

65 Navy Street



Architectural Design/Physical Description

From 1982 Old Oakville Heritage District Plan

This house and the one at 145 William Street were both built by William J. Sumner (for whom Sumner Street is named) during the mid 1830s. The double casement windows and the simple entablature over the door are of interest.

OLRA Heritage Working Group Commentary and Updates

This home was extensively renovated in 1997 and received an Urban Design Award.

Original double casement windows and simple entablature over the door facing Navy Street were retained. Traditional stucco cladding methodology was used to replace damaged stucco. Aluminum windows were replaced with wood single pane windows with thermal shield. A flat roofed addition dating back to 1902 was removed and replaced with a one and half storey addition more sympathetic to the original home maintaining height of original structure. A new garage with driveway off William Street was built in order to maintain original Navy Street streetscape.



Source: Oakville Historical Society Photo Archives – Walter Moorehouse Collection c.1957



Historical Description

Source: Oakville Historical Society Plaque Research

65 Navy Street as well as the adjoining lot on 145 William Street were bought from William Chisholm by William Johnson Sumner (1797-1841) in 1831 for 20 pounds, or about \$80 at the time. He was the son of Thomas Sumner, a soldier who fought under General Wolfe at the taking of Quebec City in 1759.

In 1832 he built this house and sold it after 8 years for 100 pounds. The Sumners continued to live in the house around the corner on William Street. William Sumner had been the proprietor of the Grove Inn in Nelson, which is now Burlington. Then he leased the Oakville House from his good friend William Chisholm. It was located on the site of Paradiso Restaurant on Lakeshore Road. Sumner Street, which is the south side of George's Square, is named after him.

Matilda Sumner, a daughter of William Sumner, married Samuel McGiffin, the brother of Captain John McGiffin, who lived next door. In 1873, Matilda and Samuel purchased this house, which had been Matilda's childhood home. Unlike his brother and father, Samuel McGiffin was not a mariner, rather he was a hardware merchant. His store was in what had been the original St Jude's building on the northwest corner of Thomas and Lakeshore. By that time, the congregation had moved to its current location. The original St Jude's had been built by the Methodists and sold to the Anglican Congregation when the Methodists found they could not afford it. The building was torn and replaced with a branch of the Merchants Bank, later the Bank of Montreal. A few years ago, it was remodelled to become a clothing store.

The Williams family bought the house in 1902 and are believed to be the ones that put on the addition to the original Sumner house. Murray Williams was an innkeeper who operated both the Oakville House and the Murray House.

Other Associations

William Chisholm & William Sumner knew each other from Nelson; Sumner Family

McGiffin Family

Oakville House, Murray House

Proximity of two Sumner homes -Navy and William

Source: Oakville Historical Society Photo Archives – Walter Moorehouse Collection c.1957

