

OAKVILLE HERITAGE INVENTORY SHEET

Address: 56 Water Street

Name: Oakville Club/ Granger's Warehouse

Photos:
2021:



Design/Physical Description:

- Style: 19th century vernacular (non-residential)
- While there have been a number of additions and changes to the Oakville Club building over the last several years, the warehouse from the mid 1800s and the airplane hangar from the 1920s remain
- Contemporary horizontal siding and consistent colour connect the various elements of this multi-component structure
- Medium pitched cross gable roof system with dispersed flat and semi-elliptical roof elements
- Most of the multi-component structure is two storeys in height
- Semi-elliptical roof element on the southern end housing a fitness facility built in DATE
- Primary entrance on second level with a double acting door with a transom
- Contemporary windows
- Asphalt shingle roof

Site Features

- Floating dock
- Tennis courts
- Swimming pool

Historical Description:

- Constructed on the site of Chisholm's 1828 warehouse, constructed circa 1850s, and enlarged in 1878
- The Oakville Historical Society plaque indicates that the building first served as the Grangers Warehouse; then in 1894 it was the location of John Wales Flour and Feed and 1908 it became the Oakville Club
- The Oakville Club is situated on a site occupied by William Chisholm's granary between 1828-1842. In 1850, Obadiah Marlatt acquired the property. He is believed to have rebuilt the building. In 1878, a group of farmers known as the Grangers acquired the property and enlarged (or rebuilt) the warehouse to a capacity of 25,000 bushels. The Grangers organized Ontario's first farmer's co-operative to try and combat the low prices they were being paid by grain merchants. The operation continued successfully until 1890 when increased grain tariffs forced the farmers to go into mixed farming. In the mid to late 1890s, John Wales, a flour and food merchant, purchased the building.
- The Oakville Club was begun in 1903 by William S. Davis and Allan S. Chisholm as a tennis club. In 1908, the building was acquired by the Oakville Tennis Club and remodeled to become a private club. It has served as its headquarters ever since.
- In 1926, badminton courts were added, when the club purchased an old airplane hangar from the Trafalgar Agricultural Association. The hangar, originally located in Beamsville, was moved by the agricultural association to the Oakville Fair Ground at Trafalgar Park. During the excavations undertaken to install the hangar, the old foundation of George Chalmers' warehouse, built in the early 1800s, was uncovered.

Contextual Description:

- Situated along the riverbank of Sixteen Mile Creek near Lake Ontario – contained within boundaries of the Oakville Harbour Cultural Heritage Landscape Designation – an organically evolved and associative landscape
- A key building whose façade forms an important terminal feature at the foot of William Street and along the narrow back lane of Water Street

- Across the river from the Oakville Yacht Squadron
- Predominant features of this site are the steep valley slope and the creek
- Terraces, retaining walls and exposed foundations set into the slope emphasize the steep valley

Reference in 1982 Plan:

The building which now houses the Oakville Club was built in 1878 by a group of farmers known as the Grangers. They had organized as the first farmer's co-operative in Ontario to try and combat the low prices they were being paid by grain merchants. The group purchased the site of William Chisholm's warehouse and constructed this building of 25,000-bushel capacity. The operation continued successfully until 1890 when increased grain tariffs forced the farmers to go into mixed farming. In 1894 they sold the warehouse. The Oakville Club was begun in 1903 by William S. Davis and Allan S. Chisholm as a tennis club. Five years later the club purchased this warehouse which has served as its headquarters ever since.

Note: Block Analysis identifies this as key building with the face forming an important terminal feature at the foot of William Street

Historical Photos:

Undated





Circa 1909



Oshville water sports 1909?
City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, f1244_t1060

#1060

March 1972



O. Reg. 9/06 (as amended by O. Reg. 569/22) Criteria Met:

- The properties have historical value or associative value because they have a direct association with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.
- The properties have contextual value because they define, maintain or support the character of the district.
- The properties have contextual value because they are physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to each other.
- The properties have contextual value because they are defined by, planned around or are themselves a landmark.

Additional Information:

Additional Information available at the Oakville Historical Society
Research contains: history of building use and historic photos