne Street to the west of Dunn Street. Initially serving as John McCorkindale's general store, it later (1878) was the hardware store of James Kelley.



**30 41 Navy Street, *The Robert Wilson House 1833***

On the death of her husband, a linen manufacturer in Ireland, Mrs. Wilson brought her ten children to Upper Canada in 1817. In 1820, aged fourteen, Robert started his mariner career. He was master of the second schooner launched from the Oakville shipyards of William Chisholm, the "Lady Colborne", in 1830. This first home which he built in Oakville was on land purchased in 1832, at King Street and Navy Street. Later (1862) he built a home on Dundas Street (Trafalgar Road) which became known as "Mariner's Home". Captain Robert Wilson aided many black slaves to escape across the Lake to freedom in Canada: in recognition and gratitude for this, annually those he helped would gather at "Mariner's Home".



**1839 "*Glenorchy*" Peter A. MacDougald Grain Merchant  
29 Thomas Street**



**1855 Jeremiah Hagaman Carriage Maker  
68 Navy Street**



**1840 Hugh Martin Mariner  
32 Thomas Street**



**1874 William Bond Mariner**  
**268 King Street**



**1854 John Gallie Carpenter**  
**307 William Street**



**1835 David Bray**  
**68 Thomas Street**

The Oakville Historical Society hopes you have enjoyed your tour of Old Oakville. The homes and buildings you have viewed are but a small part of Oakville's fine historical heritage.



The Old Lighthouse, Oakville Harbour

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**Oakville Historical Society**

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