



HERITAGE HALTON HILLS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
Location: Esquesing Room - Halton Hills Town Hall
1 Halton Hills Drive
Members: Councillor C. Somerville, Chair, C. Donaldson, L. Quinlan, M. Rowe, R. Denny, A. Walker, T. Brown, Councillor M. Kindbom

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST
3. RECEIPT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - a. Minutes of the Heritage Halton Hills Committee Meeting held on April 16, 2025.
4. SCHEDULED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
 - a. Research and Evaluation Report - 10421 Fourth Line (Waterloo School)
 - b. Research and Evaluation Report - 13029 Steeles Avenue (Hornby School)
 - c. Research and Evaluation Report - 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard (Miller-McLaughlin House)
 - d. Research and Evaluation Report - 9476 Tenth Line (Menzies-Early Farm)
 - e. Research and Evaluation Report - 30 Park Avenue (Prospect Park and Fairy Lake)
 - f. Extension Request for 2024 HPGP Application - 586 Main Street (Beaumont Knitting Mill)
 - g. 2025 Heritage Property Grant Program (HGP) Eligibility Review - 9920 Regional Road 25 (Towercliffe House)
5. ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MEETING
6. ADJOURNMENT



HERITAGE HALTON HILLS COMMITTEE MINUTES

Minutes of the Heritage Halton Hills Committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 Via Zoom.

Members Present: C. Donaldson, L. Quinlan, M. Rowe (Acting Chair), R. Denny, T. Brown, Councillor M. Kindbom

Regrets: Councillor C. Somerville, Chair, A. Walker

Staff Present: L. Loney, Manager Heritage Planning, C. MacPherson, Heritage & Development Review Planner, N. Brady, Senior Administrative and Heritage Coordinator, R. Brown, Deputy Clerk - Administration

Others Present: G. Kler

1. CALL TO ORDER

M. Rowe, Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm.

1.a Introduction Councillor M. Kindbom

M. Rowe, Acting Chair introduced new Council Member and Heritage Committee Member, Matthew Kindbom to the committee.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY/CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary or conflict of interest.

3. RECEIPT OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.a Minutes of the Heritage Halton Hills Committee Meeting held on March 19, 2025.

Recommendation No. HHH-2025-0022

THAT the Minutes of the Heritage Halton Hills Committee Meeting held on March 19, 2025 be received.

CARRIED

4. SCHEDULED ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

4.a Heritage Impact Assessment - 11154 Winston Churchill Boulevard, Halton Hills

L. Loney advised the committee that the owners of 11154 Winston Churchill Boulevard, Halton Hills, requested the removal of the property from the Heritage Register. To have the property removed from the Heritage Register a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was requested. The owners hired a consultant to complete the HIA.

L. Loney reviewed the HIA provided with the committee, noting that the HIA indicates that the property has been altered and does not meet the criteria for designation. L. Loney expressed concerns about the quality of the HIA in comparison to the HIA's that have been prepared by staff and other consultants. L. Loney stated that the HIA is not fulsome as the full property has not been evaluated, the age of the building is incorrectly identified, and the description of the property is lacking. L. Loney noted for the HIA to be accepted the HIA should be revised and resubmitted.

Based on the information staff already know about the property and the information contained in the HIA, L. Loney agreed that the property would not be a good candidate for designation and therefore would support removal from the Heritage Register but would like to see the preservation of the trees as part of any future development of the property and that the revised HIA include this.

The committee upon review of the HIA and the pictures provided raised concerns about the state of the property and determined that enforcement staff should look at the property for property standards contraventions.

Recommendation No. HHH-2025-0023

THAT Heritage Halton Hills recommend that the Heritage Impact Assessment for 11154 Winston Churchill Boulevard, Halton Hills be updated to address staff's concerns regarding completeness of the evaluation;

AND FURTHER THAT the property located at 11154 Winston Churchill Boulevard, Halton Hills be removed from the Heritage Register;

AND FURTHER THAT Enforcement Staff follow up regarding the existing condition of the property located at 11154 Winston Churchill Boulevard, Halton Hills.

CARRIED

5. ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MEETING

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Waterloo School

10421 Fourth Line, Town of Halton Hills

April 2025

Project Personnel

Report Authors

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with

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Laura Loney

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Planning Data Analyst

Report Reviewers:

Laura Loney

Bronwyn Parker
Director of Planning Policy

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1.0 Property Description

10421 Fourth Line, Scotch Block	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Regional Municipality of Halton
Legal Description	PT LT 13, CON 5 ESQ, AS IN 722382; S/T 53617 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1891
Original Use	Institutional
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	John Cameron
Architectural Style	Rural One-room Ontario Schoolhouse with Italianate Influences
Additions/Alterations	Contemporary rear addition
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Caylee MacPherson with Laura Loney
Report Date	April 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 10421 Fourth Line, Halton Hills, Ontario (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

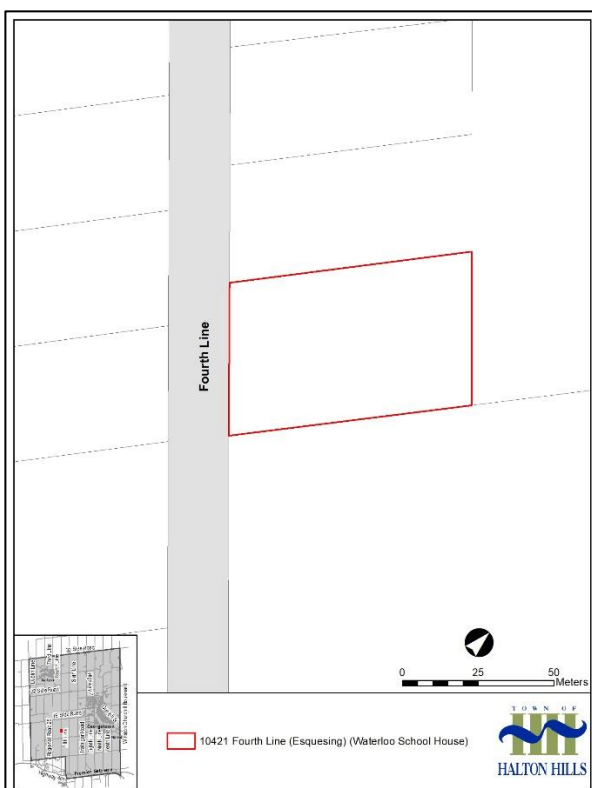


Figure 1: Location Map – 10421 Fourth Line



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 10421 Fourth Line

2.1 Historical Background

Indigenous History

The enduring history of First Nation Peoples in Halton Hills can be traced back through time immemorial before contact with Europeans in the 1600s. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Credit River was central to Indigenous ways of life, supporting settlements, fisheries, horticulture, transportation, and trade. Iroquoian-speaking peoples, ancestors of the Wendat, occupied the Credit River Valley for hundreds of years until the mid-1600s, establishing semi-permanent villages. There are numerous archaeological sites in Halton Hills dating from this period, ranging from village sites to burial grounds, which reveal a rich cultural heritage.

The Wendat were displaced by the Haudenosaunee around 1649-50 amid the conflicts that arose between European colonial powers and their First Nation allies. The Mississaugas (part of the Anishinaabe Nation) arrived in southern Ontario in the 1690s, settling in two groups along the north shore of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The western group, occupying the area between Toronto and Lake Erie, became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Until the early 19th century, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation followed a seasonal cycle of movement and resource harvesting along the Credit River (Missinnihe, meaning “trusting creek”), and other rivers. In the winter months, extended family groups hunted in the Halton Hills area, travelling south towards the mouth of the river in the spring for the salmon run. The Mississaugas’ fisheries and traditional economies were diminished because of increased Euro-colonial settlement, leading to a state of impoverishment and dramatic population decline.

In 1818, the British Crown negotiated the purchase of 648,000 acres of land from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, including present-day Halton Hills, under the Ajetance Treaty (No. 19), named after Chief Ajetance. This left the Mississaugas with three small reserves on the Lake Ontario shoreline. The legitimacy of early land “surrenders” to the Crown is questionable when considering the Mississaugas’ traditional understanding of property ownership. Unlike the British, the Mississaugas understood land in spiritual terms, and did not share the idea that access to land and resources could be given up permanently

In 1986, the Mississaugas initiated a claim against the Government of Canada over the 1805 Toronto Purchase. On June 8, 2010, the parties involved reached a final compensatory agreement. It resulted in a cash payment of \$145 million to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation¹.

Early European Settlement

In 1829, the Crown granted the patent for Lot 13, Concession 5 to the Canada Company, a private chartered land development company based in London, England. In 1826, the company was incorporated by Royal Charter, under an act of the British Parliament to colonize Upper Canada. The

¹ This brief overview of Pre-Treaty Indigenous Territory within the land now known as Halton Hills is taken from the Town of Halton Hills’ 2023 *Cultural Heritage Strategy*. This document includes additional recommendations relating to Truth and Reconciliation in Heritage Planning as part of the Town's commitment to advancing Truth and Reconciliation.

Canada Company was founded by John Galt (1779-1839), the company's first superintendent. Galt arrived in Upper Canada in 1826 and founded the City of Guelph in 1827.

The Canada Company owned the property until 1833 when it was deeded to William Dobbie (1805-1859). In 1872, Malcom McPherson (1836-1891) purchased the lands, and in 1877, McPherson sold one acre of land to the Trustees of S.S. No. 5 for \$140.

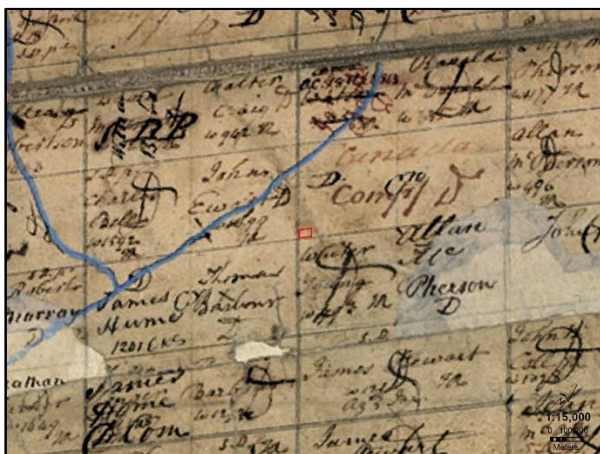


Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1822 Patent Plan



Figure 4: Subject property identified on Tremain's 1858 Map of the County of Halton, Canada West

Trustees of S.S. No. 5 School

Prior to constructing the brick school at Lot 13, Concession 5, Waterloo School initially consisted of a c.1823 log cabin located along 10 Side Road and Fourth Line. School Section No. 5 served more than 100 property owners who paid taxes to the school section.

Many townships, including Esquensing Township, were divided into school sections that were typically 5-8 square kilometres. Every pupil was to pay a monthly fee of 25 cents, but in each district up to 10 pupils from poor families were provided free education. During this time, attendance in public schools was not mandatory. Barriers including school fees, problems of transportation and travel, and the necessity of children's sharing chores in a rural wilderness made consistent and regular attendance in school challenging.

The 1846 *Common School Act* regulated the election of trustees, rates levied to support schools, the construction of new schools, teacher examination and licensing, curriculum, and government grants. School trustees were responsible for various administrative duties, including collecting fees, hiring teachers, and maintaining the school buildings. Trustee meetings were held semi-regularly at local homes, the post office, the schoolhouse, and various shops. By 1850, the *Common School Act* was amended to expand the school levy to all properties and further supported the principle of tuition-free education for all children. The *Common School Act* also allowed for schools to be solely paid for through provincial and municipal funds.

Around the late-nineteenth-century, many schoolhouses saw growth in school populations due to the introduction of the 1871 *Ontario School Act* (the "Act"), championed by Egerton Ryerson. Ryerson strongly believed that taxes should support schools and increase their accessibility to more children. The

Act abolished the former fees for public schools and made attendance compulsory for children ages 7 to 12. Children within this age range had to attend school for a minimum of four months annually. However, it wasn't until 1891 that parents or guardians received penalties for not sending children between the ages of 8 and 14 to attend school; in 1919, the age was extended to 16.

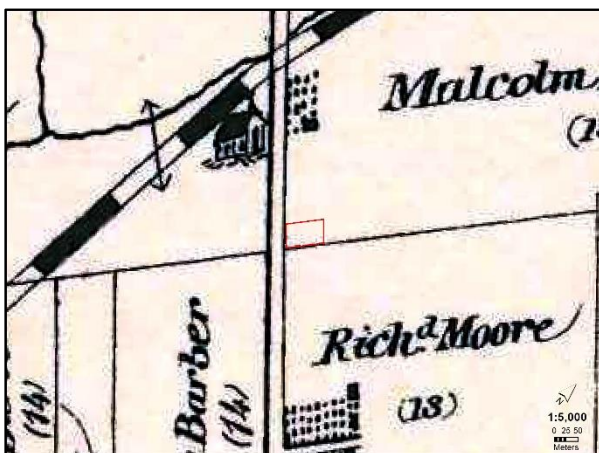


Figure 5: Subject property identified on the 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton*

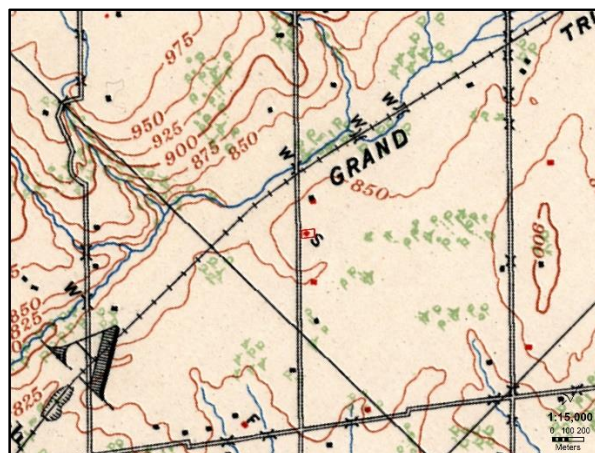


Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Survey

In addition to these changes, each county was assigned a superintendent to oversee the school systems, each school became fully public, and a structured curriculum was introduced. With the changes made by the Act, additional one- and two-room schoolhouses were required to accommodate the growing student populations. In response, many communities took advantage of these government grants to build and operate new schools.

At a meeting in 1876, it was decided that the Trustees would purchase land from Malcom McPherson and move the schoolhouse to the subject property to avoid disruptions caused by the activity from the Hamilton and Northwestern Railway. After purchasing the lands, the Trustees accepted the tender from Jasper Martin for \$180 to move the schoolhouse. The Hamilton and Northwestern Railway paid the Trustees \$350 for the former school site.

In 1890, the Trustees placed a call for tenders to construct a new schoolhouse. The tender went to Messrs Hume & Steel, who were to construct the schoolhouse according to drawings completed by Acton architect John Cameron (1846-1933). During his career, Cameron constructed and designed over 100 buildings throughout Halton Hills and surrounding communities. He also served as a Town Councillor in Acton.

The total cost to build the new schoolhouse was \$1,419, and Cameron was paid \$12 for his drawings. After the new school opened in 1891, the former building was then sold to Mr. Black for \$30 and was then used as a workshop. A cement walkway was added in front of the new school in 1909 by Andrew Murdoch for \$70.



Figure 7: Waterloo School class photograph, c.1913
(*Halton's Scotch Block*, p.80)



Figure 8: S.S. No. 5 Waterloo School class photograph, c.1923
(*Halton's Scotch Block*, p.81)

Many teachers were employed at Waterloo School, such as Robert Little (1835-1885) and Judge Duncan McGibbon (1841-1920). After immigrating to Canada from England in 1852, Little created a reputation as a successful teacher, teaching at Waterloo, Quatre Bras, and Ligny Schools, eventually becoming the Principal of Acton Public School in 1863. Shortly after, Little became the Inspector of Public Schools for the County in 1871. Ligny Schoolhouse alumnus Judge McGibbon began teaching at Waterloo School from 1859-1863. McGibbon was admitted to the bar in 1871 and practiced law in Milton until he was appointed as the Judge of the County Court of Peel in 1894.

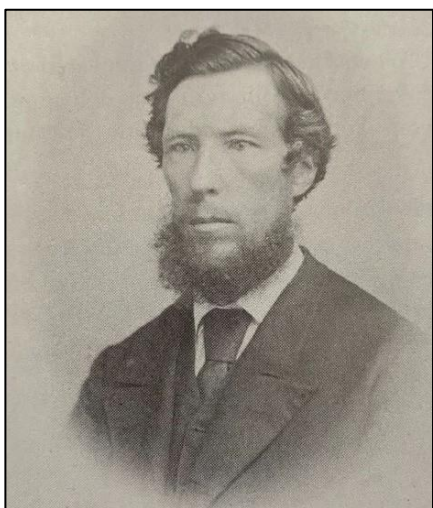


Figure 9: Photograph of Robert Little, n.d.
(*Halton's Scotch Block*)



Figure 10: Waterloo School class photograph, c.1931 (EHS22137)

Many of the pupils that attended Waterloo School were descendants of Scotch Block settlers, such as the Laidlaw, McColl, Ferugson, Moore, Fisher, Hume, and MacPherson families. Many of these students went on to continue their education and became religious leaders, lawyers, and physicians. One of the notable students from Waterloo School was Dr. Marjory Potter (1871-1958) (née MacPherson) who studied medicine at the University of Buffalo, and started her medical practice in Niagara Falls, New York in the early 1900s. In later years Dr. Potter practiced medicine in Kootenai, Idaho, and San Diego, California.

Three of Dr. Potter's brothers, John (1858-1912), James (1861-1936), and William (1866-1926), also attended Waterloo School and later became physicians.



Figure 11: Photograph of the MacPherson siblings, date unknown (Courtesy of Ancestry)

During the late 1940s, there were frequent discussions on building consolidated schools to accommodate students from multiple schoolhouses. With the “baby boom” population following WWII, many rural schoolhouses began to experience overcrowding. The dramatic increase in the school-aged population led to increased investment in public education, constructing larger consolidated schools, and hiring more teachers. Additionally, since many families began to move into cities, and buses and personal vehicles were gaining popularity, many students no longer walked to the local schools in their districts.



Figure 12: Waterloo School class photograph, c.1939 (*Halton's Scotch Block*, p.82)



Figure 13: Photograph of Waterloo School, c.1944 (EHS 12490)

In 1945, Waterloo School, along with Lorne, Dublin, Mount Pleasant, and Dufferin Schools formed School Area No. 1, Esquesing Township. Prior to the closing of Waterloo School, two petitions were sent to the Esquesing School Board; one indicating support for closure, and the other requesting that the school remain open. However, the School Board ultimately decided to construct a new consolidated school.



Figure 14: Waterloo School class photograph, c.1949 (*Halton's Scotch Block*, p.83)



Figure 15: Inside of Waterloo School, c.1954 (*Halton's Scotch Block*, p.83)

In 1960, Speyside School was constructed north of Speyside along 17 Side Road and Regional Road 25, offering a new five-room public school for 180 pupils. Following the opening of Speyside School, Dufferin, Lorne, Dublin, Mount Pleasant, and Waterloo Schools were permanently closed.

After the rural schoolhouses closed in Esquesing, many thieves began attempting to steal the remaining school bells. To protect the existing bell at Waterloo School, Town employee Lloyd Fisher and local farmer Chester Early removed the bell from the school and stored it indoors for 22 years. The bell was later restored and moved to the Halton Hill's Civic Centre (Town Hall) in 1989.



Figure 16: Subject property identified on 1952 aerial photography



Figure 17: Subject property identified on 1954 aerial photography

1960s to Present

In 1968, the property was sold to James Brown (1932-2012). During the same year, the property was purchased by David Henry (1905-1986) and May (1910-2010) (nee Davies) Tost. The Tost family continued to own the property until 1972, when they sold the property to Barrie and Joyce Doherty. In 1976, the Doherty's sold the property to the current owner.

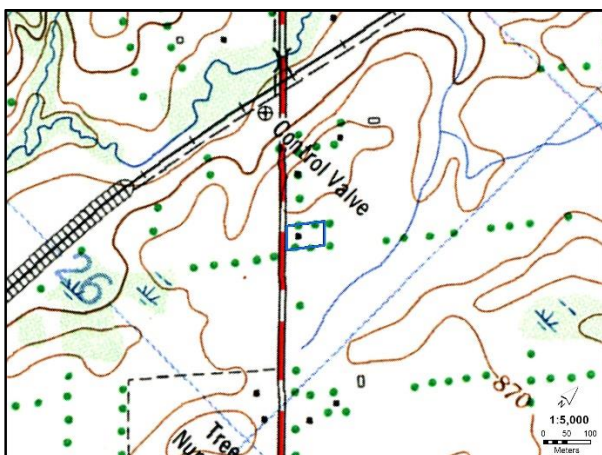


Figure 18: Subject property identified on the 1974 National Topographic Survey



Figure 19: Subject property identified on 1980 aerial photography



Figure 20: Subject property identified on 2007 aerial photography



Figure 21: Subject property identified on 2017 aerial photography

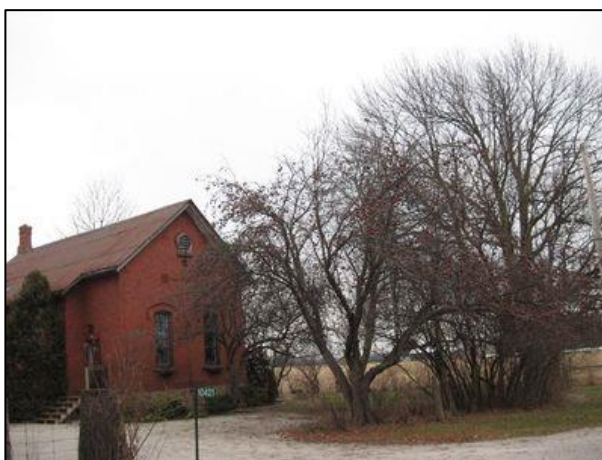


Figure 22: Former Waterloo Schoolhouse, c.2013 (EHS22676)

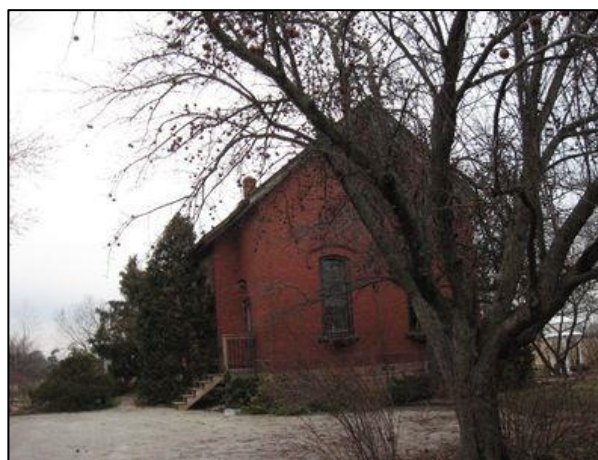


Figure 23: Former Waterloo Schoolhouse, c.2013 (EHS22676)

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is located along the northeast side of Fourth Line in the community of Scotch Block within the Town of Halton Hills. The property is a rectangular-shaped lot and features a one-and-a-half storey red brick dwelling with a gable roof, a single brick chimney, segmentally arched window openings with projecting hood moulds and stone sills, a projecting plinth, and a stone foundation. The property can be accessed from a gravel driveway via Fourth Line.



Figure 24: Subject property identified on 2023 aerial photography

The front (southwest) elevation consists of two segmentally arched window openings with radiating voussoirs, brick hood molds, and projecting stone sills. Between each window is a carved head, likely resembling a “cherub”, which was meant to represent youth, innocence, and childhood. In biblical contexts, cherubs (otherwise known as cherubim) were angelic beings that served as guardians or protectors of spaces. Directly above both windows are two decorative squares connected by a decorative brick band. Beneath the gable peak is a circular vent opening with a semi-circular voussoir and stone sill.



Figure 25: Front (southwest) elevation of the schoolhouse (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 26: Front (southwest) elevation of the schoolhouse (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 27: “Cherub” sculpture along the front (southwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 28: Brick detailing along the front (southwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Along the side (northwest) elevation are two bays, one containing a single flatheaded doorway with a soldier course lintel, and the other projecting bay containing three symmetrically placed segmentally arched window openings with brick hood moulds and stone sills. The side (northwest) elevation also features a contemporary flatheaded window opening. The other side (southeast) elevation features an identical layout, with the exception of one window, which has since been altered and converted into a smaller flatheaded window opening.



Figure 29: Side (southeast) elevation of the schoolhouse (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 30: Side (northwest) elevation of the schoolhouse (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Towards the rear of the dwelling is a contemporary one-storey addition consisting of vertical wood cladding, and multiple flatheaded window openings. A brick chimney is located directly above the roofline along the rear (northeast) elevation of the original schoolhouse.

A cupola can be found in the side yard along the side (southwest) elevation, which was likely included in the original design of the schoolhouse. However, once the bell was removed, the cupola was likely also removed from the roof.



Figure 31: Side (southeast) elevation of the schoolhouse showing the rear addition (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 32: Looking northwest towards the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

2.3 Architectural Style & Comparative Analysis

The existing building at 10421 Fourth Line is a representative example of a late-nineteenth century rural one-room Ontario schoolhouse with Italianate architectural influences. The one-room schoolhouse was designed for sixty-four pupils and was intended to accommodate a small rural village or hamlet. The schoolhouse designs featured in the *Canadian Farmer* and *The School House, its Architecture, External and Internal Arrangements* were often used in rural communities, as they provided building instructions and floorplan layouts. However, since the schoolhouse was designed by local architect, John Cameron, the building differs from many of the designs found in these publications.

One-room schoolhouses were first made of logs, but gradually transitioned to materials such as brick, frame and occasionally stone. These schoolhouses were built as needed as the number of students increased in each school district. Typically, the interior consisted of an open room with all desks facing a platform and blackboard, with book closets on either side of the teacher's desk. To provide warmth, a stove was often placed inside, either located at the front or middle of the room. Students were often tasked with starting and maintaining the stove fire.

Based on analysis from Shannon Kyles of *Ontario Architecture*, Ontario one-room rural schoolhouses often feature architectural characteristics, such as, but not limited to:

- One-and-a-half storey massing featuring brick, stone, or frame construction;
- One-room floorplan layout;
- One or two entrances;
- Gable roof with a cupola and bell;
- Two windows along the front elevations, with multiple windows along the side elevations; and,
- Date stone indicating the date of construction.

Additionally, based on John Blumenson's *Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building Terms, 1784 to the Present*, buildings constructed in this architectural style typically feature decorative elements such as, but not limited to:

- Frontispiece projection without elaborate corners or gables;
- Tall, narrow windows, frequently arched or rounded;
- Eyebrow-like window cornices and hood moulds;
- Mixed Classical and Gothic Revival decorative elements; and,
- Decorative entryway flanked by transoms and sidelights.

The existing building features many characteristics typical of the one-room rural schoolhouse, such as having a one-and-a-half storey massing, brick construction, gable roof, two segmentally arched window openings along the front elevation, multiple segmentally arched window openings along the side elevations, as well as two entrances for boys and girls. The schoolhouse differs from traditional Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse designs, as there is no central vestibule, and the two separate entrances are located on either side elevation. Waterloo School originally featured a cupola and bell; however, the bell has since been removed and was relocated to the Halton Hills Civic Centre in 1989. Extant features that represent the Italianate architectural style include the segmentally arched window openings, as well as the brick hood moulds.



Figure 33: S.S. No. 8 Woodside School, Erin Township (HouseSigma 2020)

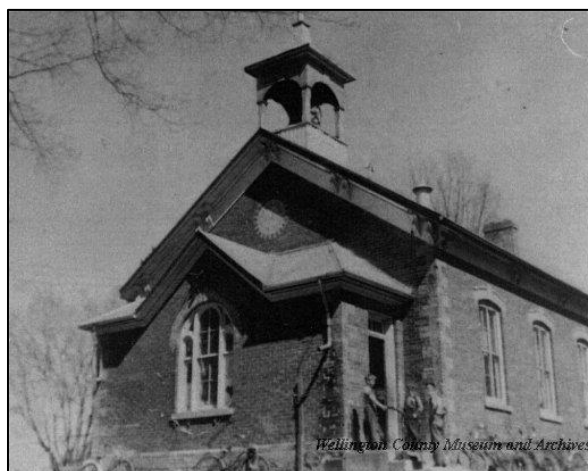


Figure 34: S.S. No. 2 Greenock School, Erin Township, date unknown (Wellington County Museum & Archives, A2001.66/ph 15108)

Throughout Erin Township, there are schoolhouses which feature a similar layout and massing, including Woodside and Greenock Schools. Similar to Waterloo School, both Woodside and Greenock Schools feature one-and-a-half-storey massing, two side entrances, a gable roof, brick chimneys, as well as multiple windows on the front and side elevations. However, in contrast to Waterloo School, both buildings feature dichromatic brick detailing, one-storey vestibules, and datestones. Additionally, both schools exhibit influences from the Gothic Revival architectural style.

3.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist

The following evaluation checklist applies to Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the *Ontario Heritage Act*: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. The criteria are prescribed for municipal designation of Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The evaluation tables utilize an 'X' to signify applicable criteria and 'N/A' to signify criteria that are not applicable for this property.

Design or Physical Value	
Is rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method	X
Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	X
Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	N/A

The property at 10421 Fourth Line has physical and design value as a rare and representative example of an Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse in the Italianate architectural style, in the community of Scotch Block, within the Town of Halton Hills. The one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse features design elements such as a gable roof, segmentally arched window openings with limestone sills, voussoirs, and hood moulds, as well as two flatheaded entrances with solid course lintels. The schoolhouse also features decorative brick work, including the brick “cherub” statue along the front elevation, which displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit.

Waterloo School originally featured a cupola and bell; however, the bell has since been removed and was relocated to the Halton Hills Civic Centre in 1989. Additionally, an addition has been added to the rear elevation. However, despite the construction of a rear addition, and the removal of the cupola and bell, the building remains a representative example of an Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse with Italianate influences.

Historical or Associative Value	
Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community	X
Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	X
Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community	X

The property at 10421 Fourth Line has historical and associative value due to its associations with the early educational system in the community of Scotch Block. The student population began to grow with the establishment of *Common School Act* and the *Ontario School Act*, which introduced rates levied to support and construct new schools and later abolished the former fees for public schools and made attendance compulsory for children ages 7 to 12. These legislative changes provided government funds to construct and operate more schools for the growing school populations.

Waterloo School is also associated with local builders Messrs Hume & Steel, and Acton-based architect John Cameron, who designed more than 100 buildings in Halton Hills and surrounding communities during his career.

Contextual Value	
Is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area	X
Is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings	X
Is a landmark	N/A

The property at 10421 Fourth Line has contextual value as it is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the rural character of the community of Scotch Block. The former Waterloo School is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings as an early schoolhouse that serviced School Section No. 5 for nearly 70 years. Due to the vegetation obstructing the front elevation of the schoolhouse, the property has not been identified as a landmark.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 10421 Fourth Line has physical and design, historical and associative, and contextual value and therefore meets Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

The heritage attributes of the property at 10421 Fourth Line are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the schoolhouse along Fourth Line in the community of Scotch Block within the Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the c.1891, one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse with a gable roof, single brick chimney, and stone foundation;
- Materials, including red brick and stone;
- Front (southwest) elevation:
 - o Segmentally arched window openings with limestone sills, hood molds, and voussoirs;
 - o Decorative brick banding and squares;
 - o Decorative head carving;
 - o Circular vent opening with semi-circular voussoir and limestone sill;
- Side (southeast and northwest) elevations:
 - o Segmentally arched window openings with limestone sills, hood molds, and voussoirs; and,
 - o Two flatheaded entrances with soldier course lintels.

The rear elevation, interiors, and rear addition were not investigated as part of this report.

Please note, this Research and Evaluation Report reflects the most up to date findings relating to its cultural heritage value as identified by staff. This report may be updated in future to reflect future findings as required.

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Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Hornby School

13029 Steeles Avenue, Town of Halton Hills

April 2025

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1.0 Property Description

13029 Steeles Avenue, Hornby	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Regional Municipality of Halton
Legal Description	PT LT 1, CON 8 ESQ, AS IN 234043; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING
Construction Date	c.1871
Original Use	Institutional
Current Use	Commercial
Architect/Building/Designer	Trustees of the Common School Union Section No. AE; Thomas Marsted and John Hunter
Architectural Style	Ontario Rural One-room Schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival Style
Additions/Alterations	Modern addition to rear elevation; modern vestibule on front elevation
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Austin Foster, Caylee MacPherson, and Laura Loney
Report Date	April 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 13029 Steeles Avenue, Halton Hills, Ontario (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

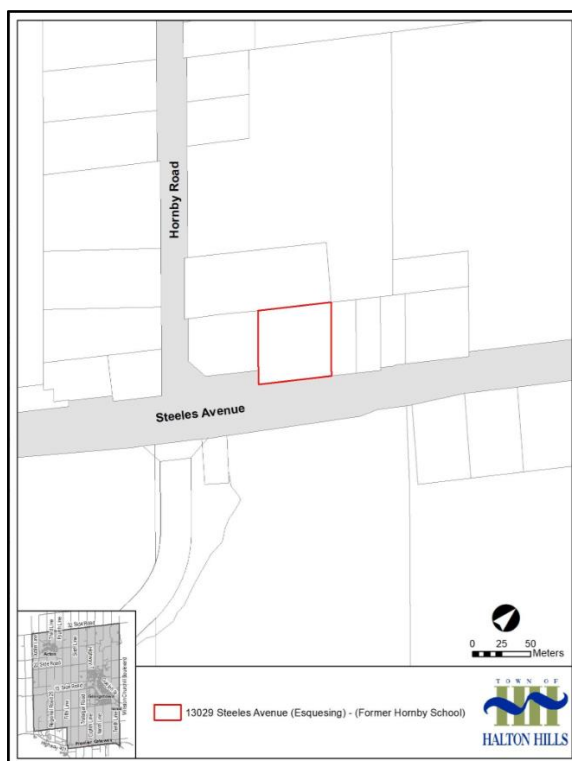


Figure 1: Location Map – 13029 Steeles Ave.



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 13029 Steeles Ave.

2.1 Historical Background

Indigenous History

The enduring history of First Nation Peoples in Halton Hills can be traced back through time immemorial before contact with Europeans in the 1600s. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Credit River was central to Indigenous ways of life, supporting settlements, fisheries, horticulture, transportation, and trade. Iroquoian-speaking peoples, ancestors of the Wendat, occupied the Credit River Valley for hundreds of years until the mid-1600s, establishing semi-permanent villages. There are numerous archaeological sites in Halton Hills dating from this period, ranging from village sites to burial grounds, which reveal a rich cultural heritage.

The Wendat were displaced by the Haudenosaunee around 1649-50 amid the conflicts that arose between European colonial powers and their First Nation allies. The Mississaugas (part of the Anishinaabe Nation) arrived in southern Ontario in the 1690s, settling in two groups along the north shore of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The western group, occupying the area between Toronto and Lake Erie, became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Until the early 19th century, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation followed a seasonal cycle of movement and resource harvesting along the Credit River (Missinnihe, meaning “trusting creek”), and other rivers. In the winter months, extended family groups hunted in the Halton Hills area, travelling south towards the mouth of the river in the spring for the salmon run. The Mississaugas’ fisheries and traditional economies were diminished because of increased Euro-colonial settlement, leading to a state of impoverishment and dramatic population decline.

In 1818, the British Crown negotiated the purchase of 648,000 acres of land from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, including present-day Halton Hills, under the Ajetance Treaty (No. 19), named after Chief Ajetance. This left the Mississaugas with three small reserves on the Lake Ontario shoreline. The legitimacy of early land “surrenders” to the Crown is questionable when considering the Mississaugas’ traditional understanding of property ownership. Unlike the British, the Mississaugas understood land in spiritual terms, and did not share the idea that access to land and resources could be given up permanently

In 1986, the Mississaugas initiated a claim against the Government of Canada over the 1805 Toronto Purchase. On June 8, 2010, the parties involved reached a final compensatory agreement. It resulted in a cash payment of \$145 million to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.¹

The Village of Hornby

The Village of Hornby spans two townships: Trafalgar New Survey, which welcomed settlers in 1818, and Esquesing, which opened the following year. Situated at the intersection of Highway 7 (Trafalgar Road) and Steeles Avenue (Base Line), Hornby served as the gateway to Esquesing Township during the early-nineteenth-century settlement period. Initially, the area attracted settlers from the northwest of England, and the village was named after Hornby Castle in Hornby, Lancashire County. Between the

¹ This brief overview of Pre-Treaty Indigenous Territory within the land now known as Halton Hills is taken from the Town of Halton Hills’ 2023 *Cultural Heritage Strategy*. This document includes additional recommendations relating to Truth and Reconciliation in Heritage Planning as part of the Town's commitment to advancing Truth and Reconciliation.

1830s and 1850s, Hornby experienced a wave of Irish and Scottish settlers. Several hotels and taverns were established to accommodate the steady flow of farmers transporting their goods to Oakville, where they were sold and shipped by boat to Toronto. The village also became a stagecoach stop for the Milton to Georgetown route.

Although the Guelph to York Road was established around 1834, it remained little more than a cleared path, making travel difficult. Most traffic from Esquesing, Erin, and Garafraxa Townships traveled south to Oakville for lake access, following the Seventh Line (now Hornby Road). As the road curved eastward at Base Line (Steeles Avenue), traffic continued south along Trafalgar Road.

In the 1850s, the road from Oakville to Stewartstown was improved with planking through the efforts of a joint-stock company that established toll booths at key points, including Hornby. Despite these improvements, the village's status as a transportation hub began to decline with the arrival of the railway.

When the United Counties of Halton-Wentworth announced plans to split into two separate counties, Hornby residents campaigned for the new county seat to be established in their village. However, in 1853, Milton was chosen instead. The Grand Trunk Railway's Toronto to Guelph line, opened in 1856, further reduced Hornby's importance as a trade hub by diverting grain shipments eastward through Acton and Georgetown.

Milton eventually established its own rail connection in 1877 with the opening of the Hamilton and North-Western Railway, which ran through Milton and Georgetown. By this time, Hornby had largely reverted to being an agricultural center.

King's College of Upper Canada & Early European Settlement

King's College, now part of the University of Toronto, was established through a Royal Charter issued by King George IV on March 15, 1827. Operated by the Church of England, Archdeacon of York John Strachan was appointed as the College's first president. In 1828, King's College was granted 226,000 acres of Crown land in Upper Canada to generate revenue through sales and leases to fund the university's operations. Under Strachan's leadership from 1827 to 1848, several parcels were divided and sold to settlers across Upper Canada, including the subject property.

The patent for Lot 1, Concession 8 was officially granted to the College on July 3, 1828. In 1832, the land was divided and sold. The east half of Lot 1 was purchased by Irish settler William McKindsey in September of that year.

William McKindsey (1804–1844) and his wife, Jane McKindsey (née Crawford) (1806–1893), established a farm on the east half of Lot 1, Concession 8, where they raised three children: George Crawford (1829–1901), William George (1839–1884), and John (1840–1876). Following William McKindsey's sudden death in 1844, his will named Jane's cousin, James Crawford (1824–1899), as executor and trustee of his estate. On November 1, 1853, James Crawford purchased 60 acres of the west half of Lot 1, Concession 8 from the University of Toronto (the successor to King's College) on behalf of William's sons. The following year, ownership of the east half of Lot 1, Concession 8 and the 60-acre portion of the west half was divided among the McKindsey brothers.

In March 1867, William George McKindsey and his wife, Jane Miller McKindsey (b. 1837), purchased his siblings' shares of the western 60 acres of Lot 1, Concession 8 and on December 24, 1869, they sold one acre of the property to The Trustees of the Common School Union Section No. AE.

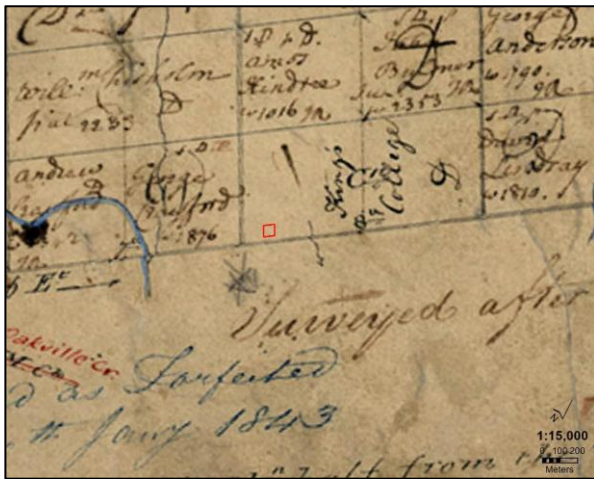


Figure 3: Subject property identified on 1822 Patent Plan



Figure 4: Subject property identified on Tremaine's 1858 Map of the County of Halton, Canada West

Trustees of School Section No. AE

The first school building in Hornby was a modest log cabin constructed in 1826. The log-cabin school served the rural population around Hornby for several decades and is noted in the 1842 Census.

In the early nineteenth century, the rural school system in Upper Canada was informal and poorly organized. Most schools were small, one-room log structures that were built and maintained by local communities. Education was neither compulsory nor standardized, and the quality of instruction varied greatly depending on the abilities of individual teachers, who were often under-trained and inadequately paid. Funding primarily came from local subscriptions, donations, and modest government grants. The curriculum focused on basic literacy, arithmetic, and religious instruction.

The *Common School Act* of 1846 was instrumental in organizing school systems across Ontario and enhancing the quality of education available to early settlers. The Act established school sections, generally ranging from 5 to 8 square kilometers, and regulated aspects such as the election of trustees, school rates, school construction, teacher examination and licensing, curriculum, and government grants.

Shortly before the implementation of the *Common School Act*, the Gore District Council divided Esquesing Township into 15 school districts in 1842. However, the Hornby school was overlooked and combined into School Section No. 3. Two competing petitions were submitted to the Council in February 1843 addressing this arrangement. The first petition, signed by William McKindsey, called for the formation of a separate school district in Hornby; the second petition, signed by James Skirrow, opposed the establishment of a new district entirely. The Council ultimately recognized Hornby as its own school section, designated as Section "A" in October 1846 following the implementation of the *Common School Act*.

Situated on the town line between Peel and Trafalgar townships, Hornby School operated as a “union” school, serving students from both regions. The school sections were officially known as Union School Section No. 2 Chinguacousy and School Section No. A Esquesing. In 1848, a joint Esquesing-Trafalgar school section was established, with a lettering code system adopted to avoid renumbering all the sections. Hornby was assigned the code “AE,” while Whaley’s Corners, another three-township school, was designated “BC.”

The school’s locally-elected trustees were responsible for various administrative duties, including collecting fees, hiring teachers, and maintaining the school building. Meetings were held semi-regularly at local homes, the post office, the schoolhouse, and various shops. School fees were paid by parents at a fixed rate per enrolled pupil, and during this period, the student population consisted almost entirely of children from surrounding farms.

In September 1846, the Trustees of the Union School purchased 1 ¼ acres of land on Lot 1, Concession 7, from George Crawford and began planning the construction of a new log schoolhouse. In November 1847, the School District of Trafalgar and Esquesing was levied an assessment of £45 to fund the project. Although the new school district boundaries took effect in January 1848, the first teacher, James Bernard Kingston, was not hired until February. Due to delays in the schoolhouse’s completion, he did not begin teaching until March 7, 1848.

As settlement around Hornby increased throughout the early- to mid-nineteenth century, the student population at the school grew steadily. By the 1860s, the log schoolhouse was inadequate to accommodate the rising number of students. During the late nineteenth century, under the tenure of head teacher Charles McLennan, the student population surpassed 100.

Recognizing the need for a larger schoolhouse, a special meeting of the Trustees of the Common School Union Section No. AE was held in autumn of 1869. The board voted to construct a new schoolhouse and subsequently purchased one acre of Lot 1, Concession 8, from the McKindsey family on December 24, 1869.

The trustees met again on January 24, 1870 and agreed to hire a professional architect to design a 50x30-foot schoolhouse. By February 14, 1870, a design had been agreed on, and advertisements were placed in the *Georgetown Herald* and *Milton Champion*, inviting sealed tenders for the project.

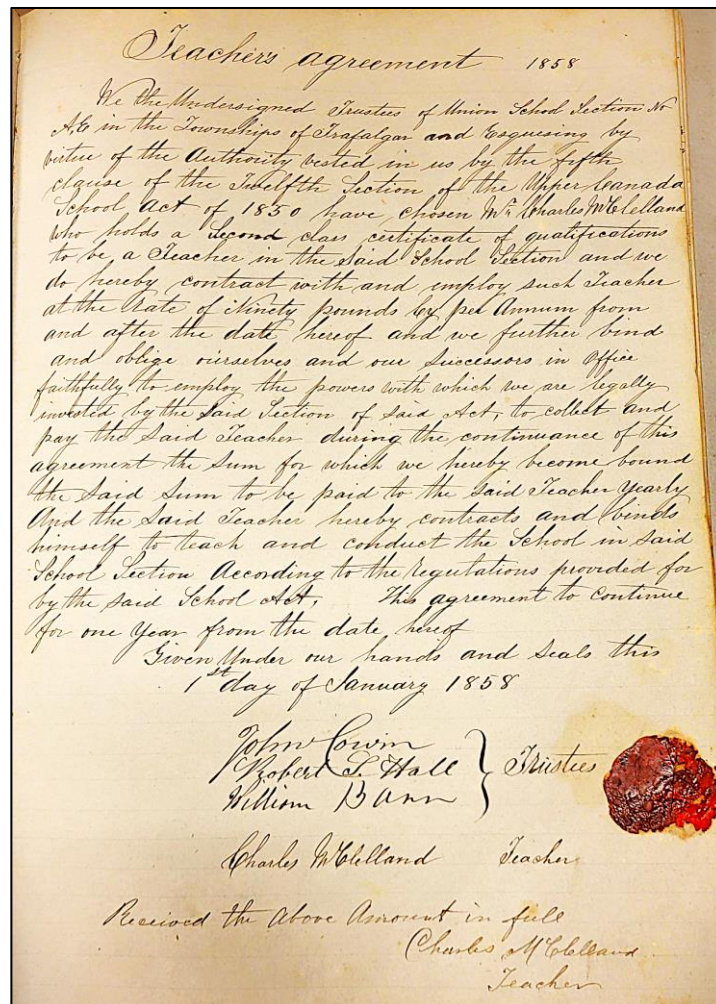


Figure 5: A Teachers Employment Agreement between the trustees of Union School No. AE and Charles McLennan signed in January 1858 (MG4 A18)

Seven tenders were submitted, ranging from \$575 to \$2100. On February 25, 1870, the tenders of Thomas Marsted and John Hunter were accepted to complete the schoolhouse for a total of \$1800. Construction began in the spring of 1870, financed by an \$1800 loan from the municipal council of the Township of Esquesing, to be repaid over five years. Payment was collected through an increase in school rates charged to attending families.

Upon completion of the schoolhouse, several improvements were made to the property. A white-washed picket fence was erected around three sides of the schoolyard, and a cedar-plank walkway, four feet wide, was built leading to the gate. In autumn of 1871, William Armstrong was paid \$10.52 for constructing the central walkway, steps, and drainage culverts. That same year, Charles McLennan was appointed the first head teacher at the new school, and his annual salary was raised to \$193.44.

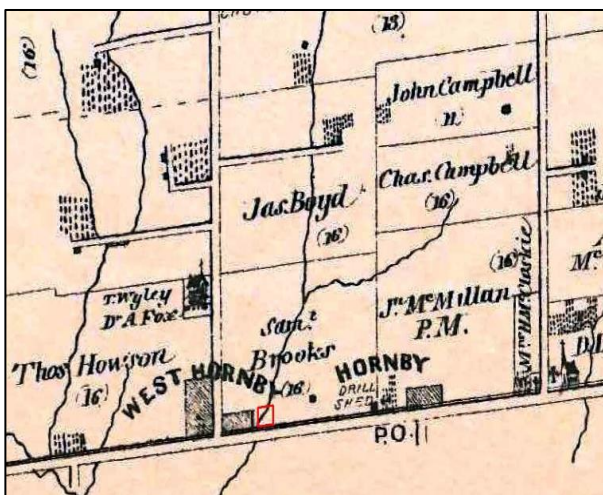


Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton*

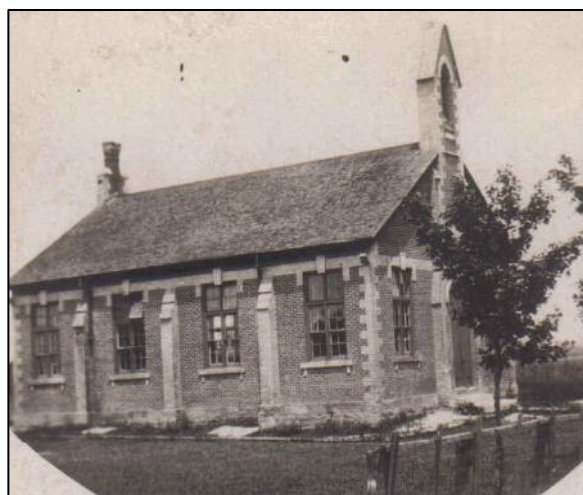


Figure 7: Hornby Schoolhouse, c.1890s (MHS 5522)

The Hornby Schoolhouse was heated by a wood box stove. Students were paid 5 to 10 cents each morning to light the stove and warm the building. Pupils were also expected to bring their own school materials, such as slates, pencils, and other supplies. Fresh water was accessible from a well dug within the schoolyard.

Around the time the Hornby Schoolhouse was constructed, many schoolhouses experienced growth in student populations due to the introduction of the *Ontario School Act* in 1871. Championed by Egerton Ryerson, the Act aimed to make education more accessible by promoting the idea of tax-supported schools. It abolished fees for public schools and made attendance compulsory for children aged 7 to 12, requiring them to attend school for a minimum of four months each year.

The Act's reach expanded over time. In 1891, penalties were introduced for parents or guardians who failed to send children between the ages of 8 and 14 to school, and in 1919, the compulsory age was extended to 16. In addition to these attendance requirements, the Act assigned county superintendents to oversee school systems, established public ownership of schools, and introduced a structured curriculum.

By 1883, the Hornby School employed two teachers and enrolled 84 students, prompting the division of the school into two sections to better accommodate the growing student population. During this period, one of the school's most famous alumni, Dr. Frank Oliver Gilbert (1874–1969), attended Hornby School. Born into extreme poverty, Gilbert supported his family by working on several nearby farms while pursuing his education. He often ran errands for Dr. Anthony Fox's medical practice, developing a deep admiration for the physician. Inspired by Dr. Fox's dedication, particularly after his death in 1888, Gilbert resolved to pursue a career in medicine.

After graduating from the University of Toronto in the early 1890s, Dr. Gilbert briefly established a medical practice in Hornby before dedicating himself to serving impoverished rural communities across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. In the 1940s, he settled in British Columbia and established a traveling medical practice on a houseboat. From this floating practice, Dr. Gilbert provided essential medical care to isolated rural and Indigenous communities and transported sick and injured individuals to urban hospitals via river and waterways. Dr. Gilbert returned to Hornby for the Hornby School reunion

in 1953, where he shared stories of his childhood in the school and community, and spoke to students on the merits of education, compassion, and hard work.



Figure 8: A c.1910 photograph of the Hornby School House (EHS 12519)



Figure 9: Students of Miss Foster's class gather for a photograph outside Hornby School c.1913 (MHS 5530)



Figure 10: Students of Miss Marie Lindsay's class gather for a photograph outside Hornby School c.1921 (MHS 4862)



Figure 11: Damage to the Hornby Schoolhouse following a Tornado in 1923 (MHS 5518)

In 1923, the Hornby Schoolhouse was substantially damaged by a tornado, which tore off its roof, destroyed its bell tower, and damaged the school grounds. The community quickly rallied together to repair the school, and by 1924, the building had been restored. However, the bell tower was never fully rebuilt.

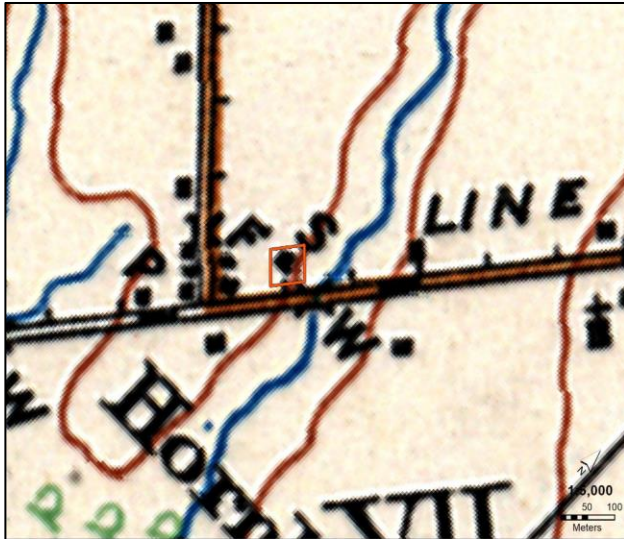


Figure 12: Subject property identified on 1931 National Topographical Map

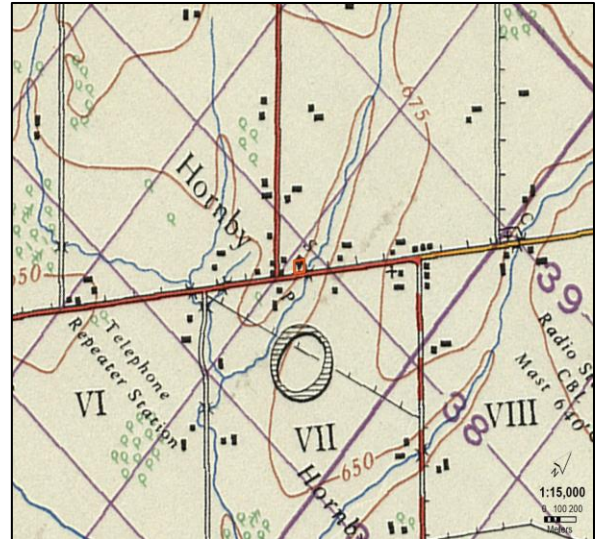


Figure 13: Subject property identified on 1942 National Topographical Map

The Hornby Schoolhouse continued to serve the community throughout the early twentieth century. However, the region's growing population and increasing educational standards following the Second World War created a need for a more modern school building.



Figure 14: Six students pose for a photograph outside Hornby Schoolhouse c. 1920s (EHS 189)



Figure 15: Students of Miss Nellie Jardine's class gather for a photograph outside Hornby School c.1938 (TTHS TTOIIMS0102)

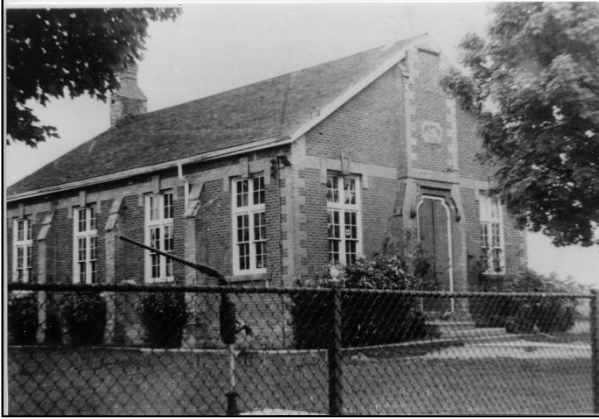


Figure 16: A c.1944 photograph of Hornby Schoolhouse (EHS 11524)

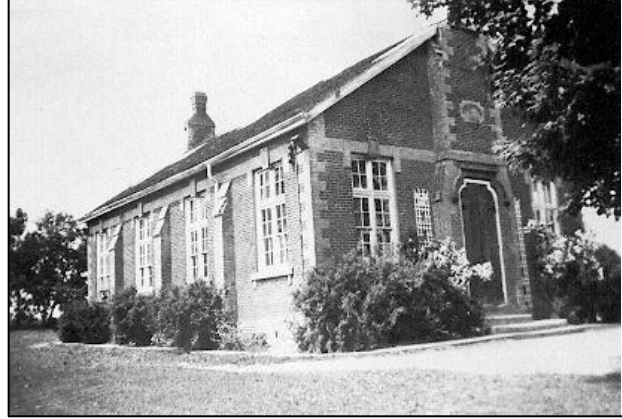


Figure 17: A c.1951 photograph of Hornby Schoolhouse (EHS 11555)

Plans for constructing a new school began in the late 1950s, and by November 1962, tenders were accepted for the construction of the new Pineview Public School on Fifth Side Road. Construction began in the spring of 1963, and the school was formally dedicated in February 1964. The final school year at the Hornby Schoolhouse began in September 1962. Once Pineview School was completed, students from Hornby were bussed to the new facility. The Hornby Schoolhouse officially closed in 1963 and remained vacant for several years before being sold to the “North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded” in September of 1967.

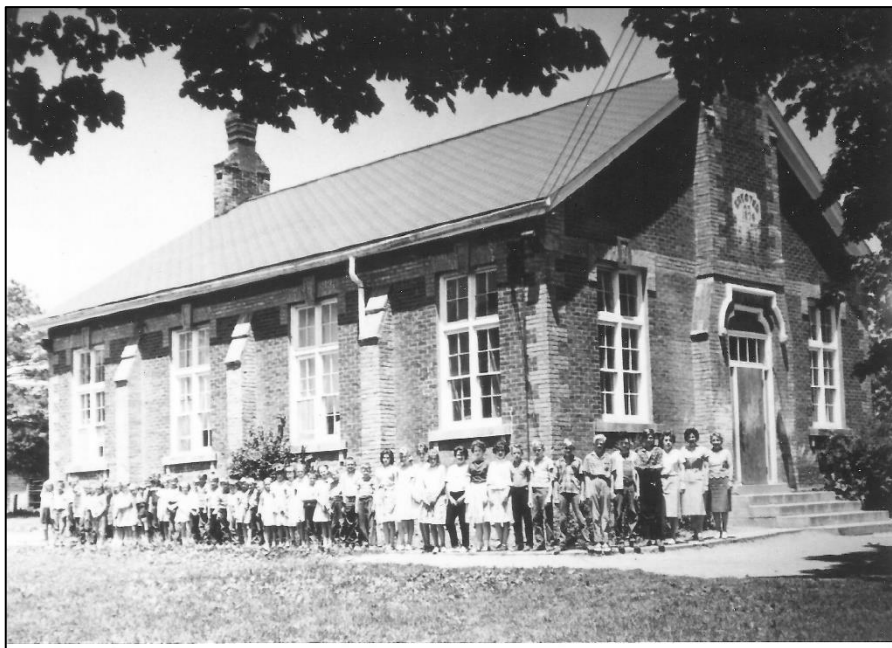


Figure 18: The last group of staff and students to use the Hornby School house gather outside for a photograph in 1962 (EHS 11566)

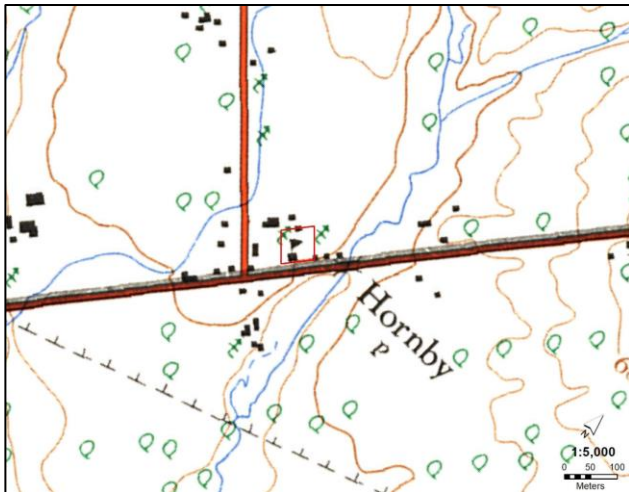


Figure 19: Subject property identified on 1963 National Topographical Map

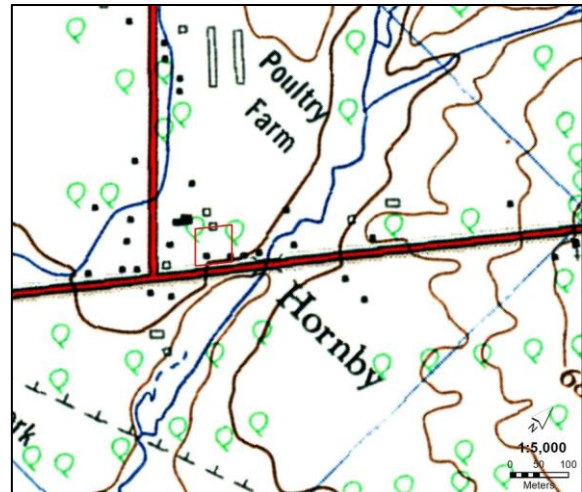


Figure 20: Subject property identified on 1973 National Topographical Map

Community Living North Halton

On January 1, 1969, the “North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded” (NHAMR) relocated their Halton Opportunities Enterprise (HOPE) Workshop to the vacant Hornby Schoolhouse, establishing the Adult Rehabilitation Centre (ARC) to provide work opportunities and support for individuals with intellectual disabilities. During this time, trainees at the ARC were involved in various work programs, including re-webbing chairs, producing packing materials, learning woodworking, and participating in community service initiatives such as litter collection for the Region and collaborating with the Department of Land and Forests. They were also responsible for maintaining the grounds around the old schoolhouse.

In the 1970s, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services assumed formal responsibility for individuals with intellectual disabilities, implementing legislation to fund community-based programs and services through local agencies, including the NHAMR. This period also marked a broader provincial and national shift toward “de-institutionalization,” encouraging individuals to reintegrate into their home communities and supporting local services that facilitated this transition.

During the same decade, the North Halton, Oakville, and Burlington Associations operated the Halton Developmental Centre, which served children aged 6 to 18 years with severe developmental disabilities. Progress continued in 1976 with the establishment of Residential Services, highlighted by the construction of the Countryside Residence in Hornby, which provided housing for 16 adults who were intellectually disabled participating in the ARC’s programs. The following year, an Auxiliary Living Program was launched in Milton to promote independent living.

In 1987, the organization’s membership voted to change its name to the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped, and in May 1997, the organization underwent another rebranding, adopting the name Community Living North Halton. During this period, a large modern addition was constructed at the rear of the ARC building to accommodate the organization's needs, and the red-brick exterior was whitewashed.



Figure 21: Industries in former Hornby School house, c.1987 (EHS 11559)



Figure 22: Former SS# AE, Hornby School, shown here as a sheltered workshop for ARC Industries, c.1995 (EHS 12517)



Figure 23: Subject Property identified in 1999 aerial photography



Figure 24: Subject Property identified in 2007 aerial photography



Figure 25: Subject Property identified in 2015 aerial photography



Figure 26: Subject Property identified in 2023 aerial photography

Shortly after the rebrand, the organization relocated its facilities and services to Milton and sold the subject property to Angus Geosolutions Incorporated on January 29, 1998. The former schoolhouse's brick exterior was restored under their ownership. The property has since been sold to its current owner.

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is located along the northwest side of Steeles Avenue in the community of Hornby within the Town of Halton Hills. The property is a square-shaped lot and features a one-and-a-half storey brick building with dichromatic brickwork, a gable roof, capped brick buttresses, flatheaded window openings with stone sills, brick soldier course lintels, and stone keystones. The property can be accessed from an asphalt driveway via Steeles Avenue.



Figure 27: Subject property identified on 2023 aerial photography



Figure 28: Front (southeast) elevation of the existing building at 13029 Steeles Avenue (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 29: Datestone inscribed "Erected A.D. 1870" on schoolhouse frontispiece (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The southeast (front) elevation of the Hornby Schoolhouse is constructed of red brick laid in a running bond pattern, featuring dichromatic brick detailing with buff-brick quoining framing the building's corners and the slightly projecting former bell tower. A running band of buff brick also extends around the perimeter of the first storey. The central entrance, now obscured by a modern vestibule, is centrally positioned within a slightly projecting wall that once formed the base of the bell tower. This frontispiece

rises to the peak of the gable end and is inset with a date stone inscribed “Erected A.D. 1870.” The entrance is flanked by large, flatheaded rectangular window openings, each featuring a limestone keystone, soldier course lintel, and a projecting limestone sill.



Figure 30: 13029 Steeles Avenue side (southwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 31: 13029 Steeles Avenue side (northeast) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The southwest (side) elevation of the Hornby Schoolhouse is constructed of red brick laid in a running bond, framed by buff-brick quoining. A buff-brick band runs continuously around the perimeter of the first storey, just beneath the gable eaves. This elevation showcases a four-bay design divided by three buff-brick buttresses. Each bay contains a large, flatheaded rectangular window opening, accented by a limestone keystone, soldier course lintel, and a projecting limestone sill.

The southwest (side) elevation of the Hornby Schoolhouse is constructed of red brick laid in a running bond and framed by buff-brick quoining. A continuous buff-brick band runs around the perimeter of the first storey, just beneath the gable eaves. This elevation has been partially obscured or altered by a large, single-storey modern addition, which affects two of the original window openings. However, two buff-brick buttresses and one rectangular window opening featuring a limestone sill, a soldier course buff-brick lintel, and a limestone keystone remain extant. A second window opening has been converted into an entrance; however, the limestone keystone and soldier course lintel have been preserved.



Figure 32: Looking southwest along Steeles Avenue from the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 33: Looking northeast along Steeles Avenue from the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

2.3 Architectural Style & Comparative Analysis

The former Hornby Schoolhouse at 13029 Steeles Avenue is a representative example of a late-nineteenth century rural one-room Ontario schoolhouse with Gothic Revival architectural influences. The one-room schoolhouse was intended to accommodate a small rural village or hamlet. Many of these designs were based on publications such as the *“The School House; Its Architecture, External and Internal Arrangements”* published by the Department of Public Instruction for Upper Canada in 1857, or *“Cheap Country School Houses”* published by the *Canadian Farmer* in 1866.

These resources provided architectural plans for grammar, intermediate, and primary schools, along with recommendations for school site layouts and construction methods. Rural schoolhouse designs often featured a gable roof, large flatheaded or semi-circular window openings, a central semi-circular door opening, date stone, as well as a tower, spire, or cupola and bell directly above the gable peak. Materials recommended included brick, frame, and stone.

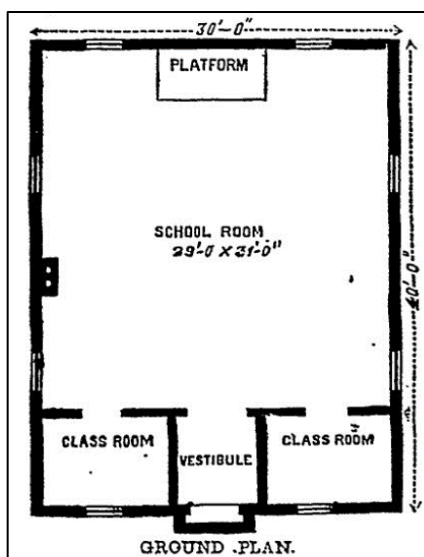


Figure 34: Prospective one-room schoolhouse floorplan (*The Canada Farmer*, Vol. 3, no. 12, p.189)

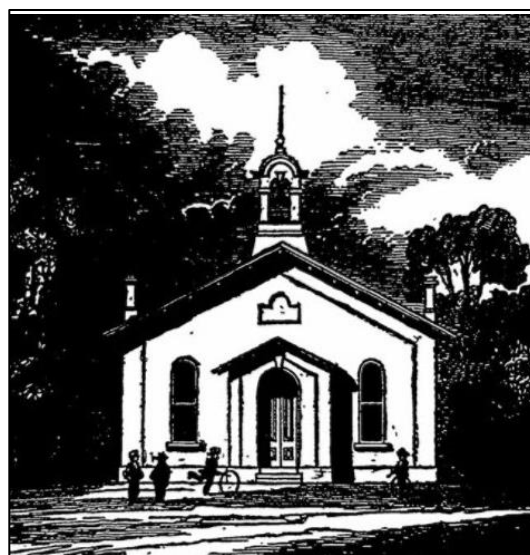


Figure 35: Prospective one-room schoolhouse design (*The School House, Its Architecture, External and Internal Arrangements*, p. 44)

One-room schoolhouses were often first made of logs, but gradually transitioned to materials such as brick, frame and occasionally stone. These schoolhouses were built as needed as the number of students increased in each school district. Typically, the interior consisted of an open room with all desks facing a platform and blackboard, with book closets on either side of the teacher's desk. To provide warmth, a stove was often placed inside, either located at the front or middle of the room.

Based on analysis from Shannon Kyles of *Ontario Architecture*, Ontario one-room rural schoolhouses often feature architectural characteristics, such as, but not limited to:

- One-and-a-half storey massing featuring brick, stone, or frame construction;
- One-room floorplan layout;
- Gable roof with a tower, spire, or cupola and bell;
- Central entrance and internal or external vestibule;
- Two windows along the front elevations, with multiple windows along the side elevations; and,
- Date stone indicating the date of construction.

Additionally, based on John Blumenson's publication, *Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building terms, 1784 to the Present*, buildings in the Gothic Revival architectural style often feature elements, including:

- Steeply pitched gable roof;
- One-and-a-half to two-storeys in massing;
- Brick or stone buttresses;
- Central door flanked by transoms and sidelights; and,
- Dichromatic or polychromatic brick patterns.

The existing building features many characteristics typical of the one-room rural schoolhouse, such as having a one-and-a-half storey massing, gable roof, central arched entrance, two windows along the

front elevation with multiple windows along the side elevations, and a date stone inscribed “Erected A.D. 1871”. Additionally, the building design reflects influences from the Gothic Revival architectural style, including the central entrance, use of limestone sills, soldier-course brick lintels, limestone keystones, brick buttresses, dichromatic brick patterns, buff-brick quoining, one-and-a-half storey massing, and a gabled roof.



Figure 36: Lorne Schoolhouse, S.S. No. 12 (Town of Halton Hills)



Figure 37: Blue Mountain School at 13802 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Similar examples are extant throughout Halton Hills, such as the former Lorne Schoolhouse, which is a representative example of an Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival architectural style, featuring dichromatic brickwork, lancet window openings, buff brick drip moulds, a gable roof, and central vestibule entrance. Blue Mountain Schoolhouse also displays similar details such as dichromatic brickwork, buff-brick quoining, flatheaded window openings with soldier-course lintels and limestone sills, and a gable roof. Overtime, Hornby School has been modified, including the destruction of the front bell tower, the construction of the front vestibule, and the alteration to the existing window openings. However, historic documentary evidence provides opportunities to restore the original elements of the schoolhouse.

Despite these alterations, Hornby School remains a rare example of a one-room schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival architectural style and is one of the few remaining examples in the Town of Halton Hills.

3.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist

The following evaluation checklist applies to Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the *Ontario Heritage Act*: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. The criteria are prescribed for municipal designation of Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The evaluation tables utilize an ‘X’ to signify applicable criteria and ‘N/A’ to signify criteria that are not applicable for this property.

Design or Physical Value	
Is rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method	X
Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	X

Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	N/A
---	-----

The property at 13029 Steeles Avenue has physical and design value as a rare and representative example of an Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival architectural style, in the community of Hornby, within the Town of Halton Hills. The one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse features design elements such as dichromatic brickwork, a gable roof, central entrance, two windows along the front elevation with multiple windows along the side elevations, brick buttresses, dichromatic brickwork, buff-brick quoins, and a date stone inscribed Erected "A.D. 1870". The building's design features influence from the Gothic Revival architectural style, as well as *The School House; Its Architecture, External and Internal Arrangements* and the *Canadian Farmer*, which published architectural plans and construction methods for grammar, intermediate, and primary schools in Canada.

The use of dichromatic brickwork, such as the buff brick quoins, lintels, and brick patterns on the front elevation, displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit.

Historical or Associative Value	
Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community	X
Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	X
Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community	N/A

The property at 13029 Steeles Avenue has historical and associative value due to its associations with the early educational system in the community of Hornby. The student population began to grow with the establishment of *Common School Act* and the *Ontario School Act*, which introduced rates levied to support and construct new schools and later abolished the former fees for public schools and made attendance compulsory for children ages 7 to 12. These legislative changes provided government funds to construct and operate more schools for the growing school populations.

The property has associations with Dr. Frank Oliver Gilbert, who attended Hornby School, and later graduated from the University of Toronto in the early 1890s. Dr. Gilbert briefly established a medical practice in Hornby before dedicating himself to serving impoverished rural communities across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. In the 1940s, Dr. Gilbert established a travelling medical practice on a houseboat, providing essential medical care to isolated and rural Indigenous communities.

The property also has associations with the Halton Opportunities Enterprise (HOPE) Workshop, who established the Adult Rehabilitation Centre to provide work opportunities and support for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This organization helped individuals become involved in various work programs and encouraged them to participate in community service initiatives.

Contextual Value	
Is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area	X
Is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings	X
Is a landmark	N/A

The property at 13029 Steeles Avenue has contextual value as it is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the rural character of the community of Hornby. The former Hornby Schoolhouse is

physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings as an early schoolhouse that serviced School Section No. AE in Hornby until 1962. The property has not been identified as a landmark.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 13029 Steeles Avenue has physical and design, historical and associative, and contextual value and therefore meets Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

The heritage attributes of the property at 13029 Steeles Avenue are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the schoolhouse along Steeles Avenue in the community of Hornby within the Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the c.1870 one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse, running bond brick pattern, buff brick foundation and quoins, gable roof, brick chimney, and dichromatic brick detailing;
- Materials including red and buff brick, and stone;
- Front (southeast) elevation:
 - o Projecting former bell tower with datestone inscribed “Erected A.D. 1870”;
 - o Flatheaded window openings with limestone keystones, soldier course lintels, and projecting limestone sills;
 - o Buff brick banding;
- Side (southwest) elevation:
 - o Flatheaded window openings with limestone keystones, soldier course lintels, and projecting limestone sills;
 - o Four-bay design with three buff brick buttresses;
 - o Buff brick banding;
- Side (northeast) elevation:
 - o Flatheaded window opening with limestone keystone, soldier course lintel, and projecting limestone sill;
 - o Doorway with limestone keystone and soldier course lintel;
 - o Two buff brick buttresses; and,
 - o Buff brick banding.

The rear elevation, interiors, and rear accessory structures were not investigated as part of this report.

Please note, this Research and Evaluation Report reflects the most up to date findings relating to its cultural heritage value as identified by staff. This report may be updated in future to reflect future findings as required.

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Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Miller-McLaughlin House
9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard

April 2025

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1.0 Property Description

9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard, Esquesing	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	PT LTS 6 & 7, CON 11 ESQ, PTS 1 & 2, 20R3191, EXCEPT PT 6, 20R13485 & PTS 1,2 & 3, 20R14600; HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1862
Original Use	Residential/Farm
Current Use	Residential/Agricultural/Institutional/Recreational
Architect/Building/Designer	Thomas Ruddell
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival
Additions/Alterations	c.1890s addition to rear; c.1981 addition to rear
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Austin Foster; Laura Loney
Report Date	April 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard in Halton Hills, Ontario. The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

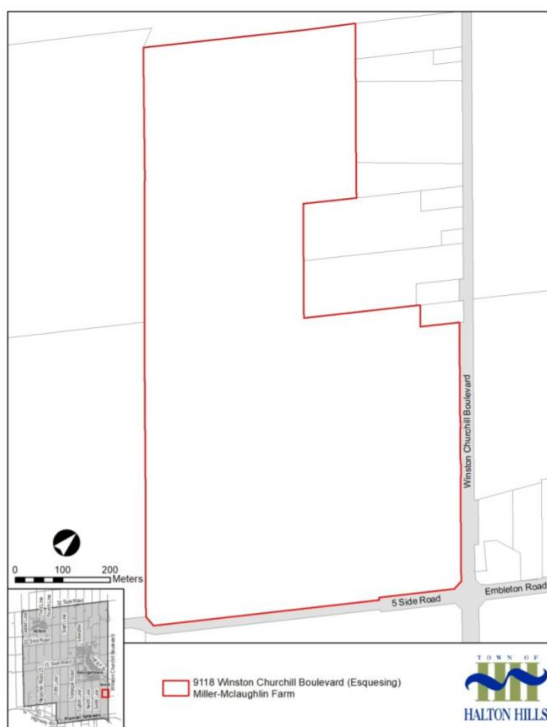


Figure 1: Location Map – 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard

2.1 Historical Background

Indigenous History Background

The enduring history of First Nation Peoples in Halton Hills can be traced back through time immemorial before contact with Europeans in the 1600s. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Credit River was central to Indigenous ways of life, supporting settlements, fisheries, horticulture, transportation, and trade. Iroquoian-speaking peoples, ancestors of the Wendat, occupied the Credit River Valley for hundreds of years until the mid-1600s, establishing semi-permanent villages. There are numerous archaeological sites in Halton Hills dating from this period, ranging from village sites to burial grounds, which reveal a rich cultural heritage.

The Wendat were displaced by the Haudenosaunee around 1649-50 amid the conflicts that arose between European colonial powers and their First Nation allies. The Mississaugas (part of the Anishinaabe Nation) arrived in southern Ontario in the 1690s, settling in two groups along the north shore of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The western group, occupying the area between Toronto and Lake Erie, became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Until the early 19th century, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation followed a seasonal cycle of movement and resource harvesting along the Credit River (Missinnihe, meaning “trusting creek”), and other rivers. In the winter months, extended family groups hunted in the Halton Hills area, travelling south towards the mouth of the river in the spring for the salmon run. The Mississaugas’ fisheries and traditional economies were diminished because of increased Euro-colonial settlement, leading to a state of impoverishment and dramatic population decline.

In 1818, the British Crown negotiated the purchase of 648,000 acres of land from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, including present-day Halton Hills, under the Ajetance Treaty (No. 19), named after Chief Ajetance. This left the Mississaugas with three small reserves on the Lake Ontario shoreline. The legitimacy of early land “surrenders” to the Crown is questionable when considering the Mississaugas’ traditional understanding of property ownership. Unlike the British, the Mississaugas understood land in spiritual terms, and did not share the idea that access to land and resources could be given up permanently.¹

In 1986, the Mississaugas initiated a claim against the Government of Canada over the 1805 Toronto Purchase. On June 8, 2010, the parties involved reached a final compensatory agreement. It resulted in a cash payment of \$145 million to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Early European Settlement

The subject property at Lot 6, Concession 11 is located approximately three kilometers southeast of Norval and six kilometers north of Hornby. Norval was settled by Europeans in the early 1820s when James McNab, a United Empire Loyalist and veteran of the War of 1812 established his family in the area. McNab, who served as a lieutenant in the York Volunteers, was granted 5,000 acres of land along the Credit River by the colonial government. He capitalized on the Region’s resources by establishing a

¹ This brief overview of Pre-Treaty Indigenous Territory within the land now known as Halton Hills is taken from the Town of Halton Hills’ 2023 *Cultural Heritage Strategy*. This document includes additional recommendations relating to Truth and Reconciliation in Heritage Planning as part of the Town's commitment to advancing Truth and Reconciliation.

collection of mills, including the area's first gristmill. These mills served as a cornerstone of local development, attracting tradesmen and farmers eager to settle in a region rich with opportunities. The settlement was originally referred to as McNabsville (also McNab's Mill) before adopting the name Norval.

Meanwhile, Hornby developed concurrently in the 1830s, becoming a significant hub for English, Irish and Scottish settlers. Several parcels of land between the two settlements were originally granted by the Crown to King's College of Upper Canada before being sold to early settlers from the British Isles. The subject property was one such parcel.

King's College of Upper Canada

King's College (now incorporated into the University of Toronto) was established through a Royal Charter issued by King George IV on March 15, 1827. The college was operated by the Church of England with John Strachan, the Archdeacon of York, appointed as its first president. In 1828, King's College was granted 226,000 acres of Crown Land in Upper Canada to generate revenue through sales and leases to fund the university's operations. Under Strachan's leadership between 1827 to 1848 several parcels were divided and sold to settlers across upper Canada. Among these holdings was the subject property.

The patent for Lot 6, Concession 11 was officially granted to the College on January 3, 1828, and remained under its ownership for over a decade. In 1844, the land was divided and sold, with the west half purchased by John McIntosh in November and the east half by John Miller in June.



Figure 3: A c.1840s portrait of John Strachan, the Archdeacon of York and first president of King's College (University of Toronto Archives 2000-20-11MS)



Figure 4: Subject property identified on 1822 Esqueving Patent Plan

The Miller Family

John Miller (1793–1879) was born in Midcalder, Scotland, and emigrated with his family to the Niagara region in the early 1810s. Around 1816, Miller married Janet Chisholm (1796–1881) before settling in Peel County. Between 1818 and 1844, they had seven children. Their eldest son, James Miller (1818–1881), assisted his father with farming while living at the family home in Peel.

In June 1844, John Miller purchased the east half of Lot 6, Concession 11, in Esquesing Township and sent James to clear the land and fulfill their settlement duties. The following year, he divided the property, selling the northern 50 acres to James while retaining the southern 50 acres for himself. Although John maintained his residence in Peel, James constructed a cabin on the newly cleared land.

Around 1845, James Miller married Harriet Ann MacNab (1828–1905) and began farming the northern half of the subject property. In 1853, he purchased the southern portion from his father, consolidating ownership of the entire east half of Lot 6, Concession 11. Between 1849 and 1865, James and Harriet had eleven children.

In 1862, James commissioned local builder Thomas Ruddell to construct the existing house on the subject property. He continued farming alongside his sons for the next two decades until his death in 1881. Later that year, his two surviving sons, William Chisholm Miller (1862–1940) and John Harvey Miller (1852–1922), inherited ownership of the property through probate of will.

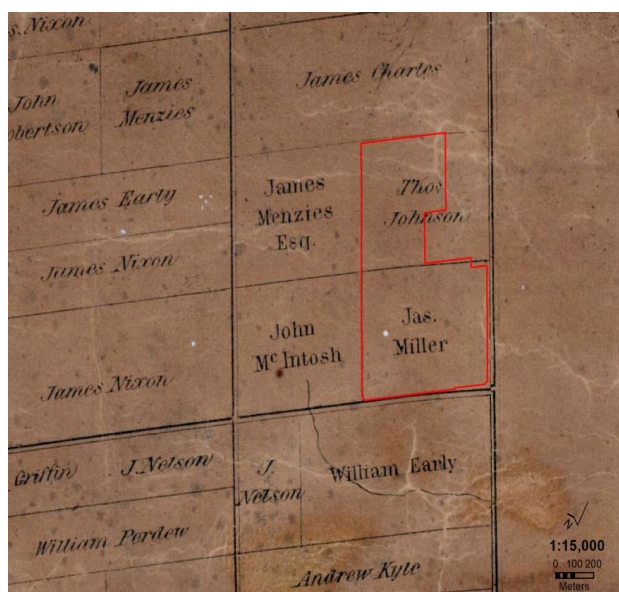


Figure 5: Subject property identified on Tremaine's 1858 Map of the County of Halton, Canada West

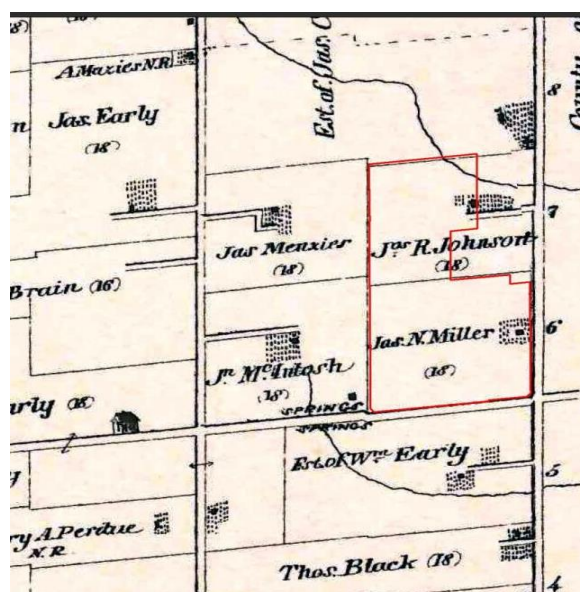


Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton

William Chisholm Miller was born on the subject property in 1862 and spent much of his early life aiding his father and brothers with daily farming operations. In the late 1870s, he expressed a desire to explore the Canadian northwest for spiritual reasons, a venture his father encouraged. On September 12, 1881, he embarked on his first journey with Joseph Leslie and John Cunningham, traveling by foot, train, and portage to Manitoba. Miller joined his cousin, Alexander Fraser, at Oak River to establish a homestead in the Beulah district of Manitoba. Upon learning of his father's illness, he traveled back to Upper Canada in 1882, only to find that James had died weeks before his arrival. After returning to Manitoba to fulfill

his homestead obligations with Fraser, William moved back to the family property in Esquesing in 1885 for two years. During this time, he married Mabel Percy Travis (1876-1903) in Norval before ultimately settling in Elkhorn, Manitoba, where he assisted his wife's cousin, James Broadley, in the lumber business.

In 1887, John Harvey Miller purchased William's share of the subject property and continued farming until 1889, when he sold the lands to the McLaughlin brothers. He remained in the family home for a few years before joining William in Elkhorn where he dealt in agricultural implements. In 1913, he was elected Mayor of Elkhorn and later appointed Returning Officer for the Virden constituency during the 1914 provincial general election.

The McLaughlin Family

The McLaughlin family were among the earliest settlers in Peel County. Born in the Scottish Highlands in 1782, Claudius Stewart McLaughlin relocated to Ireland around 1812 due to unrest in Scotland. While in Plumbridge, County Tyrone, he married Ann Dunbar, and the couple had four of their six children before emigrating to Canada in the 1820s, eventually settling in Peel County. Following Claudius' involvement in the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837, the family fled to the United States but returned to Canada in 1847. They resettled in Chinguacousy Township on Lot 13, Concession 11, near Norval.

Claudius' son, Joseph McLaughlin (1821–1906), married Isabella Hamilton (1829–1904) in 1849 and established a farm on Lot 14, Concession 5 in Chinguacousy, where they raised thirteen children. Their children included Claudius (1850–1910), William Edwin (1851–1894), Alexander (1853–1940), Robert Hamilton (1856–1934), Joseph Charles "Charlie" (1857–1945), Nancy "Annie" Elizabeth (1859–1920), Richard (1859–1925), David "Alfred" (1861–1933), John Thomas Holmes (1863–1890), Hamilton (1868–1894), Henry "Harry" (1869–1945), Jane (1871–1871), and Frederick Herbert (1874–1959).

In 1881, Joseph McLaughlin's sons purchased their first property as joint owners. Robert Hamilton, William Edwin, and Joseph Charles borrowed money from their father to acquire the east half of Lot 9, Concession 11 (the future site of McLaughlin House at 9690 Winston Churchill Boulevard, built c.1896). Despite this acquisition, the brothers continued to live at the family home on Lot 14, Concession 5 while managing both properties. Over the next two decades, the family continued this practice, with various McLaughlin brothers pooling their resources to acquire additional properties in the area.

In 1889, six of the McLaughlin brothers: Robert, Claudius II, David, Frederick, William, Joseph, and Richard, purchased the subject property for \$1,700. For the next four years, they farmed the land while continuing to live at the family home in Chinguacousy and various other McLaughlin properties in the area.

In 1893, David and Robert sold their shares of the property to William, Joseph, and Claudius. The following year, William was killed while sawing a tree with his brothers Claudius and Joseph. As he was unmarried, his share of the property was transferred to Joseph. In 1896, Claudius purchased Joseph's share and moved into the house on the subject property. Around this time, a two-storey addition, including a summer kitchen and additional living space, was constructed at the rear of the house.

While Claudius lived on and farmed the subject property, Frederick remained at the family home with Joseph and Isabella. Richard relocated to Toronto, where he established a dental practice. In 1907, Claudius became ill, prompting Frederick to move to the property with his wife, Alice Emma Clarke

(1879–1953), whom he had married earlier that year, to assist with farming and care for Claudius. Following Claudius' death in 1910, Frederick and Alice remained on the farm, where they raised two sons, Claudius William McLaughlin (1911–2004) and Richard Herbert McLaughlin (1912–1976).

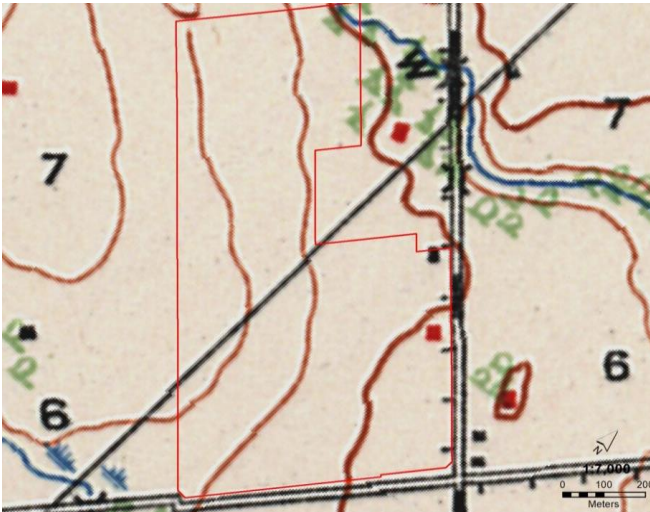


Figure 7: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographical Survey

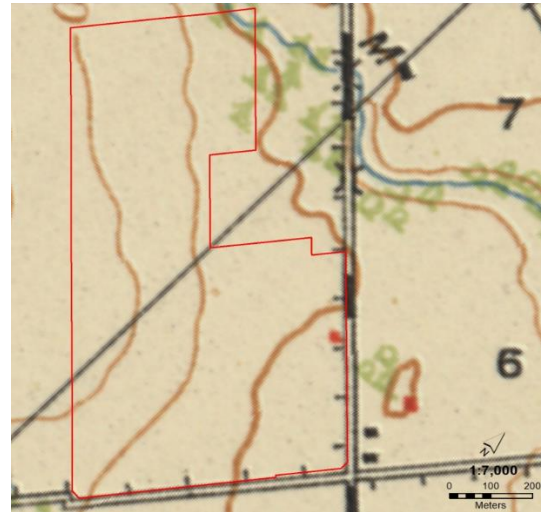


Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1918 National Topographical Survey

In 1920, Frederick purchased Richard's share of the property, becoming the sole McLaughlin brother with an ownership interest in the land. Frederick and his sons Claude and Richard continued farming the property throughout the first half of the twentieth century.

Claude and Richard were actively involved in the Norval and local agricultural communities. In 1937, Claude was appointed Treasurer of Norval Presbyterian Church, and in 1938, he became President of the Rural Young People's Association. The brothers also hosted meetings of the Norval Farmers' Institute at their home. Richard played a key role in the local farming community, serving as head secretary of the local Farm Forum throughout the 1940s and later as Halton County's chief representative on the Rural Learning Association.

Following Frederick's death in 1959, ownership of the subject property transferred to Claude and Richard McLaughlin. Neither brother married, and they continued to live and work on the land until Richard's death in 1976. After Richard's death, Claude sold the property to the organizing committee and trustees of a proposed Croatian Social and Cultural Centre in 1977.

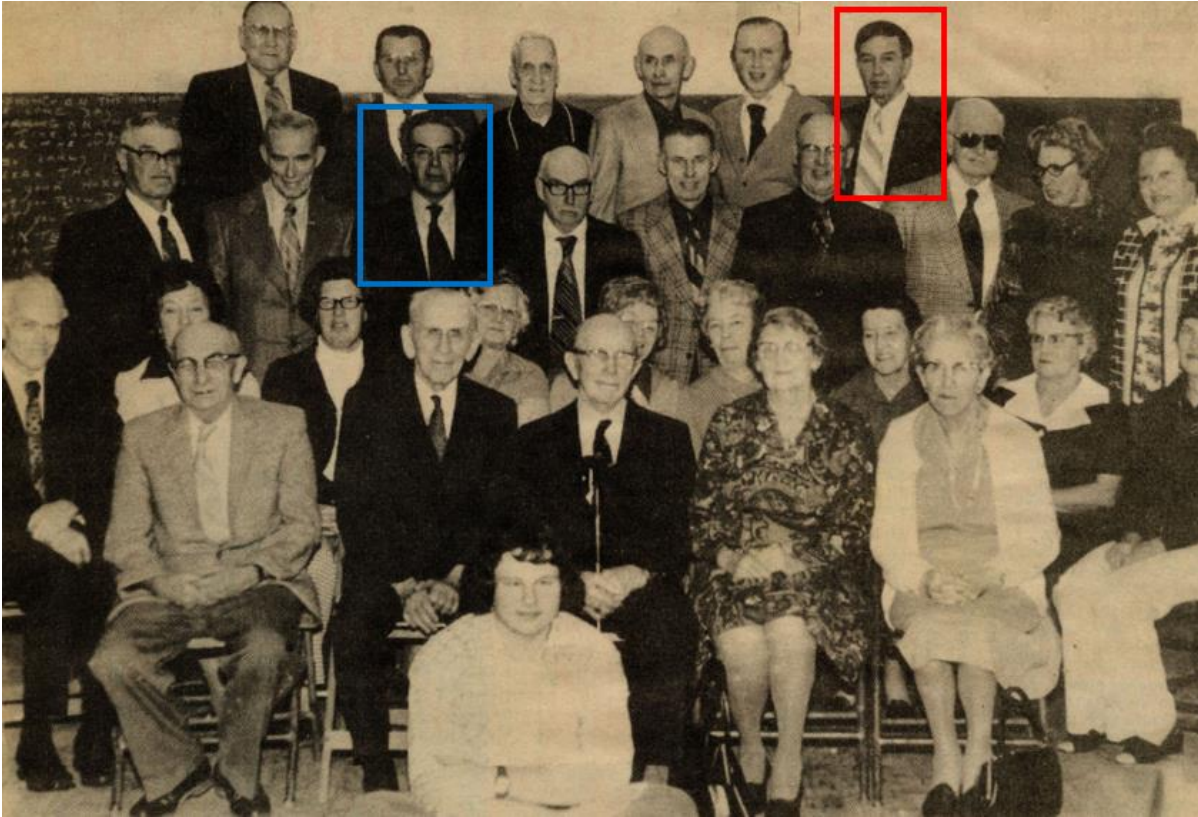


Figure 9: A 1971 photograph of Norval Farm Forum. Claude McLaughlin identified in blue; Richard McLaughlin identified in red (*Acton Free Press*, April 27, 1971)



Figure 10: Subject property identified in 1954 aerial photography

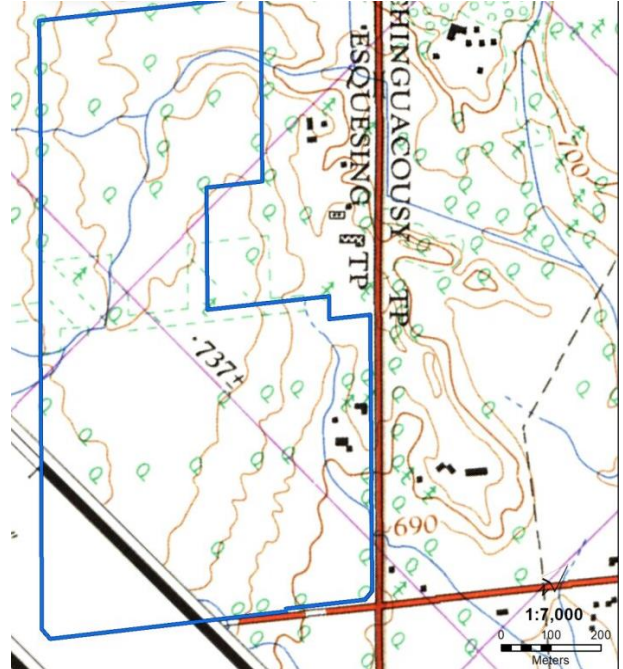


Figure 11: Subject property identified on the 1963 National Topographical Survey

The Norval Croatian Cultural Centre

From 1967 to 1971, the “Croatian Spring” triggered mass emigration from the Socialist Republic of Croatia, with tens of thousands of Croatians settling in Canada. The largest Croatian expat communities emerged in Toronto, Hamilton, and Mississauga.

In 1976, a group of Croatian community and religious leaders gathered to discuss the creation of a Croatian cultural centre to preserve and perpetuate Croatian traditions while serving as a social and cultural hub for Croatians in Southern Ontario. That winter, the organizers began scouting locations and approached Claude McLaughlin about purchasing the subject property. In May 1977, the organizing committee and trustees of the proposed Croatian Social and Cultural Centre purchased the land from McLaughlin.

By 1978, plans were submitted to the Town for a \$5 million cultural and sports complex featuring a theatre, library, sports fields, swimming pool, tennis and volleyball courts, a cemetery, a chapel, a church, and a Franciscan study centre. That same year, the house on the property became the residence of Franciscan priest Reverend Leon Galic, a tradition that continues with community leaders today. The cultural centre continued to expand throughout the late-twentieth century, acquiring an additional 60 acres from the west half of Lot 6, Concession 11 during the 1980s.

Significant milestones included the completion of an outdoor swimming pool in 1979, an assembly hall for New Year's Eve celebrations in 1981, and the paving of the parking lot and main road in 1983. A nine-acre plot for a Croatian cemetery was sanctioned in 1982, and in 1987, a nearby house and additional land from Lot 7, Concession 11 were purchased to accommodate the arrival of Franciscan Sisters. By 1981, five Franciscan priests lived in the existing c.1861 residence on the subject property, and in 1982,

a two-storey addition was constructed at the rear of the dwelling to accommodate their growing numbers and provide living space for visiting dignitaries.

In 1988, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton officially recognized the establishment of the "Queen of Peace Croatian Franciscan Centre of Norval." Further developments included the completion of an outdoor pavilion in 1989 and the creation of a children's playground in 1994.

One of the most significant events in the history of the centre was the visit of Dr. Franjo Tuđman, President of the Republic of Croatia, in 1990. By 1999, the final payment on the Croatian Centre's outstanding debt was made. The process for constructing a church began in 1997, and in 2000, the Town of Halton Hills approved an official plan and zoning bylaw amendment to permit construction. The site plan received final approval from the Region of Halton and the Town of Halton Hills in 2001, and the official groundbreaking ceremony took place on November 15, 2003. Construction was carried out under the guidance of Fr. Stjepan Pandzic, who was pastor at the time. The subject property continues to serve the Croatian community in 2025.



Figure 12: Subject property identified in 1999 aerial photography



Figure 13: Subject property identified in 2007 aerial photography



Figure 14: Subject property identified in 2015 aerial photography



Figure 15: Subject property identified in 2023 aerial photography

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is an approximately 159-acre parcel situated along the southwest side of Winston Churchill Boulevard between the historic settlements of the Norval and Hornby communities in the Town of Halton Hills. It is accessible via a paved driveway from Winston Churchill Boulevard. The property is situated within a predominantly agricultural area and contains a c.1861 residential building fronting Winston Churchill Boulevard (setback approximately 25 metres), a large church, assembly hall and several recreational facilities. The subject property contains and is bordered by agricultural fields. The property is legally described as PT LTS 6 & 7, CON 11 ESQ, PTS 1 & 2, 20R3191, EXCEPT PT 6, 20R13485 & PTS 1,2 & 3, 20R14600; HALTON HILLS.



Figure 16: Subject Property identified in 2023 aerial photography



Figure 17: Front (northeast) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 18: Front (northeast) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard (Town of Halton Hills 2009)

Built c.1862, the existing residential structure at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is a two-storey, Gothic Revival farmhouse built on an L-shaped plan with a steeply-pitched, cross-gable roof and a stone foundation. It is constructed of red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern. A two-storey rear addition, built in 1982, mimics the original Gothic Revival style but features contemporary brickwork, as well as concrete sills and lintels.

Front (Northeast) Elevation

The front (northeast) elevation is divided into two sections: a recessed portion and a projecting portion, each featuring a prominent gable. The recessed portion of the façade features a small central gable, while the projecting portion is topped with a gable with boxed eaves.

The projecting portion of the front (northeast) elevation includes a single-storey rectangular bay with two flatheaded window openings, each supported by an extended limestone sill and capped by an extended limestone lintel. Above the bay, a bracketed cornice supports a wooden balcony, likely a modern replacement of the original hipped roof. The balcony is accessed via a covered door on the second storey. Beneath the gable peak, small twin semi-circular window openings are positioned above the modern window awning, resting on an extended limestone sill. A smooth wooden frieze runs beneath the gable and continues around the entirety of the structure below the eaves line.

The recessed portion of the front elevation features a single entrance on the first storey, topped by a transom window and sidelights, located on the southeasternmost side of the wall closest to the projecting portion. Two flatheaded window openings with limestone sills and lintels are positioned beside the entrance. The first storey is sheltered by a modern single-storey porch, although the joining board from the residence's original veranda remains extant above the porch's roofline.

The second storey of the recessed portion contains three equally spaced flatheaded window openings, each fitted with limestone sills and lintels. A small semi-circular window with a limestone sill is located beneath the gable peak. A red-brick chimney extends above the roofline, positioned behind the central gable peak.



Figure 19: Side (southeast) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard (Google Street View 2017)

Side (Southeast) Elevation

The southeast elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is divided into two distinct sections: the original c.1861 northeastern section and the modern c.1982 addition on the southwestern portion. The original section is a symmetrical three-bay design constructed of red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern. The first storey contains two flatheaded window openings capped with limestone lintels and footed by limestone sills, flanking a central entrance also topped with a limestone lintel. The entrance is sheltered by a modern covered porch, likely a replacement for a nineteenth-century veranda. The second storey features three equally spaced window openings, each featuring limestone sills and lintels. A wooden frieze runs continuously beneath the eaves of the steeply pitched gable roof.



Figure 20: Side (northwest) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Side (Northwest) Elevation

The side (northwest) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is divided into three sections: the original c.1861 northeastern section, the late nineteenth-century summer kitchen in the centre, and the c.1982 modern addition on the southwestern portion. The c.1861 building elevation features a symmetrical three-bay design constructed of red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern beneath a gable peak. This section contains six flatheaded window openings with limestone sills and lintels, with three on the first storey and three on the second storey. Situated beneath the gable peak are two small twin semi-circular window openings with limestone sills. A wooden frieze follows the pitch of the gable beneath the overhanging eaves. The nineteenth-century summer kitchen features a small flatheaded window opening with a limestone lintel positioned beside a side entrance to the residence. The second storey of this section includes a small, centrally-positioned flatheaded window opening with a stone sill.



Figure 21: Context photo looking northwest up Winston Churchill Boulevard from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 22: Context photo looking southeast down Winston Churchill Boulevard from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 23: Agricultural fields northeast of subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 24: Agricultural fields northwest of subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 25: A view of the existing twentieth-century barn and silo on the subject property from the laneway (Town of Halton Hills (2025))



Figure 26: A view of the existing agricultural accessory structures on the subject property from the public right of way (Town of Halton Hills (2025))

2.3 Farmstead Analysis

The farmstead analysis provides an overview of the existing structures on the property typical to historic Ontario Farmsteads. The evaluation below helps identify the existing structures on the subject property, determine their date of construction, and confirm landscaping features. The farmstead analysis for the subject property can be found in the tables below.

Historic Ontario Farmstead Feature	Existing (Y/N)	Comments
Farmhouse	Y	The existing c.1860s farmhouse is extant within the subject property.
Barn	Y	An early twentieth century barn is located south of the existing residence on the subject property.
Outbuildings	Y	There are several farm-related outbuildings southeast of the residence on the subject property including two wooden barns with stone foundations.
Silo	Y	An early twentieth century silo stands south of the existing residence on the subject property.
Entrance Driveway Framed by Vegetation	Y	The existing driveway is framed by mature deciduous trees.
Front-yard Mature Trees	Y	There are several mature coniferous and deciduous trees bordering the existing residence on the subject property. The northeastern property line along Winston

		Churchill Boulevard is lined with mature trees.
Rear Fields	Y	The subject property features agricultural fields surrounding the original c.1870s residence.
Drive Lines	Y	There are several nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century drivelines throughout the subject property.
Woodlot	Y	There is a large woodlot located southwest of the c.1860s residence on the subject property.
Wind Rows along Property Edge	Y	The property features several windrows along the property lines and within the subject property.
Orchard	N	The orchard on the subject property featured on historical mapping is no longer extant.
Additional Criteria for Consideration	(Y/N)	Comments
Early Settlement/Pre-1867	Y	The existing residence on the subject property was commissioned by James Miller and built by Thomas Ruddell in 1862.
Structures of Individual Architectural Significance	Y	The existing Gothic Revival farmhouse remains a significant feature of the subject property. An early twentieth century wooden barn and associated out-building remains extant to the south and southeast of the residence.
Intact Collection of Typological Features	Y	The c.1862 Gothic Revival farmhouse, mature trees along the property line and driveway, two late nineteenth or early twentieth century agricultural buildings, silo, drivelines, and windrows of the former farmstead remain intact and are extant from the public right of way.
Within a Rural Area/Adjacent to other In-tact Farmsteads	Y	The subject property remains within a rural area on Winston Churchill Boulevard and is surrounded by active farms.

Site Development Pressure	N	The property is currently zoned Agricultural and Environmental Protection One with a natural heritage feature governed by Credit Valley Conservation.
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Based on the farmstead analysis, few features of the original farmstead remain extant, including the mature trees, the early twentieth-century outbuildings, and the c.1860s farmhouse. While the associated agricultural outbuildings remain on the property, none are considered rare, unique, or representative examples of late-nineteenth or early-twentieth-century barns within the modified farmscape. Over time, the farmscape has undergone significant alterations, including the c.1982 addition to the farmhouse, and the construction of the Queen of Peace Church in 1997. As a result of these changes, the remaining farmstead does not qualify as a significant farmscape or cultural heritage landscape.

2.4 Architectural Style and Comparative Analysis

The Gothic Revival architectural style, popular in Ontario from the mid-nineteenth century to the early-twentieth century, is characterized by its emphasis on verticality, intricate detailing, and references to medieval Gothic architecture. The Gothic Revival style was particularly used for ecclesiastical and residential buildings, where it conveyed a sense of grandeur and historical continuity. Several Gothic Revival farmhouse designs were used in Ontario around this time, reflecting the style's widespread appeal among rural and residential architecture.

According to John Blumenson's *Guide to Ontario Architecture* and A.J. Downing's *Victorian Cottage Residences*, the typical features characteristic of the Gothic Revival style, especially in farmhouse architecture, include:

- Steeply pitched gable roofs with decorative bargeboards featuring Gothic motifs such as trefoils and quatrefoils, as well as curvilinear vergeboards and intricate bargeboards;
- Pointed arch windows and doorways, often framed with intricate tracery, brick voussoirs, or hood moulds;
- Limestone or brick construction with contrasting stone or brick details, such as quoins, castellated cornices, stone sills and lintels, or dichromatic brick patterns;
- Symmetrical façades or asymmetrical layouts with projecting gables, sometimes with finials, pinnacles, or a central gable;
- Chimneys with decorative detailing; and,
- Projecting bay windows.

The property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is an excellent example of a mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival-style farmhouse, exhibiting many of the key characteristics typical of the style. Notable features include the steeply pitched cross-gable roof, red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern, limestone sills and lintels, segmentally arched window openings, and the projecting bay and bay window.

Comparatively, there are other Gothic Revival farmhouses within Halton Hills that share similarities in form, scale, and detailing both in a town and agricultural setting, such as 4 Queen Street (Georgetown), 76 Young Street (Acton), 8708 Tenth Line (Norval), and 10284 Trafalgar Road (Esquesing). While there are other nineteenth century farmhouses along Winston Churchill Boulevard, the Miller-McLaughlin

9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard | PT LTS 6 & 7, CON 11 ESQ, PTS 1 & 2, 20R3191, EXCEPT PT 6, 20R13485 & PTS 1,2 & 3, 20R14600; HALTON HILLS.

House at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is among one of the only Gothic Revival style buildings visible from the public right-of-way within the general area.



Figure 27: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in a town setting in Halton Hills at 4 Queen Street, Georgetown (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 28: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in a town setting in Halton Hills at 67 Young Street, Acton (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 29: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in an agricultural setting in Halton Hills at 8708 Tenth Line, Norval (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 30: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in an agricultural setting in Halton Hills at 10284 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 32: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in an agricultural setting in Halton Hills at 9476 Tenth Line

Figure 31: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence (Town of Halton Hills 2008)
in a town setting in Halton Hills at 14 Queen Street,
Georgetown (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

These properties feature similar steep pitched cross-gable roofs, brick construction with contrasting stone details, L-shaped footprint, projecting bays, segmentally arched window openings, hood moulds or brick voussoirs, and stone lintels and sills. However, the property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is unique, as it features a specific combination of Gothic Revival features and motifs.

It is likely that the residence on the subject property originally featured decorative wooden bargeboard at the gable ends and an ornate wooden veranda on the northeast and/or the southeast elevations similar to the examples above. However, these details have since been removed from the existing dwelling. Despite these alterations, and the contemporary additions to the sides and rear, the building remains a representative example of the Gothic Revival architectural style.

3.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist

The following evaluation checklist applies to Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the *Ontario Heritage Act*: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. The criteria are prescribed for municipal designation of Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The evaluation tables utilize an 'X' to signify applicable criteria and 'N/A' to signify criteria that are not applicable for this property.

Design or Physical Value	
Is rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method	X
Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	N/A
Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	N/A

The property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard has physical and design value as a representative example of a mid-nineteenth-century agricultural residence in the Gothic Revival style. The two-storey brick residential building exhibits features typical of this style, such as the gable roof, Flemish-bond brickwork, projecting bay, segmentally arched window, transom window, sidelights, as well as the stone sills and lintels. While the associated agricultural buildings remain extant, they are not rare, unique or representative examples of late-nineteenth-century/early-twentieth-century barns within the modified agricultural landscape.

The existing building can be accessed by a mature tree-lined drive and is surrounded by a coniferous window immediately to the northeast, as well as mature trees towards the rear (southwest) elevation. Along Winston Churchill Boulevard, a mature deciduous windrow extends in front of the existing house and barn.

Historical or Associative Value	
Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community	X
Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	N/A
Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community	N/A

The property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard holds significant historical and associative value due to its long-standing connection to early settlers and influential families in Halton Hills. It is closely associated with the prominent pioneering Miller family, including John Miller, who settled the property in 1844. His son, James Miller, completed the settlement duties on the property, constructing a cabin before commissioning local builder Thomas Ruddell to construct the existing Gothic Revival house in 1862. James Miller's two surviving sons, William Chisholm Miller and John Harvey Miller, became prominent settlers in Manitoba. William entered the lumber business, while John became a dealer in agricultural equipment and later served as the town's mayor.

The property is also associated with the McLaughlin family who were active in the early settlement and agricultural development of Peel and Halton Counties. Claudius Stewart McLaughlin, a Scottish Highlander, settled in Peel County in the 1820s after emigrating from Ireland with his family. His son, Joseph McLaughlin, raised thirteen children in Chinguacousy Township, and in 1889, six of his sons—Robert, Claudius II, David, Frederick, William, Joseph, and Richard—purchased the subject property, with Claudius II becoming the sole proprietor in 1896. After Claudius' death in 1910, his brother Frederick took over the farm, raising his two sons, Claude and Richard, on the property. The McLaughlin brothers were deeply engaged in local agricultural and community affairs, with Claude serving as Treasurer of Norval Presbyterian Church and Richard holding leadership roles in regional farming organizations. Following Frederick's death in 1959, Claude and Richard inherited the land, continuing to operate the farm until Richard's death in 1976. In 1977, Claude sold the subject property to the trustees of a proposed Croatian Social and Cultural Centre, marking the end of McLaughlin family ownership.

Contextual Value	
Is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area	X
Is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings	X
Is a landmark	N/A

The property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard holds significant contextual value, being physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. The farmhouse is related to the c.1890s McLaughlin House at 9690 Winston Churchill Boulevard. Other properties in the vicinity, such as the Menzies-Early farm at 9476 Tenth Line and the J. W. L. Forster House at 9948 Winston Churchill Boulevard, also feature Gothic Revival farmhouses that continue to function as agricultural residences.

As a late nineteenth-century Gothic Revival farmhouse that has remained in its original location for over 160 years, it represents a prominent architectural style that defined rural Ontario during this period. Additionally, the existing tree-lined drive and tree windrows reflect the agricultural history of the property in the community of Esquesing. Due to the mature vegetation partially concealing the house, the property has not been identified as a landmark.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard has physical and design, historical and associative, and contextual value and therefore meets Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

The heritage attributes of the property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building along Winston Churchill Boulevard;
- The tree-lined drive extending to the residential building from Winston Churchill Boulevard, the mature deciduous windrow along Winston Churchill Boulevard, the coniferous windrow located immediately northwest of the residential building, and the mature trees towards the rear (southwest) of the residential building;
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing c.1860s, two-storey L-shaped Gothic Revival residential building with gable roof and stone foundation;
- The materials, including brick, limestone, and detailing throughout;
- The front (northeast) elevation, including:
 - The one-storey projecting bay with a bracketed cornice, as well two flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels;
 - Three semi-circular window openings with stone sills and radiating brick voussoirs;
 - Flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels;
 - Flatheaded entryway with stone lintel, sidelights, and transom window;
 - Brick chimney extending above the gable peak;
- The side (southeast) elevation, including:
 - Flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels;
 - Flatheaded entryway with stone lintel;
- The side (northwest) elevation, including:
 - Flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels;
 - Two semi-circular window openings with stone sills and radiating brick voussoirs; and,
 - The late-nineteenth century summer kitchen.

The rear addition, accessory structures, and interiors have not been identified as heritage attributes as part of this report.

Please note, this Research and Evaluation Report reflects the most up to date findings relating to its cultural heritage value as identified by staff. This report may be updated in future to reflect future findings as required.

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Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Menzies-Early Farm
9476 Tenth Line

April 2025

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1.0 Property Description

9476 Tenth Line, Esquesing	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	PART LOT 8, CONCESSION 10 (ESQUESING), BEING PARTS 1, 2, AND 3 PLAN 20R22256 SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PART 3 ON 20R22256 AS IN 830692 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1881
Original Use	Residential/Farm
Current Use	Residential/Farm
Architect/Building/Designer	Thomas Early
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival
Additions/Alterations	N/A
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Laura Loney with Austin Foster
Report Date	April 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 9476 Tenth Line in Halton Hills, Ontario. The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

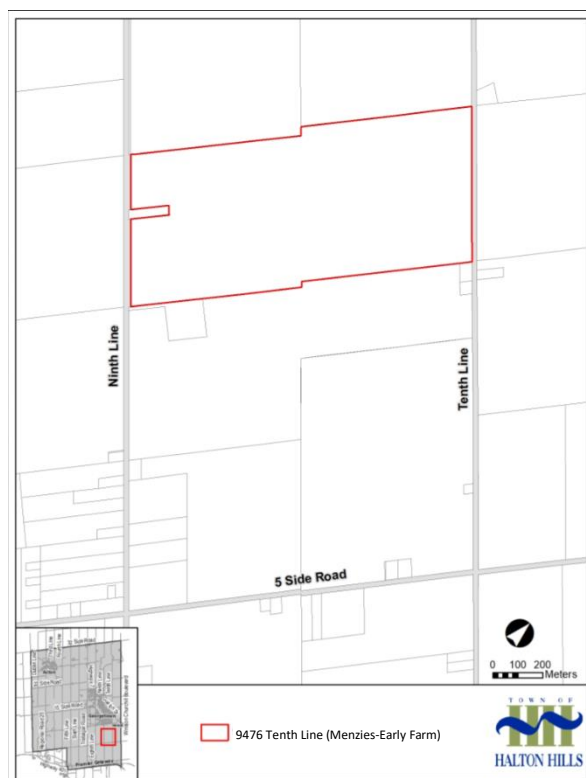


Figure 1: Location Map – 9476 Tenth Line



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 9476 Tenth Line

2.1 Historical Background

Indigenous History Background

The enduring history of First Nation Peoples in Halton Hills can be traced back through time immemorial before contact with Europeans in the 1600s. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Credit River was central to Indigenous ways of life, supporting settlements, fisheries, horticulture, transportation, and trade. Iroquoian-speaking peoples, ancestors of Wendat, occupied the Credit River Valley for hundreds of years until the mid-1600s, establishing semi-permanent villages. There are numerous archaeological sites in Halton Hills dating from this period, ranging from village sites to burial grounds, which reveal a rich cultural heritage.

The Wendat were displaced by the Haudenosaunee around 1649-50 amid the conflicts that arose between European colonial powers and their First Nation allies. The Mississaugas (part of the Anishinaabe Nation) arrived in southern Ontario in the 1690s, settling in two groups along the north shore of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The western group, occupying the area between Toronto and Lake Erie, became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Until the early 19th century, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation followed a seasonal cycle of movement and resource harvesting along the Credit River (Missinnihe, meaning “trusting creek”), and other rivers. In the winter months, extended family groups hunted in the Halton Hills area, travelling south towards the mouth of the river in the spring for the salmon run. The Mississaugas’ fisheries and traditional economies were diminished because of increased Euro-colonial settlement, leading to a state of impoverishment and dramatic population decline.

In 1818, the British Crown negotiated the purchase of 648,000 acres of land from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, including present-day Halton Hills, under the Ajetance Treaty (No. 19), named after Chief Ajetance. This left the Mississaugas with three small reserves on the Lake Ontario shoreline. The legitimacy of early land “surrenders” to the Crown is questionable when considering the Mississaugas’ traditional understanding of property ownership. Unlike the British, the Mississaugas understood land in spiritual terms, and did not share the idea that access to land and resources could be given up permanently.¹

In 1986, the Mississaugas initiated a claim against the Government of Canada over the 1805 Toronto Purchase. On June 8, 2010, the parties involved reached a final compensatory agreement. It resulted in a cash payment of \$145 million to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

Early European Settlement

The subject property at Lot 8, Concession 10, is located approximately two kilometers south of Norval. Norval was settled in the early 1820s when James McNab, a United Empire Loyalist and veteran of the War of 1812, established his family in the area. McNab, who served as a lieutenant in the York Volunteers, was granted 5,000 acres of land along the Credit River by the colonial government. He capitalized on the region's resources by establishing a series of mills, including the area's first gristmill.

¹ This brief overview of Pre-Treaty Indigenous Territory within the land now known as Halton Hills is taken from the Town of Halton Hills’ 2023 *Cultural Heritage Strategy*. This document includes additional recommendations relating to Truth and Reconciliation in Heritage Planning as part of the Town's commitment to advancing Truth and Reconciliation.

These mills served as a cornerstone of local development, attracting tradesmen and farmers eager to settle in a region rich with opportunities. The settlement was originally referred to as McNabsville (also McNab's Mill) before adopting the name Norval. Throughout the early nineteenth century, the area became a significant hub for Scottish and Irish settlers. Among these early Scottish was John Menzies.

The Menzies Family

John Menzies (1779–1859) was born in Perthshire, Scotland, to Presbyterian farmers Donald and Isa McKercher Menzies. In July 1806, John married Isabel Robertson (1787–1881), and the couple initially lived with John's parents in Dull, Perthshire, before settling in Aberfeldy. In 1817, John and Isabel immigrated to Montreal from Perthshire with their three eldest children: James (1809–1894), Isabella (1811–1906), and Duncan (1816–1872).

After spending a year in La Prairie, Quebec, where he petitioned for land in Upper Canada, James Menzies was granted Lot 8, Concession 10, in 1818. The Menzies family moved to York before settling in Esquesing in 1820. With the help of his eldest sons, John Menzies constructed a log cabin and cleared the land for agricultural use. By May 1838, he completed his settlement duties and was officially granted the Crown Patent for the east half of Lot 8, Concession 10. While living in Esquesing, John and his wife had three more children: John (1821–1897), Alexander (1823–1910), and Catharine Wright (1827–1921).

Their eldest son, James Menzies, purchased an adjacent 100-acre parcel at Lot 7, Concession 11, from Alexander Stewart in 1833. Two years later, in 1835, he married Anne Ferguson (1810–1887), and together they had ten children. James made gradual improvements to his own property while living with his parents. James first constructed a single storey frame dwelling. Some of his siblings, including his younger brother Duncan, lived with him for a time, assisting both James and their father on their neighboring farms. As his farm grew, James expanded the residence with a two-storey brick addition. He later built a distinctive octagonal-shaped brick extension, which remains extant at 9343 Tenth Line.

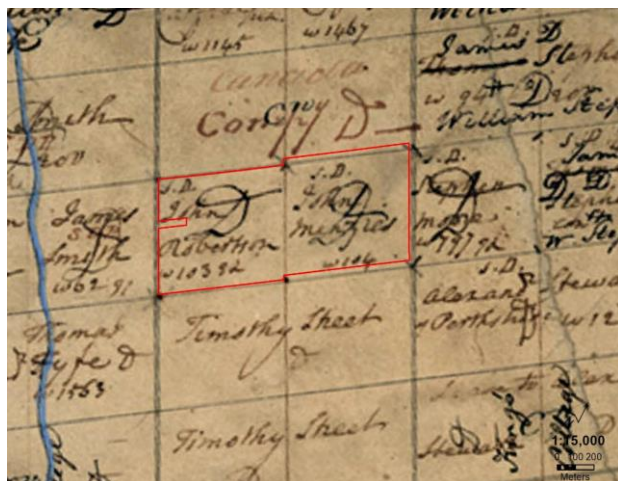


Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1819 Patent Plan



Figure 4: The James Menzies House on Lot 7, Concession 11 (Heritage Resources Centre 2008)

Before immigrating to Canada, John Menzies had devoted himself to rigorous biblical study and had converted to Scottish Baptism. Upon his arrival in Esquesing Township, he became instrumental in establishing a local Scottish Baptist congregation, which initially met in members' homes. John and Isabella were the first to place their names at the top of the 1820 membership roll of the new

congregation, with John assuming the role of pastor. John Menzies, along with William Trout and James Mitchell, were the first church elders.

Around 1836, a friend from Ohio sent Menzies copies of *The Millennial Harbinger*, a publication by Alexander Campbell, a key figure in the Baptist Restoration Movement in the United States. Influenced by these writings, Menzies gradually embraced the teachings of the Disciples of Christ, an emerging Baptist reform movement.

In 1838, William Trout arrived as pastor of the Norval Disciples of Christ congregation. A few years later, with the assistance of his brother-in-law John Robertson, Menzies constructed a simple log meeting house on the northeast corner of his farm on the subject property. Present-day members of the Disciples of Christ credit Menzies with helping to spread Restorationist principles from this small log church in Esquesing to congregations across Ontario. In June 1843, the first meeting of the Ontario Disciples was held in the log church on the subject property.

Menzies continued to farm the subject property while actively promoting the Disciples of Christ movement for the remainder of his life. Prior to his death in 1859, he deeded an acre of land on the north side of his property where the meeting house stood to his son Alexander for continued church use. Following a prolonged illness, John Menzies died on December 2, 1859, and ownership of the subject property was equally divided among his widow and children through his will.

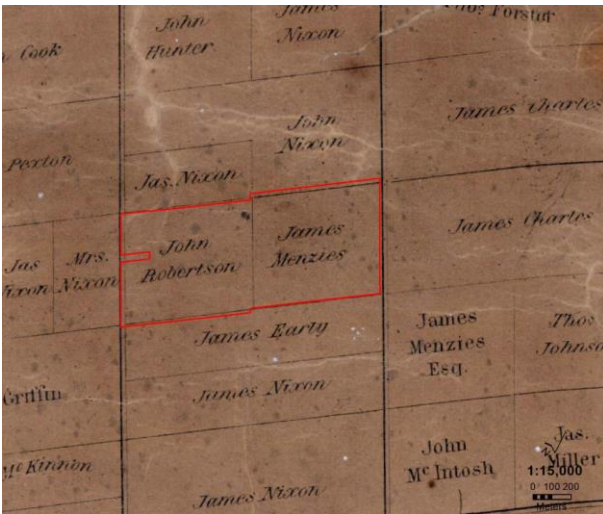


Figure 5: Subject property identified on Tremaine's Map of the County of Halton, Canada West



Figure 6: A 1995 photograph of the second Esquesing Disciples of Christ Church originally on Lot 8, Concession 10 (EHS 16863)

John's eldest son, James Menzies (1809–1894), took over farming operations on the property after his father's death and became the Minister of the Disciples of Christ Church. Between 1859 and 1868, he gradually bought his siblings shares of the subject property until he was the sole owner of the east half of Lot 8, Concession 10. He made significant upgrades to the original meeting house and expanded it during this period. In 1870, he sold the subject property to his son-in-law, James Early, who lived on and farmed the adjoining parcel to the south (Lot 7, Concession 10) and relocated his ministry to Toronto, where he remained until his death in 1894.

James Menzies' departure marked a significant decline in the Norval congregation. In 1880, when Alexander Menzies and his family moved to Caledon, the acre of land upon which the meeting house stood was also sold to the Early family. The original log church was subsequently relocated to the property of Robert Noble at Lot 10, Concession 11.

The Early Family

James Early (1826-1909) was born in 1826 in Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland, to Irish farmers Thomas Early and Rebecca Nixon Early. Following his father's death in 1841, the family planned to emigrate to Canada to join James' sister, Eleanor, and her husband, John Holmes, who had settled in Peel County. Their decision was encouraged by several letters from James' uncles, William Early and Alexander Nixon, who had already joined the couple in Canada a few years earlier. In July 1842, James, along with his mother Rebecca, brothers William and Thomas, and sisters Rachel, Rebecca, and Fannie, arrived in Quebec. Following their relocation to Upper Canada, the Early family leased a farm in Chinguacousy Township, where they remained for almost a decade.

On September 20, 1850, James married his first cousin, Jane Early (1832–1866). The couple initially lived in Chinguacousy before purchasing the north half of Lot 7, Concession 10, from Robert Buchanan in August 1860. They relocated to a modest one-and-a-half storey frame house on the northwestern side of the property, which James gradually expanded into a two-storey brick house with multiple additions between the 1860s and the 1880s. This residence, known as the Buchanan-Early House, remains extant at 9356 Tenth Line.



Figure 7: A c.1940 aerial photograph of the Early farm at Lot 7, Concession 10 (*The Early Connection*)

Between 1853 and 1860, James and Jane had five children: Thomas (1853–1935), William (1857–1908), James (1858–1934), Albert Edwin (1862–1904), and Elizabeth (1860–1897). Two children, an unnamed baby and 3-month-old George (1866-1866) died in infancy. Jane died in November 1866, two weeks after George's birth. The following year, in October 1867, James married Catherine Menzies (1846–1924), the daughter of James Menzies, in the log church on the subject property. Between 1869 and

1877, James and Catherine had three children: Philip (1869–1951), Erastus (1873–1873), and Frederick Abner (1877–1932).

Following their marriage in 1867, James and Catherine purchased the southeast half of Lot 6, Concession 10, followed by the northwestern quarter of Lot 5, Concession 10, and the eastern half of Lot 8, Concession 10, bringing James' total land holdings to 300 acres by 1875. In February 1870, James Early purchased the subject property from his father-in-law, James Menzies, and farmed it alongside his sons while continuing to reside on Lot 7, Concession 10. In 1900, James and Catherine retired and moved to Queen Street in Brampton where James died on March 20, 1909.

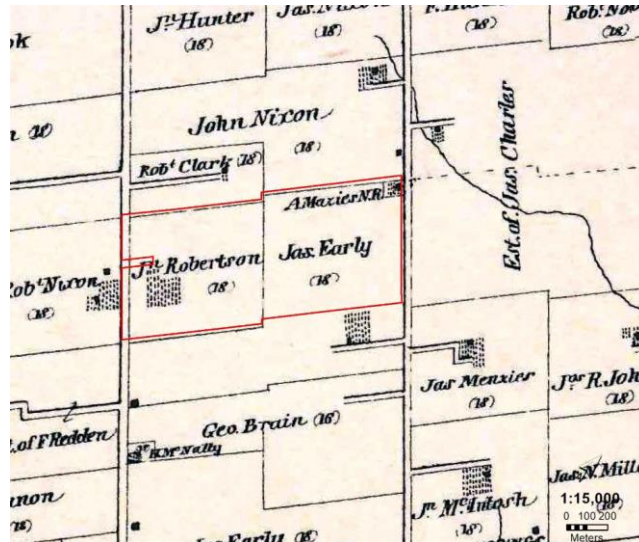


Figure 8: Subject property identified in the 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton*

In 1885, Thomas Early (1853–1935) purchased the subject property from his father for \$2,000; Thomas had lived on Lot 7, Concession 10 his entire life. Thomas was engaged to Margaret “Maggie” Wilson (1861–1894) in 1881 and constructed the extant two-story red-brick Gothic Revival house on the subject property. The following year, he married Maggie and the couple settled in the newly completed residence where they would raise three children: Spencer Abner (1888–1962), Myrtle May (1891–1892), and Harold Wilson (1893–1976).

In 1891, Thomas and Maggie lived in the dwelling on the subject property with their son, Spencer Abner, and employed two live-in domestic servants and farmhands, Fred Truman and Nellie Grant. Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, Thomas made several improvements to his farm and began focusing on livestock. He planted a large orchard and constructed a modest barn at the rear of the existing dwelling. In 1899, Thomas constructed a large bank barn on the property and had amassed a substantial beef cattle herd.

Following Maggie’s death in 1894, Thomas remarried Acton native Elizabeth Jane Storey (1866–1937) in 1897. They had five children: Ada Myrl (1898–1945), Mabel May (1899–1951), Hazel Gladys (1902–1970), Sarah Jane (1904–1967), and Chester Thomas (1906–1992). In the early 1900s, the couple adopted a foster child from England, Elizabeth Cross, whom they had originally retained as a domestic worker.



Figure 9: A c.1910s photograph of the Thomas and Jane Early Family. Back Row (L to R): Hazel, Chester, Sarah, Spencer, Myril, Harold, and Mabel; Front Row: Thomas and Elizabeth Jane Early (The Early Connection)

In 1914, Thomas further expanded his holdings by purchasing the western half of Lot 8, Concession 10, from John F. Brown, which he later sold to his son, Harold Wilson Early. Thomas Early died on the subject property in April 1935, and ownership of the eastern half of Lot 8, Concession 10 subsequently transferred to his youngest son, Chester Early through probate of will.



Figure 10: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographical Survey

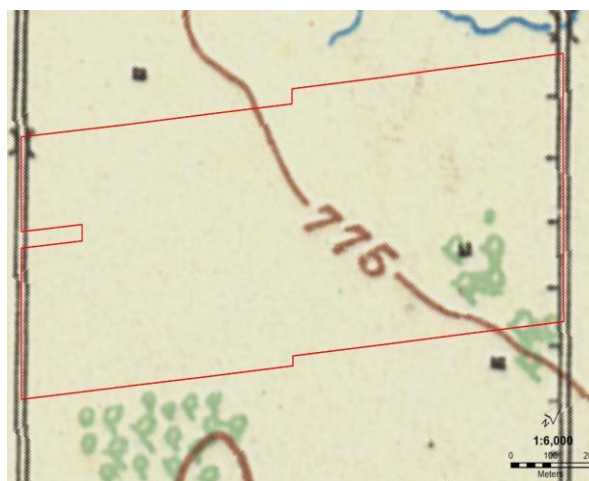


Figure 11: Subject property identified on the 1938 National Topographical Survey

Chester Early was born on the subject property on July 1, 1906. After finishing eight years at Pinegrove Public School, he attended Georgetown High School, commuting via the Guelph Electric Train from the Norval station. An active member of the community, he participated in the Norval Community Choir and was a dedicated member of the Norval Presbyterian Church. Chester was a lifelong farmer, and by 1934,

he and his half-brother Harold maintained the largest flock of sheep in Norval, along with a large beef cattle herd.

Harold Early (1893–1976) was born on February 9, 1893, on Lot 8, Concession 10 in Esquesing. By the 1930s, Harold was raising beef cattle and sheep alongside his half-brother Chester. Harold owned the western hundred acres of Lot 8, while Chester owned the eastern hundred. The brothers lived together in the existing house on the subject property.

Harold served as secretary-treasurer of SS #4 from 1931 to 1956 and again from 1961 until the school's closure in 1963. When SS #4 Pinegrove closed, Chester and Harold were among the retiring trustees and became two of the thirteen shareholders in the newly purchased Pinegrove Community Centre, where they continued to be active members of the local farming and community networks.

The western half of the subject property was transferred to Chester Early following Harold's death in 1976. Chester continued to farm until retiring at the age of 84. In 1990, he moved to Chelsea Park Retirement Home, where he passed away in June 1992. His estate, including the subject property, was sold in 1994.



Figure 12: Chester Early identified in 1971 photograph of Norval Farm Forum (*Acton Free Press*, April 27, 1971)

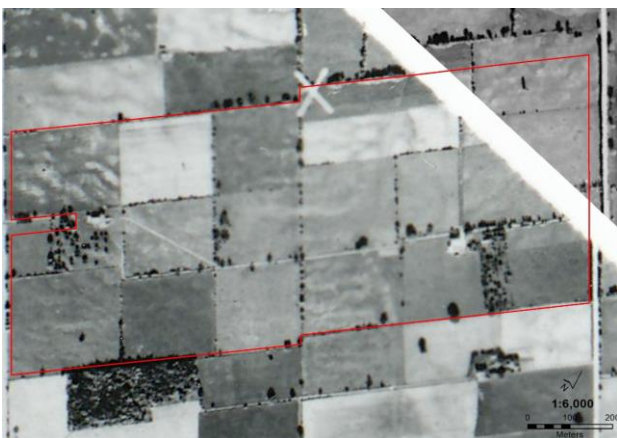


Figure 13: Subject property identified in 1953 aerial photography

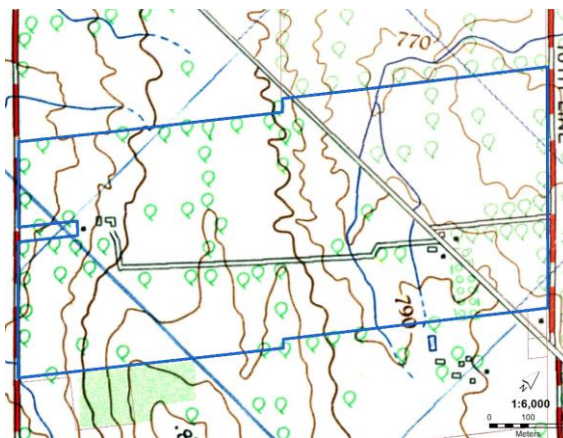


Figure 14: Subject property identified on the 1973 National Topographical Survey



Figure 15: Subject Property identified in 1999 satellite imagery



Figure 16: Subject Property identified in 2023 satellite imagery

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is an irregularly shaped 207-acre parcel situated along the southwest side of Tenth Line North between the historic settlements of the Norval and Hornby in the Town of Halton Hills. It is accessible via an unpaved driveway from Tenth Line. The property lies in an agricultural area and features a residential building setback approximately 240 metres from Tenth Line, accompanied by multiple associated outbuildings. The house is bordered by agricultural fields, with several mature trees nearby. The property is legally described as “PART LOT 8, CONCESSION 10 (ESQUESING), BEING PARTS 1, 2, AND 3 PLAN 20R22256 SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PART 3 ON 20R22256 AS IN 830692 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS”.



Figure 17: Subject Property identified in 2023 aerial photography



Figure 18: Front (northeast) elevation of the existing residential building at 9476 Tenth Line (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The existing residential structure at 9476 Tenth Line is a two-storey, Gothic Revival farmhouse constructed on an L-shaped plan with a steeply pitched cross-gable roof and stone foundation. The residence is constructed with red brick laid in a common bond pattern and is framed with buff-brick quoins accentuating its corners.

The front (northeast) elevation showcases two prominent gables; one centrally positioned on the recessed section of the façade and the other crowning the projecting portion. Both gable ends are adorned with decorative wooden bargeboard. The front elevation is divided into two sections: the recessed portion and the projecting portion. The projecting section is framed by buff-brick quoining and features a centrally located, single-storey, three-sided projecting bay at the first storey. This bay contains three segmentally arched window openings with buff-brick voussoirs and limestone sills. The bay is capped with a hipped roof supported by a bracketed cornice. Above the bay, on the second storey, a segmentally arched window opening sits flush within the wall, framed with a buff-brick voussoir and hood mould, and footed by a limestone sill.

The recessed portion of the front elevation is framed with buff-brick quoining and contains a segmentally arched window opening at grade, capped with a buff-brick voussoir and footed by a limestone sill. The entrance, situated close to the projecting wall of this elevation, is boarded up and obscured. A veranda featuring ornate wooden spindle work and a shallow hipped roof extends along the stepped-back portion of the first storey. On the second storey, a single lancet arched window opening with a buff-brick voussoir, hood mould, and limestone sill is positioned beneath the central gable peak.



Figure 19: 9476 Tenth Line side (northwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 20: Partially obscured view of 9476 Tenth Line side (northwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The side (northwest) elevation is constructed of red brick laid in a common bond pattern and framed by tan brick quoining. This elevation is crowned with a gable end featuring decorative wooden bargeboard. The southeast elevation contains four segmentally arched window openings with tan brick voussoirs, hood moulds, and limestone sills; two at grade and two on the second storey. A dichromatic diamond pattern of inset tan brick is situated beneath the gable peak. The side (southeast) and rear (southwest) elevations are obscured from the public right-of-way.



Figure 21: Tenth Line looking southeast from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 22: Roadway looking northwest from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 23: Agricultural fields looking northeast from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 24: 9476 Tenth Line setback from the public right of way (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 25: A view of the c. 1899 barn and silo on the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 26: Agricultural fields looking southeast from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 27: Agricultural fields looking west from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

2.3 Farmstead Analysis

The farmstead analysis provides an overview of the existing structures on the property typical to historic Ontario Farmsteads. The evaluation below helps identify the existing structures on the subject property, determine their date of construction, and confirm landscaping features. The farmstead analysis for the subject property can be found in the tables below.

Historic Ontario Farmstead Feature	Existing (Y/N)	Comments
Farmhouse	Y	The existing c.1880s farmhouse is extant within the subject property.
Barn	Y	There is a large wooden barn constructed around 1899 located northwest of the existing c.1880s residence
Outbuildings	Y	There are several related agricultural outbuildings located within the subject property.
Silo	Y	A contemporary silo is located northwest of the c.1880s residence fronting the northwest elevation of the barn.
Entrance Driveway Framed by Vegetation	N	The mature trees along the entrance driveway have since been removed.
Front-yard Mature Trees	N	The mature trees have since been removed from the subject property.
Rear Fields	Y	The subject property features agricultural fields surrounding the original c.1880s residence.
Drive Lines	Somewhat	There are a series of drivelines around the property that provide access to tenth line, ninth line, and several agricultural buildings around the property.
Woodlot	N	There is no woodlot located at the rear of the property.
Wind Rows along Property Edge	Somewhat	The property features a single windrow along the interior property line.

Orchard	N	The orchard on the subject property featured on historical mapping is no longer extant.
Additional Criteria for Consideration	(Y/N)	Comments
Early Settlement/Pre-1867	Somewhat	The subject property was originally settled by John and James Menzies in 1844. The existing residence, however, was not constructed until the 1880s.
Structures of Individual Architectural Significance	Somewhat	The existing farmhouse retains many features associated with the Gothic Revival architectural style.
Intact Collection of Typological Features	Y	The c.1880s farmhouse, c.1899 barn, contemporary silo, and agricultural fields are components of a greater nineteenth and early twentieth century farm complex that remains active in 2025.
Within a Rural Area/Adjacent to other In-tact Farmsteads	Y	The subject property remains within a primarily rural and agricultural area on Tenth Line.
Site Development Pressure	N	The subject property is zoned Agriculture and features a stream running through the middle of the lot.

Overtime, the property has been altered, with the removal of the mature trees spanning the front driveway, along with the construction of a contemporary silo. While the associated agricultural outbuildings remain on the property, none are considered rare, unique, or representative examples of late-nineteenth or early-twentieth-century barns within the modified farmscape. Some typical features of a historic farmstead are extant; however, the farmstead is not fully intact, and the property does not qualify as a significant farmscape or cultural heritage landscape.

2.4 Architectural Style and Comparative Analysis

The Gothic Revival architectural style, popular in Ontario from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, is characterized by its emphasis on verticality, intricate detailing, and references to medieval Gothic architecture. The Gothic Revival style was particularly used for ecclesiastical and residential buildings, where it conveyed a sense of grandeur and historical continuity. Several Gothic Revival farmhouses were built in Ontario around this time, reflecting the style's widespread appeal among rural and residential architecture.

According to John Blumenson's *Guide to Ontario Architecture* and A.J. Downing's *Victorian Cottage Residences*, the typical features characteristic of the Gothic Revival style, especially in farmhouse architecture, include:

- Steeply pitched gable roofs with decorative bargeboards featuring Gothic motifs such as trefoils and quatrefoils, as well as curvilinear vergeboards and intricate bargeboards;
- Pointed arch windows and doorways, often framed with intricate tracery, brick voussoirs, or hood moulds. Noteworthy examples include pointed hood moulds and depressed-arch hood moulds;
- Limestone or brick construction with contrasting stone or brick details, such as quoins, castellated cornices, or dichromatic brick patterns;
- Symmetrical façades or asymmetrical layouts with projecting gables, sometimes with finials, pinnacles, or a central gable above the main door, as seen in many Gothic Revival dwellings;
- Chimneys with decorative detailing, often located symmetrically on the roofline and close to gable ends;
- Projecting bay windows; and,
- Finials placed on gable peaks.

The property at 9476 Tenth Line is an excellent example of a late-Victorian Gothic Revival-style farmhouse, exhibiting many of the key characteristics typical of the style. Notable features include the steeply pitched cross-gable roof, the use of red brick laid in a common bond pattern with contrasting buff-brick quoins, dichromatic brickwork, and the decorative wooden bargeboards with Gothic Revival motifs on the gables.

The existing house on the subject property represents a largely faithful adaptation of blueprints published for the Gothic Revival style in publications such as *The Canada Farmer*, which similar residences in the region were based on.

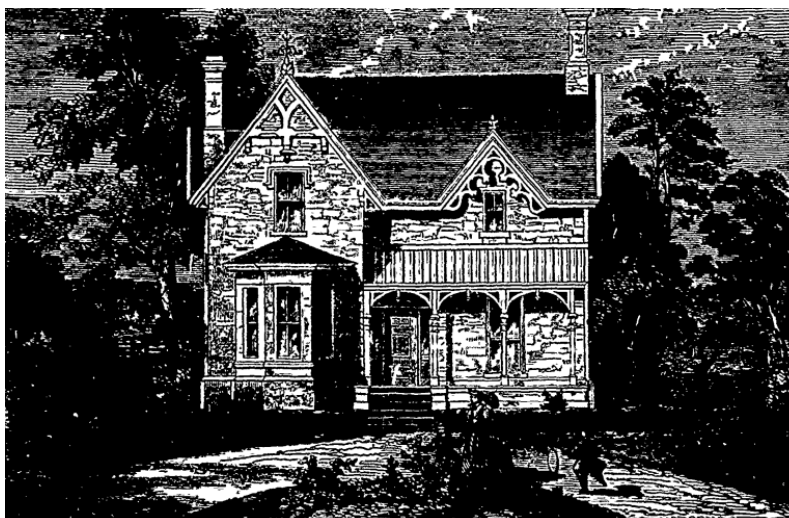


Figure 28: Plans for an L-Shaped Gothic Revival Farmhouse published in *The Canada Farmer* Vol. 1, no. 9 (May 16, 1864) p. 133.

Comparatively, there are other Gothic Revival farmhouses within Halton Hills that share similarities in form, scale, and detailing both in a town and agricultural setting with examples such as 4 Queen Street

(Georgetown), 76 Young Street (Acton), 8708 Tenth Line (Norval), and 10284 Trafalgar Road (Esquesing). While there are other nineteenth-century farmhouses along Fifth Line, the Fisher House at 9709 Fifth Line is among the only Gothic Revival Residences visible from the public right-of-way within the area.



Figure 29: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in a town setting in Halton Hills at 4 Queen Street, Georgetown (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 30: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in a town setting in Halton Hills at 67 Young Street, Acton (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 31: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in an agricultural setting in Halton Hills at 8708 Tenth Line, Norval (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 32: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in an agricultural setting in Halton Hills at 10284 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

These properties feature similar steep pitched cross-gable roofs, brick construction with contrasting stone details, elaborate wooden barge boards, L-shaped footprint, projecting bays, segmentally arched window openings, hood moulds or brick voussoirs, and sills. However, the property at 9476 Tenth Line is unique in its specific combination of features, particularly the intricate details on the wooden bargeboards, quoining, voussoirs, hood moulds, dichromatic brickwork, veranda, and the three-sided bay window with finely dressed limestone sills.

Despite minor alterations, the overall integrity of the property has been retained, making the building a representative example of the Gothic Revival architectural style

3.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist

The following evaluation checklist applies to Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the *Ontario Heritage Act*: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. The criteria are prescribed for municipal designation of Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The evaluation tables utilize an 'X' to signify applicable criteria and 'N/A' to signify criteria that are not applicable for this property.

Design or Physical Value	
Is rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method	X
Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	X
Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	N/A

The property at 9476 Tenth Line has physical and design value as a representative example of a late-nineteenth-century agricultural residence in the Gothic Revival style. The two-storey brick residential building exhibits features typical of this style, including the gable roof, dichromatic brickwork, projecting bay, decorative wooden bargeboard, segmentally arched windows, dichromatic brickwork, stone sills, and buff-brick quoining. The existing wooden bargeboard, use of dichromatic brick, and decorative brick patterns on the front elevation display a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit. While the associated agricultural outbuildings remain on the property, none are considered rare, unique, or representative examples of late-nineteenth or early-twentieth-century barns within the modified farmscape.

Historical or Associative Value	
Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community	X
Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	N/A
Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community	N/A

The property at 9476 Tenth Line holds significant historical and associative value due to its long-standing connection with the Disciples of Christ, and the Menzies and Early Families, among the earliest settlers and influential families in Esquesing. Originally granted to John Menzies in 1819, the subject property remained in the Menzies family until 1870. John and James Menzies were significant figures in early Canadian settlement and religious history. John Menzies, a Scottish immigrant, played a crucial role in establishing the Disciples of Christ movement in Esquesing Township, Ontario, building a log meeting house on the subject property that became a hub for the movement's teachings. His son, James Menzies, expanded the family's agricultural holdings and contributed to the growth of the local Disciples of Christ Church, eventually becoming its minister. Through their leadership, the Menzies family helped shape both the religious and agricultural landscape of the region.

The subject property remained under the Early family's ownership for 124 years. The Early family played a significant role in the agricultural and social development of Esquesing Township. James Early purchased the subject property in 1870, farming it alongside his sons while residing on Lot 7, Concession

10. His son, Thomas Early, acquired the subject property in 1885, constructing the existing Gothic Revival brick house and expanding farming operations with a focus on livestock.

Thomas' youngest son, Chester Early, inherited the eastern half of the subject property in 1935 and continued the family's farming legacy, maintaining one of the largest sheep flocks in Norval alongside his half-brother, Harold Early. Harold owned the western half of the subject property, and the two brothers lived and worked together until Harold's death in 1976, after which Chester took full ownership. Both men were deeply involved in the local community, contributing to the Pinegrove School and later the Pinegrove Community Centre. Chester farmed the subject property until his retirement in 1990, and following his passing in 1992, the estate was sold in 1994.

Contextual Value	
Is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area	X
Is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings	X
Is a landmark	N/A

The property at 9476 Tenth Line holds significant contextual value, being physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. As a late nineteenth-century Gothic Revival farmhouse that has remained in its original location for over 140 years, it represents a prominent architectural style that defined rural Ontario during this period. The farmhouse is directly related to the nearby Buchanan-Early House at 9356 Tenth Line, and the octagonal James Menzies House at 9343 Tenth Line. Other properties in the vicinity, such as the Switzer Farm at 8708 Tenth Line, 9529 Ninth Line, and 8519 Ninth Line, also feature nineteenth century Gothic Revival farmhouses that continue to function as agricultural residences. Collectively, these properties continue to maintain the surrounding rural landscape.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 9476 Tenth Line has physical and design, historical and associative, and contextual value and therefore meets Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

The heritage attributes of the property at 9476 Tenth Line are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building along Tenth Line;
- The deciduous windrows along Tenth Line, and the existing partially tree-lined drive extending to the existing residential building from Tenth Line;
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing c.1880s, two-storey L-shaped Gothic Revival residential building with cross-gable roof and stone foundation;
- The materials, including stone, red brick, buff brick, wooden bargeboard and detailing throughout;
- The front (northeast) elevation, including:
 - The one-storey projecting bay with a bracketed cornice and hipped roof, as well as three segmentally arched window openings with buff-brick voussoirs, hood moulds, and limestone sills;
 - Segmentally arched window opening with brick voussoirs and limestone sills;
 - Lancet-arched window opening with brick voussoirs and hood mould;
 - Decorative wooden bargeboard on gable peaks;

- Buff brick quoining;
 - Wooden spindle work on the veranda;
- The side (northwest) elevation, including:
 - Segmentally arched window openings with limestone sills, buff-brick voussoirs, and hood moulds;
 - Decorative buff brick inset pattern beneath the gable end;
 - Gable end with decorative wooden bargeboard; and,
 - Buff brick quoining.

The rear (southwest) elevation, side (southeast) elevation, accessory structures, and interiors have not been identified as heritage attributes as part of this report.

Please note, this Research and Evaluation Report reflects the most up to date findings relating to its cultural heritage value as identified by staff. This report may be updated in future to reflect future findings as required.

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Research and Evaluation Report



(Fairy Lake, c.1907 (Warwick Bro's & Rutter Ltd., Printers, Toronto Card #4282CLOT:Z007)

Prospect Park and Fairy Lake

Acton, Town of Halton Hills

April 2025

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1.0 Property Description

Prospect Park and Fairy Lake	
Municipality	Acton, Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	PT LT 177 PL 227 HALTON HILLS AS IN EW5566; AS IN EW5566; S/T 452253, 758570, 758571, H856994; HALTON HILLS; & PT LT 192, PL 1098, PART 1, 20R5820 ; LT PARCEL N, PL 603, EXCEPT PT 1, 20R9956; ALSO SHOWN ON PL 1098; S/T 767833; HALTON HILLS DELETED 02 11 99 BY J MENARD; & LTS 108 & 109, PL 227; *S/T 484413 & 300270*; HALTON HILLS; *ADDED 01 11 99 BY J MENARD
Construction Date	c.1889
Original Use	Recreation
Current Use	Recreation
Architect/Building/Designer	N/A
Architectural Style	N/A
Additions/Alterations	N/A
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Austin Foster; Laura Loney; Caylee MacPherson
Report Date	April 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of Prospect Park in Halton Hills, Ontario (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and in particular as a significant cultural heritage landscape within the Town of Halton Hills.

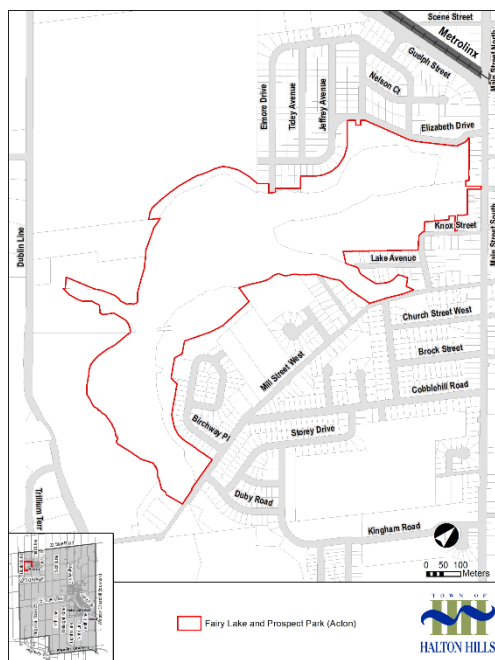


Figure 1: Location Map – Prospect Park and Fairy Lake Study Area



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – Prospect Park and Fairy Lake Study Area

2.1 Property Description

Prospect Park is an approximately 25-acre parkland complex within the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills, located southwest of Acton's Main Street (Figure 3). The park is situated on a 14-acre peninsula that extends into the approximately 69-acre Fairy Lake. Surrounding the park to the northeast, east, and southeast are late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries residential subdivisions. Prospect Park shares the peninsula with Park Avenue and Lake Avenue. Vehicular access to the property is available through a central entrance from Knox Street and Park Avenue. Pedestrians can enter through the main entrance at Knox Street and Park Avenue, as well as via footpaths from Main Street and Elizabeth Drive.



Figure 3: Subject property identified in 2023 aerial photography (Town of Halton Hills)

Prospect Park features a variety of recreational and community facilities including a half-mile graveled running track, three baseball diamonds, a tennis court, an indoor soccer arena, a swimming beach, a children's playground, a splash-pad, a boathouse, and a dock with a canoe launch. The property also features several mature deciduous trees.

Prospect Park also currently features bleachers, a covered bandstand, a covered pavilion, picnic tables, benches, and public washrooms. It also hosts several structures used for the annual Acton Fall Fair and Agricultural Society, such as the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed (previously the Acton Drill Shed), the ticket booth (the old Bandstand) and cattle rails. Several accessory/utility buildings are also present on the property.

The subject property contains several individual historic features, including the original 1926 bandstand, the entrance pillars, the Acton Drill Shed, and the Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery. Figure 4 notes the location of the key historic and present features of Prospect Park.

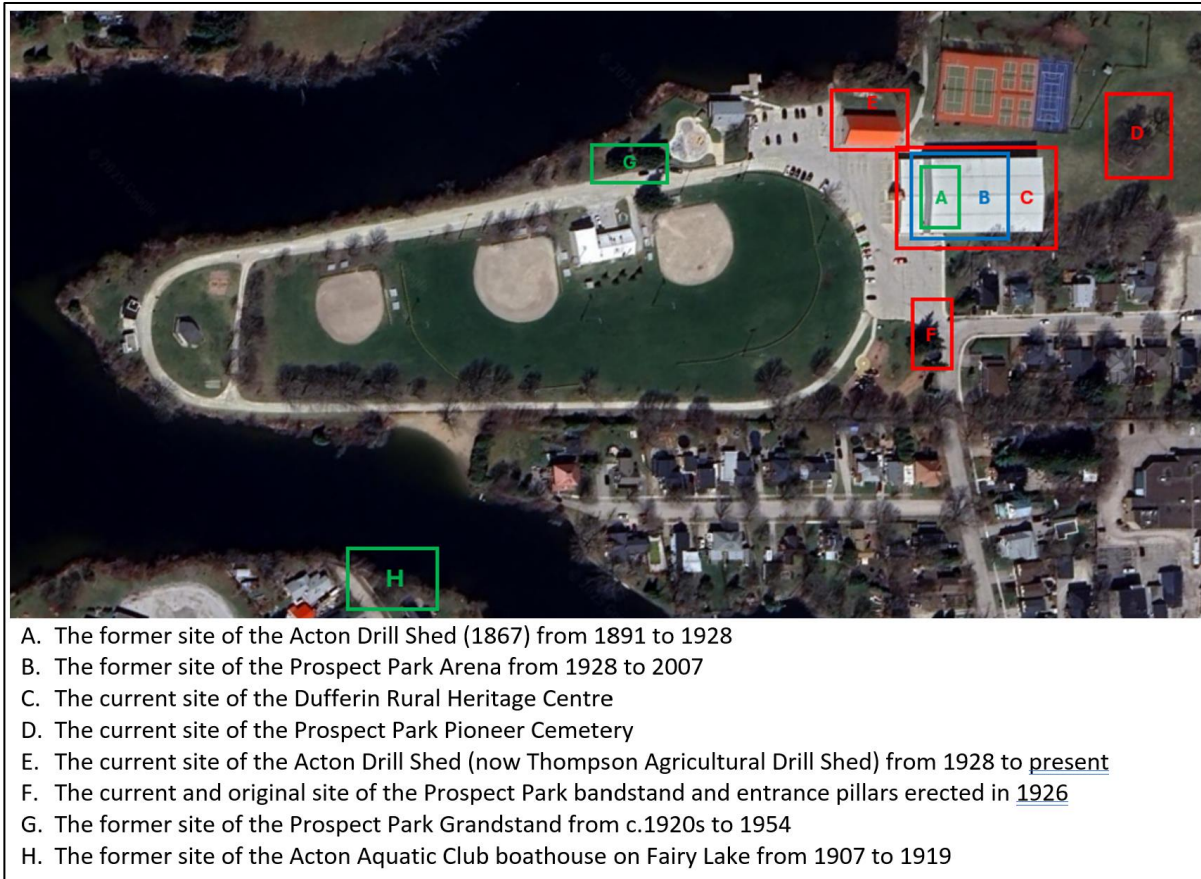


Figure 4: The current and former locations of cultural heritage features within Prospect Park

3.0 Historical Background

This section outlines the historical development of Prospect Park and its surrounding areas, examining the transformation of its landscape over time, its cultural significance to the Acton community, and the evolution of its heritage structures.

3.1 Indigenous History

The enduring history of First Nation Peoples in Halton Hills can be traced back through time immemorial before contact with Europeans in the 1600s. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Credit River was central to Indigenous ways of life, supporting settlements, fisheries, horticulture, transportation, and trade. Iroquoian-speaking peoples, ancestors of the Wendat, occupied the Credit River Valley for hundreds of years until the mid-1600s, establishing semi-permanent villages. There are numerous archaeological sites in Halton Hills dating from this period, ranging from village sites to burial grounds, which reveal a rich cultural heritage.

The Wendat were displaced by the Haudenosaunee around 1649-50 amid the conflicts that arose between European colonial powers and their First Nation allies. The Mississaugas (part of the Anishinaabe Nation) arrived in southern Ontario in the 1690s, settling in two groups along the north shore of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The western group, occupying the area between Toronto and Lake Erie, became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Until the early 19th century, the

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation followed a seasonal cycle of movement and resource harvesting along the Credit River (Missinnihe, meaning “trusting creek”), and other rivers. In the winter months, extended family groups hunted in the Halton Hills area, travelling south towards the mouth of the river in the spring for the salmon run. The Mississaugas’ fisheries and traditional economies were diminished because of increased Euro-colonial settlement, leading to a state of impoverishment and dramatic population decline.

In 1818, the British Crown negotiated the purchase of 648,000 acres of land from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, including present-day Halton Hills, under the Ajetance Treaty (No. 19), named after Chief Ajetance. This left the Mississaugas with three small reserves on the Lake Ontario shoreline. The legitimacy of early land “surrenders” to the Crown is questionable when considering the Mississaugas’ traditional understanding of property ownership. Unlike the British, the Mississaugas understood land in spiritual terms, and did not share the idea that access to land and resources could be given up permanently.

In 1986, the Mississaugas initiated a claim against the Government of Canada over the 1805 Toronto Purchase. On June 8, 2010, the parties involved reached a final compensatory agreement. It resulted in a cash payment of \$145 million to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.¹

3.2 Early European Settlement and Fairy Lake

In 1825, the area now known as Acton was settled by brothers and Methodist preachers Ezra Adams, Zenas Adams, and Rufus Adams. The Adams brothers took sabbaticals from their ministries to farm along a branch of the Credit River, and were later joined by their fourth brother, Eliphalet Adams. The land that includes the present-day Prospect Park and Fairy Lake is located within the area settled by the Adams brothers in the early-nineteenth century in the northeastern portion of Lot 28, Concession 2, Esquesing Township.

In February 1829, Silas Eames sold the eastern half of Lot 28, Concession 2, to Ezra Adams. In November 1834, Ezra Adams received the Crown patent for the western half of the same lot. By the mid-1830s, the Adams brothers had constructed a dam on Black Creek, creating a mill pond to power a sawmill and later a flour mill. This mill pond, now known as Fairy Lake, surrounds the approximately 18-acre peninsula that would later become the site of Prospect Park.

¹ This brief overview of Pre-Treaty Indigenous Territory within the land now known as Halton Hills is taken from the Town of Halton Hills’ 2023 *Cultural Heritage Strategy*. This document includes additional recommendations relating to Truth and Reconciliation in Heritage Planning as part of the Town's commitment to advancing Truth and Reconciliation.



Figure 5: Subject property identified on 1819 Patent Plan

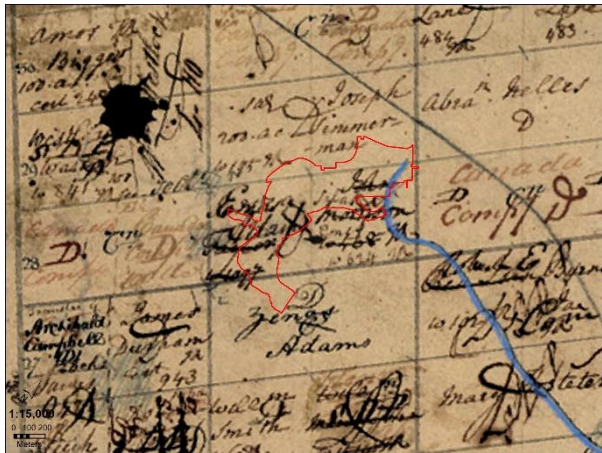


Figure 6: Subject property identified on 1822 Patent Plan

The property remained under Adams' family ownership throughout the mid-nineteenth century; Maria Adams owned the property in the 1850s, and in the 1860s, Ransom Adams retained ownership of 23 acres, encompassing the head of Mill Street and the western peninsula. On this land, he maintained an orchard, a small agricultural field, and a horse stable. While much of the land at the head of Mill Street was subdivided and sold as village lots, the peninsula remained intact until it was purchased by William Edgar Smith in 1885.

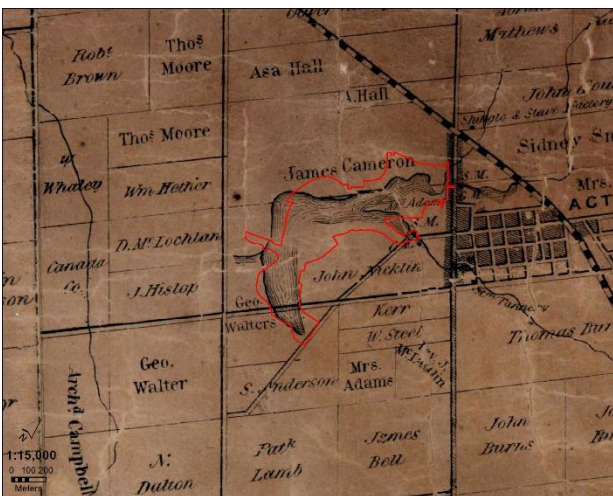


Figure 7: Subject property identified on Tremaine's 1858 Map of the County of Halton, Canada West

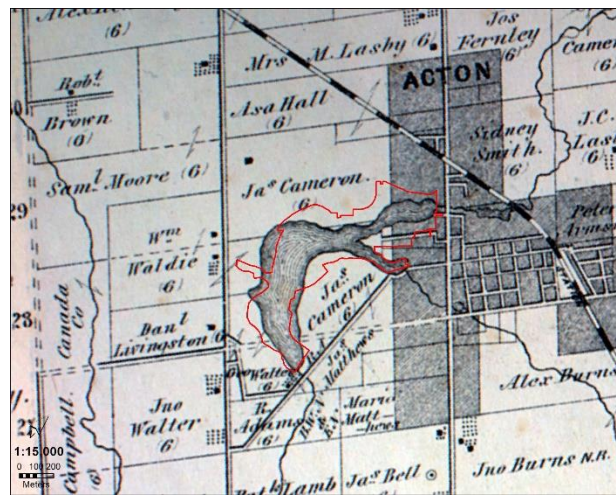


Figure 8: The prospect peninsula identified on the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton

Throughout the nineteenth century, Acton residents utilized the mill pond and its surrounding areas for various recreational activities. The lake, described by contemporaries as well-stocked with trout and bordered by cedar, birch, wild cherry, and basswood trees, became a focal point for leisure. Popular warm-weather activities included fishing, swimming, boating, and duck hunting, while winter months saw residents engaging in hockey, ice fishing, and curling. The first recorded organized curling match in Acton occurred on the Mill Pond in 1840, with early curlers clearing ice on the lake and using 'stones' carved from rock maple by John Speight and fitted with iron handles and weights by Mike Speight.

In the 1880s, notable local merchant and landowner Sarah Augusta Secord advocated for renaming the mill pond “Fairy Lake” as “such an expanse of such clear crystal spring water, with the environment of wooded hills, and cultivated farms, and pretty village homes and home surroundings [should] be honoured with a more dignified cognomen” (*Acton’s Early Days*, p. 278). This name was officially adopted in the 1890s.

3.3 Establishing Prospect Park

In August 1882, five acres of land at the head of Mill Street, owned by John McColl of Brampton, were developed into a small driving park. An editorial in the *Acton Free Press* on September 7, 1882, endorsed this initiative, proposing that if the village purchased the property from McColl, it could serve as both a public park and fairgrounds. This initiative gained public interest, however gained little traction. While McColl had initially planned to subdivide the land into building lots, local grocer A.W. Green approached McColl about personally buying the property to preserve the area for public use as a recreational space in Acton. Green subsequently purchased the property in 1885.

Around 1886, William Edgar Smith, who had purchased the western portion of the peninsula in 1885, partnered with A.W. Green to expand the driving park. Although Smith’s property had already been surveyed and subdivided into 30 village lots, separated by the proposed “Havelock Street,” Smith and Green constructed a half mile, graded and graveled track along with several public amenities spanning approximately 15 acres across their combined properties. The expanded driving park featured dedicated spaces for cricket, baseball, and lacrosse. In 1887, Smith purchased Green’s land, consolidating ownership of the peninsula.

By October 1887, Smith had surveyed two undeveloped fields southeast of the driving park, located both on the peninsula and at the head of Mill Street. Smith’s survey retained the driving park and created 20 village lots on two newly established residential streets, Park Avenue and Lake Avenue.

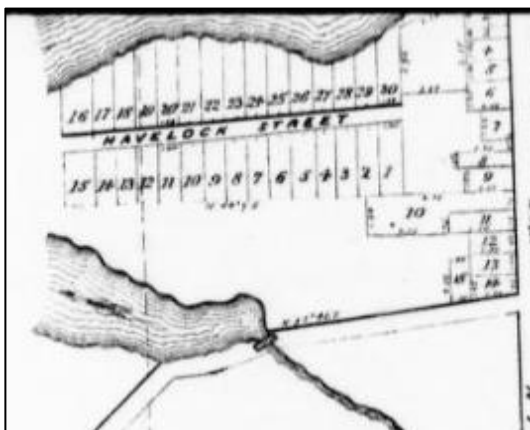


Figure 9: Plan of Acton featuring Havelock Street, from the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton*

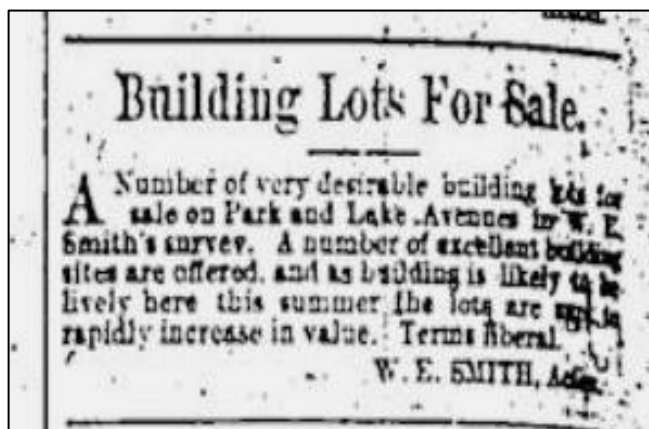


Figure 10: Advertisement for building lots in Smith's Survey, located on Lake and Park Avenues (*Acton Free Press*, April 4, 1889, p. 2)



Figure 11: Smith's Survey, including Lake Avenue and Park Avenue, identified on a c.1920 Map of Acton, with Prospect Park located to the north.

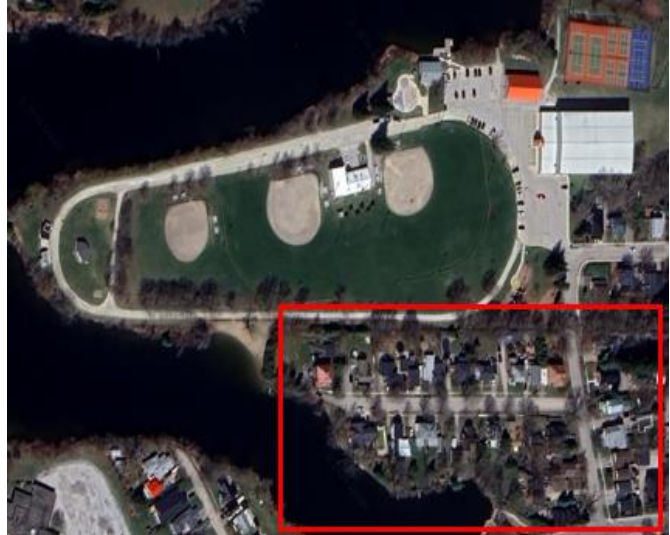


Figure 12: Smith's Survey, including Lake Avenue and Park Avenue, identified in 2023 satellite imagery (Google Earth 2023)

The potential of the undeveloped portion of the peninsula as a public park drew attention beyond Acton. In May 1885, following a visit from Toronto, H.C. Stovel published a letter in the *Acton Free Press* emphasizing the park's scenic and practical value:

I took a stroll along the west end of your Main Street and was surprised to see open up to my view a beautiful stretch of water... On either side of the land is a nice stretch of water for boating; to the south is the road running round the hill; to the north is the railroad; on the west are attractive farm scenes; and to the east is the village, a fine view of which is here obtained—the splendid town hall showing up well... With very little trouble, Mr. Editor, this could be made an exceedingly nice spot; a place that would attract many from the surrounding country. (Acton Free Press, May 21, 1885, p. 2.)

Stovel urged local leaders to consider acquiring the property for public use, noting its potential as a community asset.

In March 1887, Acton citizens advocated for the acquisition of the property in time for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Proposed names for the park included "Jubilee Park," "Coronation Park," "Victoria Park," and "Queen's Park." In July 1887, E.W. Smith relocated a barn from John Street (likely associated with his stabling and livery business) to the driving park to serve as an exhibition building. He also constructed an open-air grandstand on the property to enhance its utility for public events.

In July 1889, the Acton Ratepayers Association submitted a petition to the municipal council for the purchase of the driving park. In September 1889, By-law No. 175 authorized the village's acquisition of Smith's property for \$3,000. On December 18, 1889, the Village of Acton officially purchased 12.25 acres from Councillor William Edgar Smith, and the park was formally named Prospect Park in June 1890. That same month, By-law No. 182 was passed "to provide for the regulation of Prospect Park, hitherto known as the Acton Driving Park", which established maintenance standards for the park and prohibited activities such as bathing, swimming, and boating on Sundays.

Throughout the 1890s, the west end of the park doubled as pastureland. In 1890, a tender of \$26.50 for the use of the park during the summer seasons for grazing purposes was accepted by the Village Council. Following this precedent, tenders for grazing were accepted annually for the next decade. In February 1890, the park became the official home of the Acton Union Agricultural Society, which rented the grounds for \$30 annually. In its early years, agricultural exhibitions were held in large canvas tents, leading to calls for a permanent exhibition barn.

In July 1890, Prospect Park sustained extensive damage during a tornado. The storm destroyed Smith's original grandstand and exhibition building, and much of the debris was stolen. However, throughout the early-twentieth century, the park saw numerous improvements. In October 1912, the council committed to developing a children's playground, planting shade trees along new pathways, and constructing a new grandstand. In 1913, Prospect Park became the home of Acton's fall fair. Over the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the park remained a vital community space and grew with additional land acquisitions and the introduction of several new amenities.



Figure 13: A 1907 postcard depicting Fairy Lake, printed by Warwick Bros. & Rutter Ltd. (Warmick Bros & Rutter Ltd.)

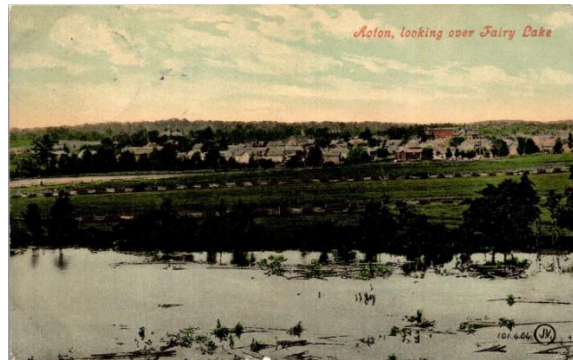


Figure 14: A depiction of the driving track in Prospect Park, looking south over Fairy Lake; the Lake Avenue neighborhood is visible in the background. (The Valentine & Sons United Publishing Co., Ltd)



Figure 15: Fishing on Fairy Lake, 1897. (Acton Free Press, June 26, 1974).



Figure 16: Looking east across Fairy Lake, c.1899 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

3.4 The Acton Fairgrounds

As of 1846, the area's annual Fall Fair, known as the "Esquesing Fair," alternated annually between Acton and Georgetown; local merchant John Holgate mentions one of the earliest instances of the fair being held in Acton in a diary entry from November 1848. Over time, the Fair underwent several changes, adopting different names while continuing its rotational schedule. From 1889 to 1891, the event was known as the "Acton Union Fair" and held for two days in September. In 1892, it became the "Acton Horticultural & Agricultural Exhibition" held in the newly established Prospect Park.

By 1908, the event was again known as the "Esquesing Fall Fair" and was advertised as "Open to the World - Esquesing Fall Fair at Acton." Admission prices were set at 25¢ for adults and 10¢ for children. The following year, Acton boasted 459 entries in horse events alone.

In January 1912, the Township Society voted to end the alternating arrangement and hold the annual Fair exclusively in Georgetown. However, in the spring of 1913, Acton residents rallied to restore the Fair to their town; a public meeting drew widespread support, and a committee was formed to canvas for funds. The effort proved successful, enabling the revival of the "Acton Fall Fair," complete with an impressive prize pool for competitions.

In 1913, Prospect Park became the permanent home of Acton's fairgrounds, hosting the annual Acton Fall Fair for the next century. Advertised as "Acton Fall Fair - Open to the World," the Fair took place over two days between September 23 and 24, 1913. Approximately 200 people viewed the exhibits, and \$21 was collected at the gate. The following year, in 1914, attendance at the Acton Fall Fair nearly doubled from the previous year and the Fair received its first government grant of \$300; by 1975, the Acton Fall Fair attracted over 10,000 attendees.

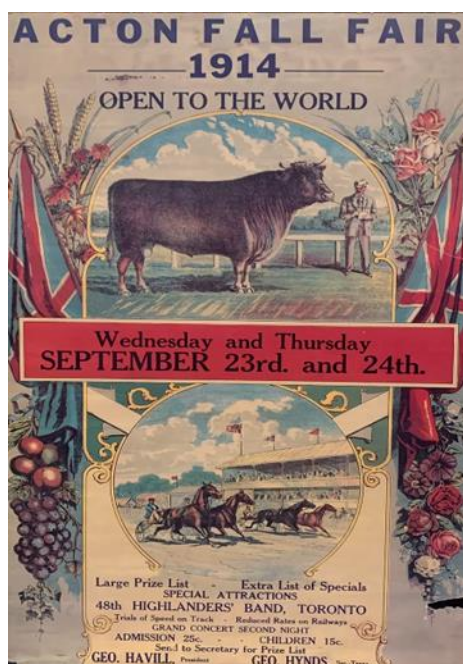


Figure 17: Advertisement for the 1914 Acton Fall Fair (Acton Agricultural Society)

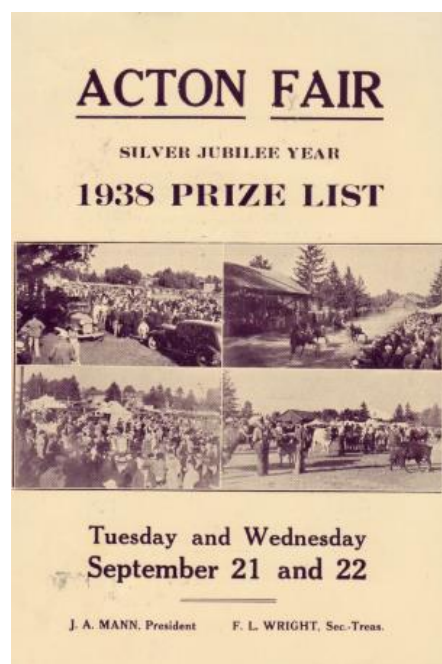


Figure 18: Prize list banner for the 1938 Acton Fair (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 19: A photograph of the Acton Fall Fair in 1930 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 20: Acton Fall Fair c.1952 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 21: Acton Fall Fair c.1952 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 22: Acton Fall Fair 1977 (EHS 14126)



Figure 23: Best Beef Herd Award at Acton Fall Fair 1977 (EHS 14113)

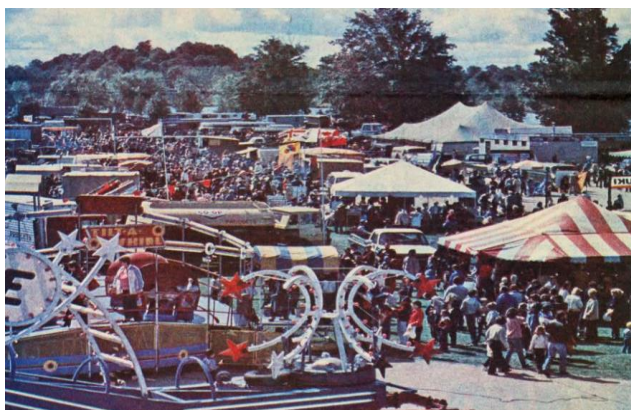


Figure 24: The Acton Fall Fair in 1982 (Dills Collection Via Vintage Acton)



Figure 25: Cattle rails at Prospect Park used for the Acton Fall Fair (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 26: A 1975 photograph of children playing with the old cattle trough. The village horse trough, originally situated at the Mill-Main corner, was relocated to the fairgrounds to serve cattle during the Fall Fair. It was later transformed into a water fountain (Acton Free Press, August 1975)



Figure 27: The base of an old cattle trough in the Acton Fair Grounds at Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

3.5 The Acton Drill Shed



Figure 28: The current location of the Acton Drill Shed in Prospect Park identified in red; the former approximate location of the Acton Drill Shed identified in green (Google Earth 2023)

The Acton Drill Shed, constructed in 1867 at the corner of Bower Avenue and Elgin Street, was built by the federal government to serve as the headquarters for Company No. 6 of the Halton Volunteers, a local militia unit organized to defend Canada against potential Fenian invasions. Although professional framers and contractors oversaw the construction, local militia members and Acton residents contributed significantly to the labour, particularly in grading and leveling the ground and raising the 10x14-inch timbers and rafters. The building, measuring 60 by 100 feet, was the largest structure in Acton at the time. Framed from locally sourced pine, it was used for various purposes beyond its military function, including public events such as band concerts, political gatherings, dances, and other community activities. Following a fire on Main Street in the 1880s, the shed also provided temporary shelter for displaced Acton residents.

By 1890, discussions began regarding the relocation of the Drill Shed to the new fairgrounds in Prospect Park to provide better space for outdoor parades and militia drills. After seeking permission from the federal government, the relocation was approved in April 1891 at the cost of \$150 and was expedited with the help of Alexander Secord, who purchased the Bower Street property and began plans for a brick residence, *Villanore*, on the former Drill Shed site. Work began in May 1891, and the relocation required the removal of eight large oak and maple trees along Bower Street.

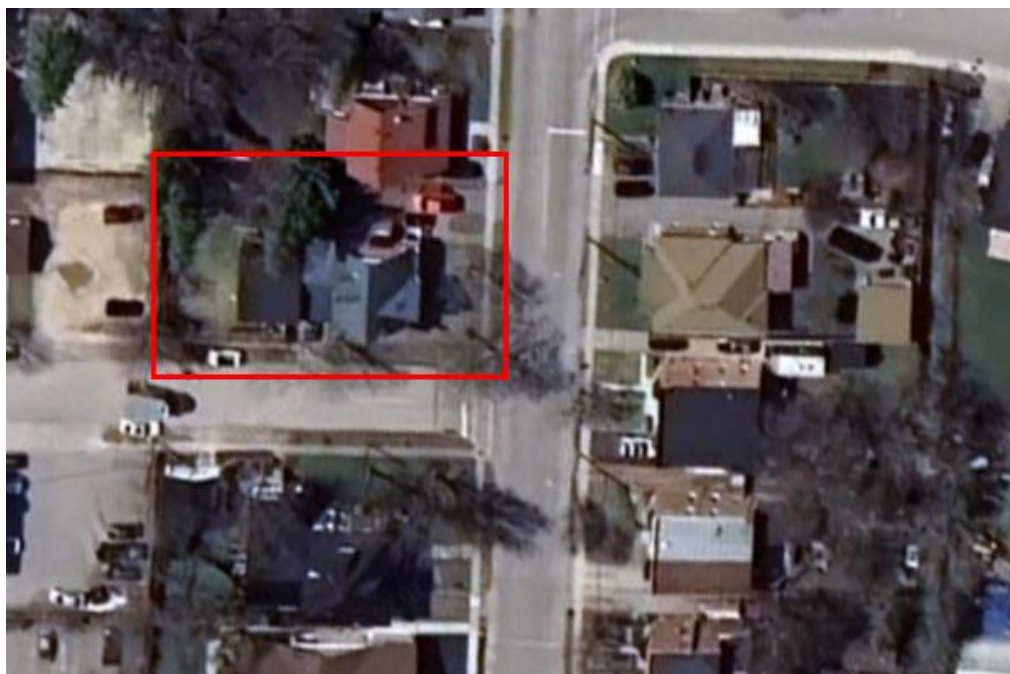


Figure 29: The former location of the Acton Drill Shed at the contemporary address of 68 Bower Street (Google Earth 2023)

By the fall of 1891, the Drill Shed had been successfully relocated to Prospect Park, under the supervision of Sir William Dillon Otter. The Drill Shed continued to serve the community for public events in its new location for nearly 40 years. In 1905, the building was electrified, and a removable stage was added. During WWI, it was repurposed as a training base for recruits of the Peel, Dufferin, and Halton Rifles, playing a key role in the war effort by housing and preparing soldiers for deployment.



Figure 30: 1914: Recruits for the Lorne Rifles pictured beside the Drill Shed in Prospect Park (EHS 11341)



Figure 31: Beardmore & Co. employees at the 1925 company picnic, with the drill shed visible in the background. (EHS 11651)

In 1919, proposals emerged to transform the Drill Shed into a feature of a memorial garden. These plans included the creation of gardens southeast of the building, with a paved park entrance flanked by granite pillars inscribed with the names of Acton's fallen soldiers. However, the idea was abandoned in favour of the modern cenotaph that now stands on Mill Street.

During the interwar period, the Acton Agricultural Society continued to use the Drill Shed for poultry displays and as additional storage for the annual Acton Fall Fair. The building remained a vital space, serving both military and civilian purposes. In 1929, the construction of the Arena necessitated the relocation of the Drill Shed to its current site. That April, J. M. McDonald informed the Council that Military District No. 1 required two rooms, totaling 800 square feet, within the new rink building for military purposes. In exchange, the Department of National Defense agreed to sell the Drill Shed and its site to the municipality. By July 1929, with a contribution from the Acton Fall Fair Board for \$300, the municipality had purchased the Drill Shed from the federal government.

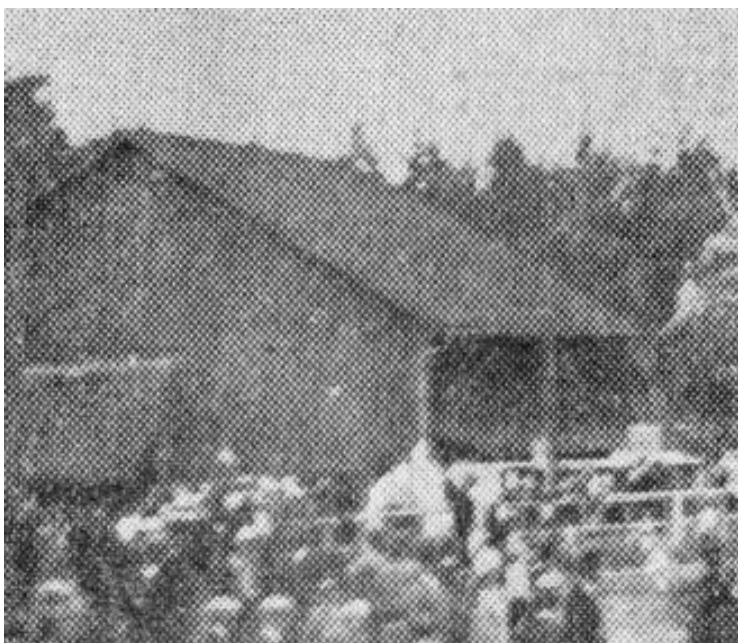


Figure 32: The Acton Drill Shed photographed in the background of fair festivities in 1930 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

During WWII, the Drill Shed and arena were used as storage facilities. In 1943, Council allocated \$200 for repairs including roof restoration and the replacement of damaged boards. After the war, the Drill Shed once again became a community and agricultural hub, housing poultry exhibits and providing storage for the Acton Agricultural Society.

In 2016, the Drill Shed underwent extensive renovations, funded by a Trillium Grant and a donation from the estate of Bill and Eleanor Thompson, lifelong members of the Acton Agricultural Society. The upgrades included modern fire-escape doors, an enlarged main entrance to accommodate large vehicles, and a new community room for public use. While the building's exterior now features aluminum siding and the roof, foundation, and floors have been replaced, the interior has remained largely unchanged. Today, it serves as the headquarters and storage facility for the Acton Agricultural Society.



Figure 33: West Elevation of the Acton Agricultural Drill Shed (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 34: South Elevation of the Acton Agricultural Drill Shed (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 35: The "Thompson Drill Shed" sign on the Acton Agricultural Drill Shed (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

3.6 The Prospect Park Arena



Figure 36: The location of the former arena in Prospect Park identified in red (Google Earth 2023)

In January 1927, the Acton Citizens Rink Committee initiated a proposal to construct a covered skating rink in Prospect Park. The committee conducted research on similar towns that had recently built their own covered rinks, including Fergus, Elora, Winchester, and Wiarton. The proposal gained momentum, partly fueled by a growing hockey rivalry with Georgetown and negative comments published in the *Georgetown Herald*, which referred to Acton as “a village too dead to build themselves a first-class rink” (*Acton Free Press*, February 9, 1928, p. 4). The editor of the *Acton Free Press* published articles that highlighted the moral, economic, and communal benefits of constructing a covered rink while countering Georgetown’s criticism by questioning its hockey prowess, noting that Georgetown had to rely on players from Acton to win their games. The editor also insulted the quality of Georgetown’s tanneries and questioned their civic pride and snobbery, among many other insults.

By January 1928, detailed plans for the arena were displayed in the windows of the *Acton Free Press* building to engage public interest and support. In April 1928, the proposal and supportive petition signed by 240 Acton citizens was presented to the Acton Council and Chamber of Commerce. On May 7, 1928, the Council voted in favor of the project, agreeing to provide \$15,000 to fund construction. The rink by-law was passed on June 5, 1928. Beardmore & Co. committed to covering up to \$200 annually for ten years if net revenue fell below \$1,000, while many Acton property owners agreed to contribute \$5 annually. The municipality also committed \$1,200 per year for 20 years to help repay construction costs.

By March 1929, the Council appointed a rink committee and finalized plans for a steel-framed building with a steel roof and siding. The ice surface measured 70 x 175 feet, designed for hockey, skating, and seating for up to 1,500 spectators. The design also included space for two or three standard curling rinks. Detailed plans, including provisions for military barracks, were submitted to military and government officials in June for approval, which was granted in August. Construction began in September 1929, requiring the relocation of the Drill Shed several meters west to make room for the new rink.



Figure 37: Construction of Acton Arena 1929 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

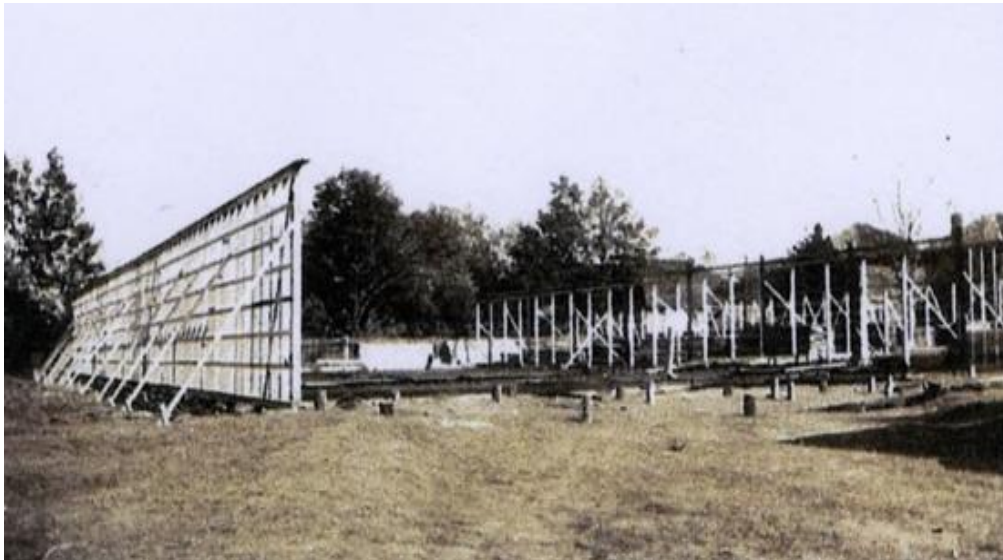


Figure 38: Construction of Acton Arena in 1929 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

The grand opening of the arena took place on December 25, 1929; that same month, Acton's Curling Club was officially established. Over the years, the arena has hosted hockey games, skating, lacrosse matches, and exhibits during the Acton Fall Fair.



Figure 39: Acton Arena, c.1930(Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 40: The 1934 Fire Insurance Plan of Acton identifies the (1) Grand Stand and Booth; (2) Drill Hall and Exhibition Building; (3) Skating Rink with attached curling rink; (4) Race Track; (5) Band Stand and Ticket Office; and (6) Judge's Booth.

Concerned that the arena might become an “eyesore” during the summer months, Beardmore & Co. funded the planting of large flower beds and oak trees around the facility in the spring of 1930. The Town also designated the arena for use as a civic centre during the offseason. For the following three

decades, the arena remained central to Acton's community life. During WWII, the arena was used to store supplies and wool.

On March 20, 1960, a heavy snowfall caused the roof over the curling rink section to collapse. In response, the community rallied to raise \$66,000 to repair the damage and construct a new community centre at the front of the arena.



Figure 41: A 1960 photograph of the Acton Arena's collapsed roof (Acton Free Press on March 24, 1960).

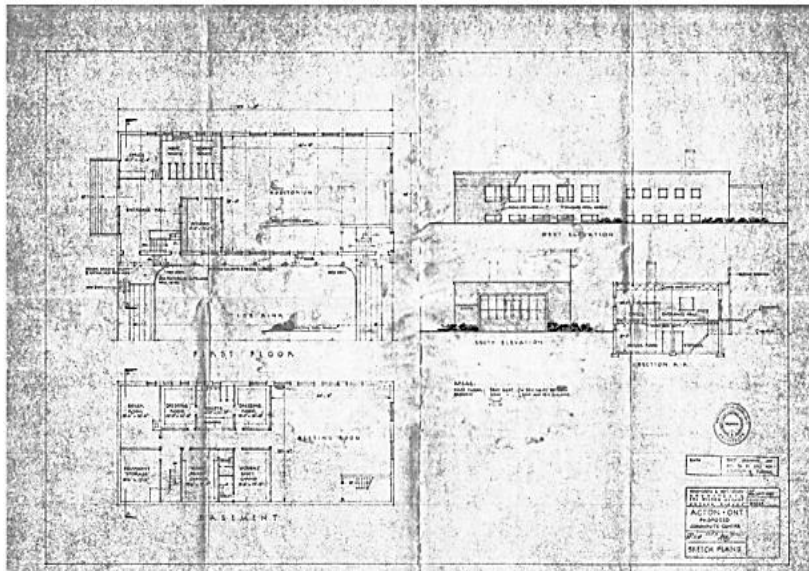


Figure 42: Architectural drawing plans for the Community Centre, 1961 (Dills, A Story of Community Development, 1962)



Figure 43: Conceptual sketch of the Community Centre at the Acton Arena in Prospect Park, 1961 (Dills, A Story of Community Development, 1962)



Figure 44: The Prospect Park Arena in 1994 (Halton Hills Today 2022)

By the 1990s, the aging arena prompted discussions about building a modern replacement. After much deliberation, the Town of Halton Hills approved the construction of a new \$5.1-million arena on Queen Street East. The new arena opened on February 1, 1998, offering modernized facilities. While the new arena became the primary recreational facility, the old Prospect Park Arena remained unused for several years. In 2007, the site was repurposed with the construction of the Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre, a facility designed for indoor soccer and hosting the Acton Agricultural Society's Fall Fair Homecrafts exhibits.



Figure 45: The Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre in Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 46: The Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre in Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

3.7 The Fairy Lake Boathouses



Figure 47: The location of the modern boathouse (1983) on Fairy Lake identified in red; the approximate location of the c.1907 boathouse on Fairy Lake identified in green (Google Earth 2023)

The first boathouse on Fairy Lake was constructed in the summer of 1907 under the direction of Alfred Owen Beardmore Jr. when he, with a group of his contemporaries, established a boating club to promote aquatic recreation in Acton. The original structure was located on the south side of the dam near Cameron Street within the high-water mark of the lake. Measuring 25 by 48 feet, the timber-framed building was designed to support both boating activities and social gatherings. The first floor of the boathouse had space for ten boats, as well as a bathing house and a meeting room. The upper portion of the structure had a flat roof with a railing and canopy. A 12-foot-wide verandah extended over the water, enhancing both the aesthetic and practical appeal of the building. The boating club also invested in ten new boats for its members following the facility's construction.

The Fairy Lake Club and Boathouse was formally opened in January 1909 and served as a recreational hub for Acton residents for the next decade. It provided a venue for boating and leisure activities, allowing locals to enjoy the natural beauty of the lake. However, by the summer of 1919, the original boathouse was torn down, following which the club's boats were temporarily stored in a shed at Prospect Park.



Figure 48: A c.1910 depiction of the Cameron Street Boathouse on Fairy Lake. Postcard by Stedman Bros. (ATB 2399)



Figure 49: Fairy Lake, c.1912- (John Lane Archives of Ontario, CA ON00009 C 127)



Figure 50: Two sets of rowers pictured on the water in front of The Clubhouse of the Acton Athletic Association on Fairy Lake, c.1910 (EHS 00386)



Figure 51: The Clubhouse of the Acton Athletic Association on Fairy Lake, c.1910 (EHS 11360)



Figure 52: Postcard featuring Acton Aquatic Club, c.1890s (A.T. Brown via Vintage Acton)

In 1983, a modern boathouse was constructed on the northern shore of the peninsula near the site of the former grandstand and to the west of the Drill Shed. A boardwalk and dock were also built to accommodate boating, fishing, and canoeing. This facility continues to serve the community, preserving the tradition of recreational boating on Fairy Lake.



Figure 53: Prospect Park Boat House (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 54: Prospect Park Boat House (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

In 2015, citizens raised concerns about the deteriorating condition and accessibility of the docks at Prospect Park. Between 2015 and 2018, the Town initiated a series of upgrades, including the construction of a new dock and the installation of a wheelchair-accessible ramp to the shoreline. The improvements replaced the broken boardwalk, uneven asphalt, and stairs with a dock extending further into the water, accommodating at least ten small boats. Retaining walls, gardens, and public viewing areas were added to enhance the space's aesthetic and functionality.

3.8 The Bandstand and Entrance Pillars



Figure 55: The location of the c.1926 Prospect Park bandstand and entrance pillars identified in red (Google Earth 2023)

In 1924, Prospect Park was the primary venue for Acton's 50th Anniversary celebrations, during which \$1,185 was raised to enhance the park's infrastructure and services. In July 1926, the Town's Park Improvement Committee, led by Chairperson C.E. Parker, unveiled a comprehensive plan for upgrading the park's facilities. The proposed improvements included extending Park Avenue into the park, connecting it to Knox Avenue via a semi-circular roadway flanked by cement walkways. To make this extension possible, a triangular parcel of land was acquired from Crewsdon McLaughlin, the adjacent property owner on the south side of Knox Avenue, facilitating a seamless connection to the park.

The Park Improvement Committee also planned the construction of ticket offices to serve as both the park's Operational Secretary's office and a venue for event admissions. Ornamental wire fencing was proposed to enclose the park, with shrubbery and ornamental trees planted along its boundaries. At the entrances, granite and concrete pillars with iron gates and gas lamps would create a formal entryway. The bandstand was a central feature of the committee's vision, designed to double as a ticket booth for events like the Acton Fall Fair. It was to be situated on a covered platform above the ticket offices, allowing it to serve multiple functions.

By the first week of September 1926, the contract for constructing the bandstand, ticket office, and secretary's office was awarded to prominent local builder J.B. Mackenzie for a total of \$740. Construction began immediately, with the goal of completing the projects before the Acton Fall Fair on September 21st and 22nd, 1926.

The octagonal bandstand was designed as vernacular structure with Swiss Fachwerk Revival and Gothic Revival influences. The raised, two-tiered structure features a lower enclosed base with decorative half-timbered framing. The upper open-air platform, supported by slender wooden posts with ornamental brackets, is encircled by a simple balustrade. The structure was capped by a steeply pitched, overhanging octagonal roof with a large flagpole extending from the peak.

By September 18, 1926, local stonemason Walter Lamb completed the installation of the three granite pillars at the park's entrance. The bandstand was ready for use during the Fall Fair, serving both as a functional ticket booth and a venue for entertainment.

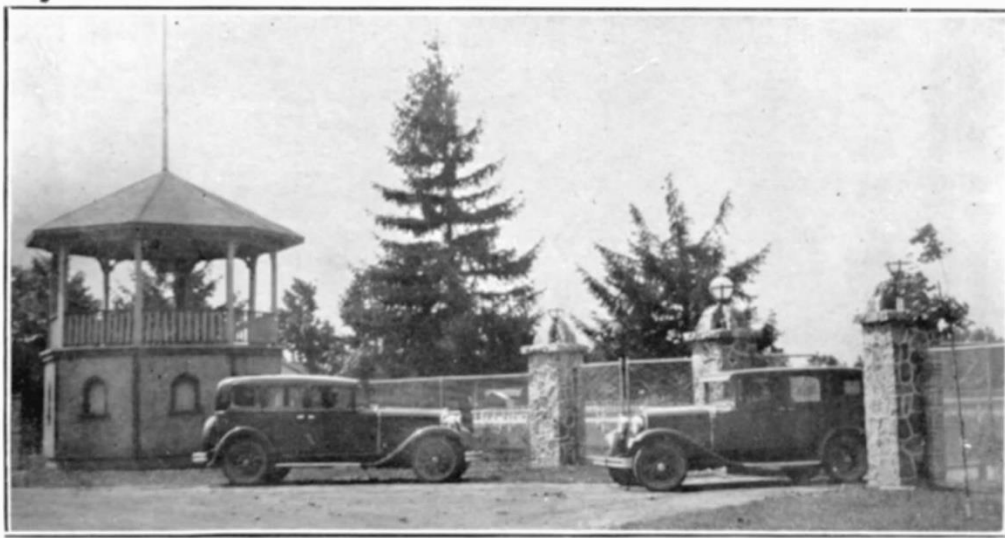


Figure 56: The Band Stand and gates at Prospect Park, c.1939(*Acton's Early Days*, p. 278)

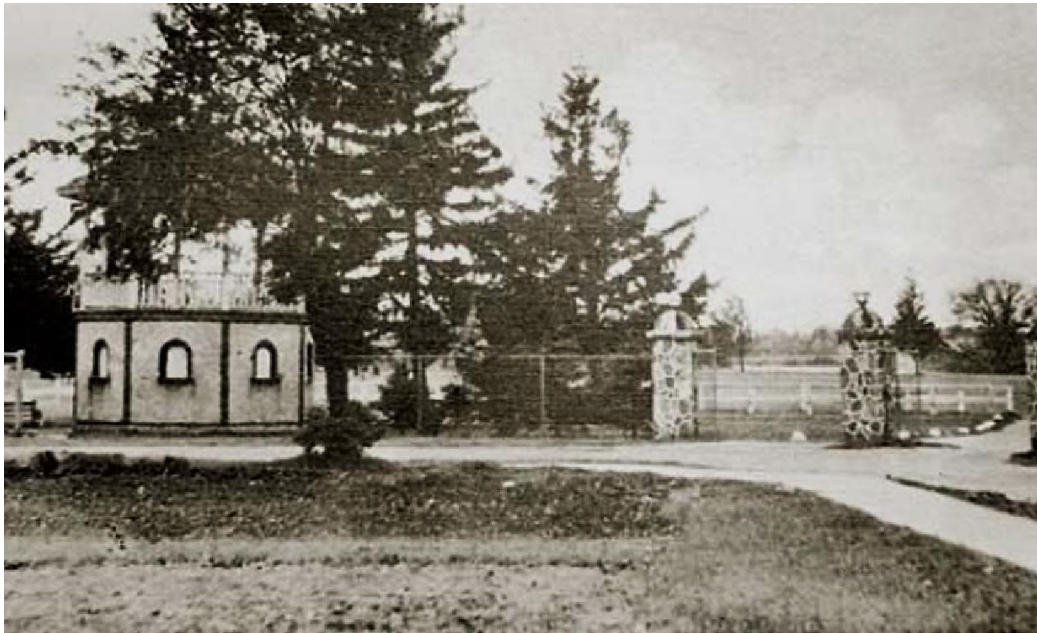


Figure 57: The Old Bandstand and Stone Pillars c.1935 (EHS 11325)



Figure 58: The entrance to Prospect Park's formal gates, built for Acton's 50th anniversary in 1926, c.1935. Note the gas lamps mounted atop the pillars (EHS 11371)



Figure 59: Prospect Park's formal entrance, c.1950s. The iron gates had been replaced by chain-link at the time of the photograph (Dills collection Via Vintage Acton)



Figure 60: North pillar at the entrance to Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

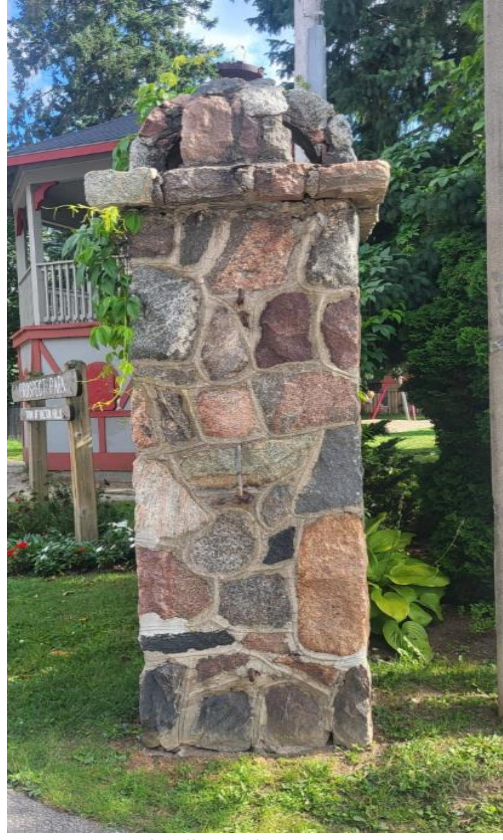


Figure 61: South pillar at the entrance to Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 62: North and south Pillars at the entrance to Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

While the centre pillar was removed in 1957 to accommodate increased car traffic, the north and south pillars and bandstand remain in situ. The nearly century-old bandstand continues to function as the ticket booth for the Acton Fall Fair.



Figure 63: The east elevation of the Old Band Stand at the gates of Prospect Park in 2024 (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 64: The west elevation of the Old Band Stand at the gates of Prospect Park in 2024 (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

In 2006, a new covered bandstand was constructed on the western point of Prospect Park. Built on a concrete slab for \$90,000, the project was funded in part through a \$30,000 loan from the Town of Halton Hills as well as donations of cash, materials, and labour from the community.



Figure 65: The Prospect Park band stand constructed in 2006 (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

3.9 The Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery



Figure 66: The Acton Pioneer Cemetery in Prospect Park identified in red (Google Earth 2023)

In 1843, a portion of Lot 28, Concession 2, Esquesing Township was purchased from the Adams family for the construction of a Scottish Presbyterian Church. Five years later, in 1848, a lot located at the rear of the church was designated for use as a graveyard. This site became the final resting place for several members of the Adams family, whose graves were in the northeast corner of the property. Another 1/3 of an acre was purchased in 1873 to meet the growing needs of the community, however, the village's rapid growth quickly outpaced space in the burial ground.

In 1877, a local resident, Mr. Christie, proposed urgent action to address the dilapidated state of the existing burial ground and the public health risks associated with its location. In response to these concerns, By-Law No. 76 was passed by the Acton Council in December 1876, authorizing the raising of \$950 through a loan to purchase land for a public cemetery. The new burial land was acquired from William Steele on Lot 27, Concession 2.

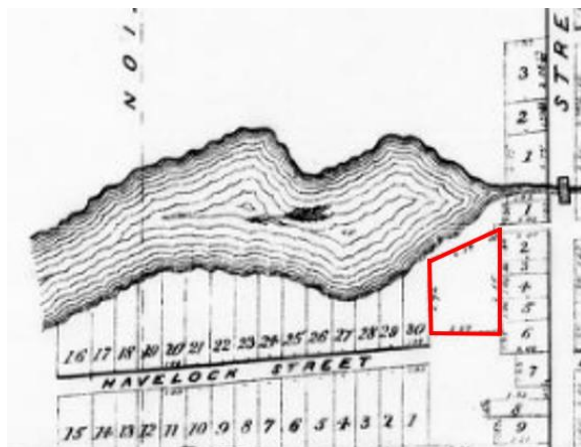


Figure 67: Boundaries of the Pioneer Cemetery identified on the 1877 Acton Village Plan.



Figure 68: Land purchased for new Fairview cemetery identified on the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton

Preparation for the cemetery began in 1884, and the newly established Fairview Cemetery opened in 1886, providing a larger and more suitably located burial ground. Families were encouraged to secure plots in the new cemetery in July of the same year, with many opting to relocate their loved ones from the Knox Street cemetery to Fairview. The Knox Street burial ground was formally closed following the establishment of Fairview Cemetery.



Figure 69: 1919: Prospect Pioneer Cemetery behind Knox Presbyterian Church (EHS 00062)



Figure 70: Photo showing the Pioneer cemetery and the Acton Shingle factory taken from Brown's windmill. C.1899 (EHS 00070)



Figure 71: Toppled and overgrown grave markers at Prospect Pioneer cemetery, C.1933 (EHS 27822)



Figure 72: A view of the overgrown pioneer cemetery, taken from the roof of the Arena, C.1933 (EHS 27820)

By the early twentieth century, the condition of the pioneer cemetery had deteriorated considerably. In 1933, the remaining headstones from the Knox Street site were collected and incorporated into a commemorative cairn to honour the early settlers buried there. To protect the historical integrity of the site, an entrance off Knox Street was secured, and the land was formally deeded to the Town of Acton. A fence was subsequently erected around the property to delineate its boundaries, and the cemetery was deeded to the Town in 1935.



Figure 73: A horse helps the work party with clearing the overgrown pioneer cemetery, c.1933 (EHS 27823)



Figure 74: A worker watches as weeds burn in the overgrown pioneer cemetery (EHS 27825)



Figure 75: The cleared field beside pioneer cemetery, backing on houses on Park Avenue, c.1933 (EHS 27826)



Figure 76: The seven men who cleared the overgrown pioneer cemetery (EHS 27831)



Figure 77: Prospect Pioneer Cemetery Graves gathered into Cairn, c.1934 (EHS 11366)



Figure 78: The nearly completed cairn containing all the stones and monuments in the pioneer cemetery, c.1934 (EHS 27830)



Figure 79: Dedication of Acton Pioneer Cemetery, c.1934 (EHS 11309)

In 1971, a restoration and beautification project were undertaken at the pioneer cemetery, including replacing the original fencing, planting flowerbeds and shrubbery, and cleaning graves. Much of this work was undertaken by students from Robert Little School. That same year, maintenance for the cemetery was assumed by the staff of the Arena.

Today, the cemetery is situated in a quiet section of the park, east of the tennis courts and dog park, north of the soccer arena, and south of a creek that flows into Fairy Lake. It is surrounded by mature trees and enclosed by a chain-link fence.



Figure 80: Acton Pioneer Cemetery Cairn in Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 81: The grave of Eliphalet Adams, one of Acton's founders, in the Prospect Pioneer Cemetery (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 82: The grave of Zenas Adams, one of Acton's founders, in the Prospect Pioneer Cemetery (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

3.10 Prospect Park From 1950 to 1999

By the mid-twentieth century, Prospect Park had become the heart of communal and recreational life in Acton. Since its establishment in 1889, the Park had hosted many of Acton's community events, including Beardmore and Co.'s annual company picnic, fairs, sporting events, family outings, and holiday celebrations. In the 1920s, the rise of automobile travel briefly transformed the Park into a regional tourist destination. Camping grounds were established for motorists, attracting visitors from across the province. In 1925, the Acton Motoring Camp on Fairy Lake was featured in an Ontario Government Tourist Booklet as a recommended stop for travelers. However, following WWII, the Park was used more by locals than tourists, and the *Acton Free Press* noted that it had fallen behind other municipalities in amenities.

By the mid-1950s, Acton's council aimed to elevate the Park once again, striving to restore its regional significance. In June 1950, Prospect Park hosted a gathering of approximately 1,000 citizens to celebrate Acton's official incorporation as a town. The grandstand, however, was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1954, with its materials sold for scrap the following year. Additionally, a wading pool was built within the park in 1954, further enhancing its recreational offerings for families and children.



Figure 83: The Bandstand in 1953 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 84: A group photo of attendees at the Beardmore Employee Picnic at Prospect Park, June 27, 1925 (EHS 11652)



Figure 85: Panoramic group photo of attendees at the Beardmore Employee Picnic at Prospect Park dated June 27, 1925 (EHS 11651)



Figure 86: Employees of Beardmore and Company gather for a group photograph at the 1943 company picnic in Prospect Park (EHS 04571)



Figure 87: Horse racing at prospect 1947 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 88: Horse racing at prospect 1947 (Dill's Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 89: Dominion Day Fair at Prospect Park in 1948 (Dill's Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 90: Community celebration at Prospect Park Grandstand 1950 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

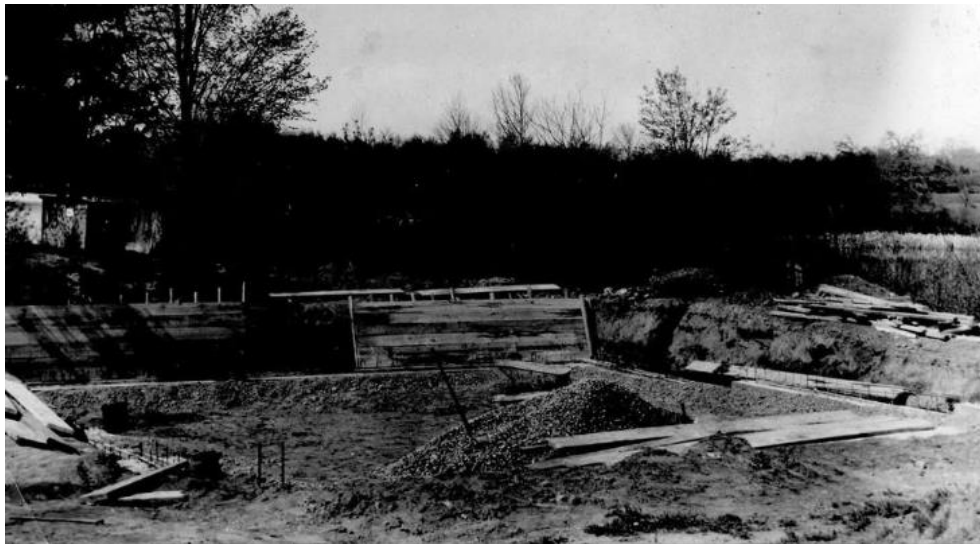


Figure 91: Construction of swimming pool at Prospect Park on May 14th, 1953 (Dills Collection Via Vintage Acton)

The Acton Board of Parks Management was established in May 1956 and included Mayor Tyler, A. Irwin, Clarence Rognvaldson, R. R. Parker, H. M. Coxe, G. Barbeau (Chair), and Mrs. G. Fryer as its inaugural members. Between 1956 and 1966, the Board initiated a series of ambitious projects designed to transform Prospect Park into a regional tourist destination. These initiatives included planting gardens, constructing dressing rooms and changing stations, developing beach areas, installing boundary-line fencing, renovating, and maintaining the wading pool, clearing Fairy Lake, creating new baseball diamonds equipped with floodlights, and comprehensive park beautification efforts. In 1957, Fairy Lake was stocked with 5,000 bass, and an additional 121 pike were introduced in 1965 as part of efforts to enhance the lake's ecosystem and recreational appeal.

In June 1964, the park's perimeter was enclosed with a chain-link fence at a cost of \$4,000, further delineating its boundaries and enhancing security for the annual fair. In 1966, parking fees for Acton residents were abolished, removing the \$1 passes previously required for locals and ensuring free access to the park for the community.

In 1969, a triangular parcel of land adjoining Fairy Lake at the end of Elmore Drive was officially annexed into Prospect Park. Efforts to preserve and expand the park continued in 1970 with the dredging of Fairy Lake. This project reclaimed significant portions of land along the lake's shoreline and at the western tip of the peninsula, enhancing the park's usability. The Town of Acton, and later Halton Hills, paid annual rent to Beardmore & Co. for the use of 3.5 acres of land within the park. However, a survey conducted in 1983 revealed that only 1.7 acres of the leased land were being utilized for park purposes, leading to an adjustment of the rental agreement to reflect actual usage.

In 1975, Halton Hills Council pursued the acquisition of land near Fairy Lake to further expand the park. The targeted area, located adjacent to the northeastern section of Fairy Lake and west of Main Street, was originally designated for residential development, with plans for 12 single-family lots, four semi-detached lots, and a commercial block. However, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority raised concerns about the environmental risks of residential use, citing issues such as habitat endangerment and frequent flooding. Town Planner Bob White emphasized the land's potential to significantly enhance the recreational amenities of Fairy Lake. The acquisition was viewed as a critical step toward preserving the area's natural features and expanding its community use.

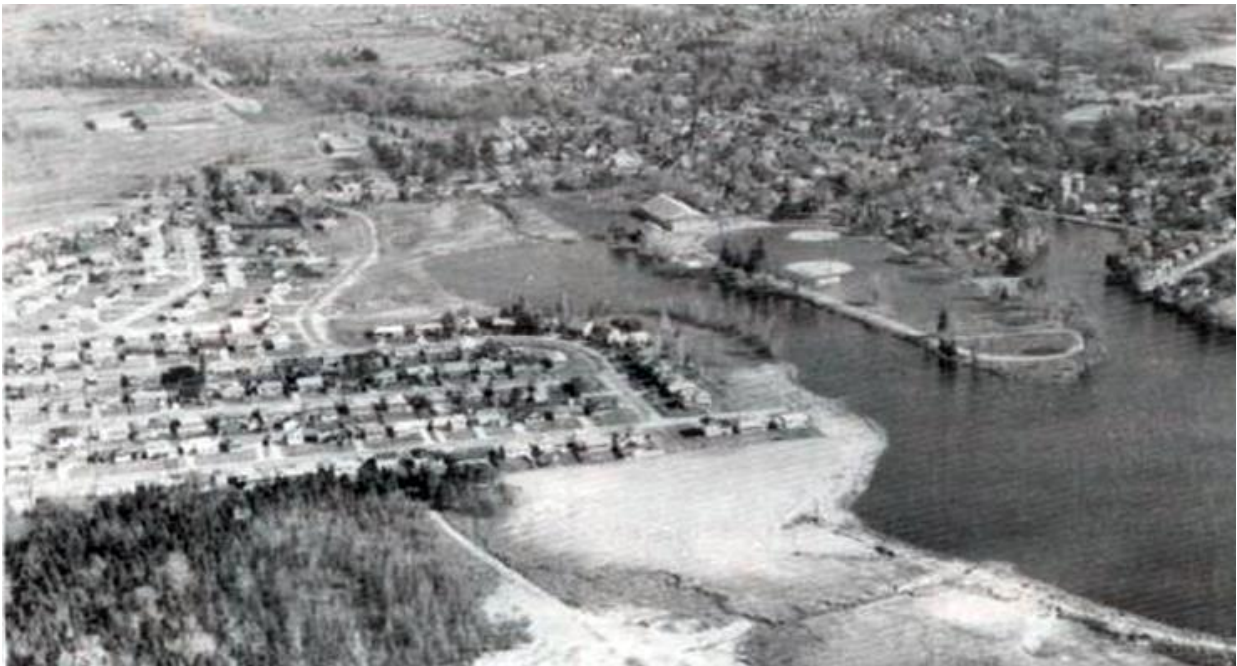


Figure 92: An aerial photograph of the lakeview subdivision and Prospect Park in 1976 (*Acton Tanner*, October 2nd, 1996)

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, several improvements were made to Prospect Park, reflecting the Town's continued investment in its development. In 1976, a new concrete pumphouse block was constructed on the site of the former Women's Institute booth. In the early 1980s, the park underwent a detailed redevelopment process. Significant projects included the redevelopment of the play area, the construction of a multi-purpose sports field, upgrades for family use, painting and repairs to the Acton Arena, replacing the wading pool and filtration system, converting the soccer field into a ball diamond, insulating and heating the blockhouse, and installing lights for a second ball diamond. These projects, collectively costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, were partially subsidized by provincial funding.

In the early 1980s, a comprehensive redevelopment plan was undertaken for Prospect Park, encompassing a wide range of improvements and upgrades to enhance its functionality and appeal. This work included redeveloping the playground, installing a new multi-purpose sports field, upgrading the park to make it more family-friendly, painting the roof and beams of the Acton Arena and repairs to hall windows and frames, replacing the wading pool and filtration system, converting the soccer field into a ball diamond, and installing lights for the second ball diamond.

In 1983, Acton's parkland was expanded with the conversion of approximately seven acres along the southern shore of the Lakeview subdivision and a small field north of the Pioneer Cemetery into a new park area, designated as "Elizabeth Drive Park". Trees were planted, and a gravel path was laid connecting Elizabeth Drive Park to Prospect Park. In 1988, the Acton Rotary Club took responsibility for park improvements, planting 80 trees and constructing a soccer field. Now known as Acton Rotary Park, the space directly connects to Prospect Park and enhances the recreational amenities available to the greater Prospect Park lands.

3.11 Prospect Park from 1999 to Present

In 1999, a comprehensive plan for Prospect Park proposed key objectives and strategies for the park's future. The Prospect Park Master Plan was designed to address issues and opportunities highlighted in the Recreation Master Plan and the subsequent "Prospect for the Future" report. Public input gathered from surveys, interviews, submissions, and workshops helped shape a vision for the park. Key objectives included maximizing recreational use of Fairy Lake, supporting the park's role in hosting special events, diversifying recreational activities (such as arts, culture, and winter uses), maintaining existing recreational facilities, enhancing visual aesthetics through shoreline treatments, improved park entrances, and general maintenance.

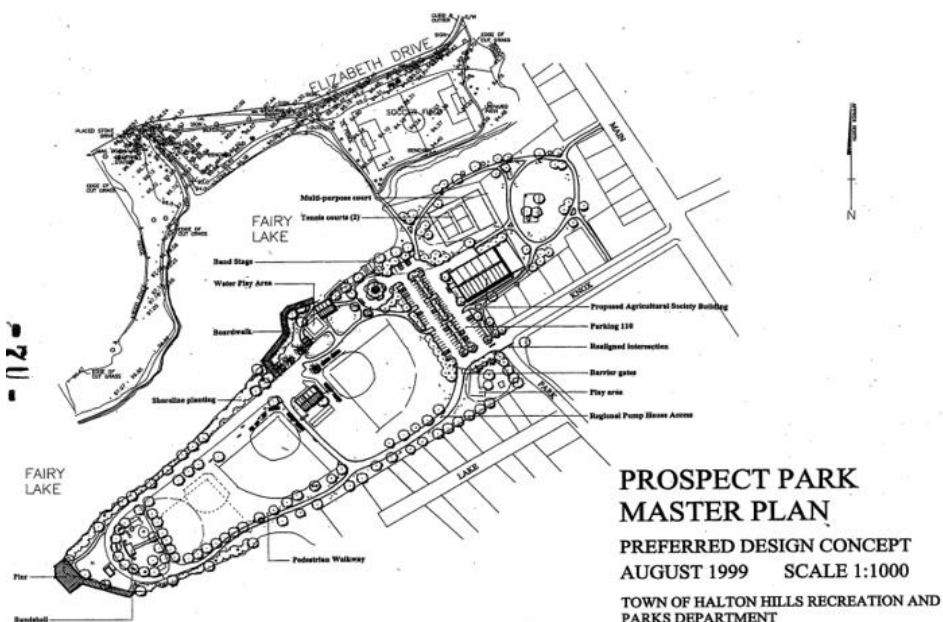


Figure 93: Prospect Park Master Plan (Town of Halton Hills 1999)

Four alternative development concepts were presented to the public and key stakeholders during a public session on May 27, 1999. Feedback from this session informed the creation of a preferred

development concept, which included several significant recommendations. These recommendations focused on improving park entrances by realigning the intersections of Knox and Park Streets and exploring the feasibility of a pedestrian walkway to Main Street. Collaborations with Credit Valley Conservation were proposed to naturalize shoreline plantings, develop boardwalks and piers, and enhance water flow and quality. Plans also included incorporating the Agricultural Society Building in the former arena area with proper buffers and architectural detailing, assessing the structural condition and relocation feasibility of the Poultry Barn, and retaining two main softball diamonds for league play as relocation plans were abandoned.

Additional recommendations included maintaining at least two tennis courts and one multi-use court, with surveys planned to determine resurfacing, fencing, and lighting needs. Winter skating facilities were proposed for either the tennis courts or another section of the park. Enhancements to walking trails, water play areas, and performance facilities for arts and cultural events were also prioritized.

Between 2003 and 2004, an off-leash dog park was also introduced, further diversifying the recreational offerings of Prospect Park and enhancing its appeal to the local community. In 2010, a splash pad was constructed on the site of the former wading pool.



Figure 94: Ongoing construction projects in Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills, 2007)



Figure 95: "Ground-breaking held for Acton splash pad." (*The Burlington Post* March 12, 2010).

4.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist

The following evaluation checklist applies to Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the *Ontario Heritage Act*: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. The criteria are prescribed for municipal designation of Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The evaluation tables utilize an 'X' to signify applicable criteria and 'N/A' to signify criteria that are not applicable for this property. The property has been evaluated as a cultural heritage landscape, while individual heritage attributes have also been evaluated for their contribution to the Park's cultural heritage value (Appendix B).

Prospect Park & Fairy Lake Cultural Heritage Landscape

	Design or Physical Value	
A	Is rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method	X
B	Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	X
C	Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	N/A

Prospect Park is a unique and representative example of nineteenth-century recreational and community space within Acton and the greater community of Halton Hills. Situated on a peninsula extending into the human-made Fairy Lake, the park has been landscaped to blend natural features with human design. Mature deciduous trees line the former driving track that encircles the park. The graveled track allows visitors to circumnavigate the property and observe the lake from its three shorelines. Mature deciduous trees are located around the perimeter of the path and throughout the park. Benches are installed throughout the property, and an additional semi-paved walking path stretches from Prospect Park through Rotary Park on the north bank, forming a horseshoe around the lake's north arm and transitioning users from the maintained park to denser natural vegetation.

Prospect Park's location on Fairy Lake, its landscape design, and its emphasis on preserving a curated natural setting distinguish it from other fairgrounds in Halton Hills, such as the Georgetown Fairgrounds, which are surrounded by residential development. Unlike Georgetown, where urban expansion has enclosed the fairgrounds, Fairy Lake serves as a natural boundary for Acton's fairgrounds. This relative isolation from urbanism around Prospect Park has enabled Acton to integrate its landscape design with the natural environment, despite the property's central location within the community. The park's design incorporates the lake as a central feature, while strategic plantings of foliage and fencing at the peninsula's base create a natural buffer against urban encroachment. This approach enhances the park's identity as a scenic, secluded space, preserving its historical role as both a recreational and cultural landmark.

The character of Prospect Park is also defined by its collection of cultural heritage sites and structures that exhibit high craftsmanship and artistic merit. These structures are rare, unique, and representative examples of specific styles and expressions. This collection includes the form and interior of the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed (formerly the Acton Drill Shed), the Bandstand, the entrance pillars, and the Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery. Each of these features represents a distinct period in the park's evolution and are closely tied to the broader history, culture, and heritage of Acton, collectively illustrating the community's cultural, political, social, and architectural development.

	Historical or Associative Value	
A	Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community.	X
B	Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	X
C	Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community	X

Prospect Park has direct associations with several significant community themes, events, people, activities, and organizations that are significant to the growth, development and culture of the Acton community and its cultural heritage.

The Park has routinely influenced Acton's community and civic identity since its establishment in 1889. Originally part of the Adams family farmland, the park's transition from private agricultural space to publicly owned civic land reflects the evolving priorities of the community. The park's development was closely tied to Acton's growth as an agricultural and industrial town, particularly through its association with significant community figures such as Ransom Adams, E.W. Smith, Alfred Owen Beardmore Senior, and A.O. Terrance Beardmore.

The park is associated with the most significant cultural and community events that have shaped Acton's social and civic identity for over a century. The Acton Fall Fair, first held at the park in 1913, remains one of the town's longest-standing traditions, reflecting the region's agricultural history and economic development. Large-scale public celebrations, such as Dominion Day events, town anniversary festivities, post-war celebrations, Canada Day, and other festivals, have been regularly held at the park for over a century. The park also hosted company picnics for Beardmore & Co., a major employer in Acton, illustrating how industrial and community life intersected within Acton's parklands. Its affiliation with organizations such as the Halton Rifles, the Acton Agricultural Society, and various sporting clubs emphasize its role as a communal space for both recreation and civic engagement. The park's uses have evolved over time, from early agricultural fairs and sports competitions to mid-century civic events, reflecting broader societal changes in Acton's development.

Beyond its role as an event space, Prospect Park provides information that contributes to the understanding Acton's community, culture, social progress, and historical development. The land was originally settled in the early nineteenth century by the Adams brothers, Methodist preachers who contributed to Acton's early agricultural and religious life. As Acton expanded and industrialized, the land transformed into a public space, reflecting a shift from individual land ownership to collective civic use. The development of Prospect Park was an ongoing process shaped by the town's needs. The construction of entrance pillars and a bandstand in 1926, for example, was part of a broader community-driven initiative to formalize and enhance the park in time for Acton's 50th anniversary. Similarly, the gradual addition of amenities, including the Acton Drill Shed, boathouse, and former arena, demonstrates how the park adapted to serve multiple generations.

Several historic structures within Prospect Park contribute to the overall character of its cultural landscape and are directly associated with significant themes, events, people, activities, organizations, and institutions that have played a vital role in the Acton community. These include the Acton Drill Shed (now the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed), the bandstand, the entrance pillars, and the Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery.

	Contextual Value	
A	Is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area	X
B	Is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings	X
C	Is a landmark	X

Prospect Park is fundamental to the identity of Acton, playing a significant role in defining, maintaining, and supporting both the character of the surrounding neighborhoods and the broader community. Since its establishment in 1889, the park has served as a focal point for recreation, community celebrations, cultural heritage, and civic engagement. The park's role extends beyond its function as a recreational space; it has actively influenced Acton's physical development, preserved essential elements of its history and cultural heritage, and provided a continuous gathering place for generations of residents.

It is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings in several ways. Physically, Fairy Lake has directly influenced the park's geography and development. This body of water remains a defining feature, shaping the park's landscape and recreational uses. The peninsula that forms much of the property was created in the mid-1830s when the Adams brothers constructed a dam on Black Creek to create a mill pond for their sawmill and flour mills.

Moreover, Prospect Park's presence has directly shaped the urban and residential development of Acton. Unlike other areas where land was rapidly subdivided for housing or industry, Prospect Park was intentionally preserved as a public space, influencing how the surrounding neighbourhoods evolved. In the late nineteenth century, Councillor W. E. Smith surveyed the housing developments of Park and Lake Avenue, located northeast, east, and southeast of the park, to ensure that the development complemented rather than encroached upon the park. These streets were designed with the park as a focal point, ensuring it remained accessible and central to the community. This deliberate planning decision helped maintain the park as a central and accessible feature of Acton's landscape.

Throughout the twentieth century, as Acton expanded, the town recognized the need to protect and enhance the park. Ten additional acres of land adjoining the park to the northwest were designated as public recreational and green space rather than being developed for housing. Later efforts, such as the annexation of land from the Lakeview subdivision in the 1970s, further solidified the park's role as a defining element of Acton's built environment and accentuates its physical connection to and influence on community development. Municipal planning decisions over multiple generations have prioritized the park's expansion rather than its reduction thereby emphasizing its significance in maintaining the town's character.

Beyond its influence on physical development, Prospect Park is a repository of Acton's historical and cultural heritage. The park's origins are intertwined with Acton's early settlement history. Originally farmed by the Adams brothers in the early nineteenth century, the land was transformed by the creation of Fairy Lake in the 1830s, a result of their mill operations. This historical connection is further supported by the presence of the Pioneer Cemetery, where members of the Adams family, including Eliphalet and Zenas Adams, are buried, maintaining a physical link between Acton's founding figures and the present-day community.

The park's cultural significance is also evident in its structures that are visually and historically linked to the surrounding neighborhood and greater community. The entry pillars and bandstand, constructed in the 1920s, reflect the Edwardian and Gothic Revival architectural influences found throughout Acton,

particularly in the homes along Knox Street, Park Avenue, and Lake Avenue. These structures contribute to the community's historical continuity, reinforcing Acton's late nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural character. The Pioneer Cemetery, once connected with Knox Church, maintains a historic connection to the early European settlement of Acton and is linked to both the Knox Presbyterian Church and the Adams family property. Similarly, the Acton Drill Shed (now the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed), originally built in 1867 and relocated to the park in 1891, preserves a piece of Acton's military and civic history. While its exterior has been altered to preserve its structural integrity, the preserved original interiors remain a representative example of mid-nineteenth-century rural military structures in Southern Ontario, making it one of the oldest standing structures in Acton today.

Another key cultural feature of the park is its longstanding association with the Acton Fall Fair, which has been hosted on the site since 1913. The fair has been an annual tradition for over a century, bringing together residents to celebrate Acton's agricultural and rural heritage. The park's ability to accommodate large-scale community events has reinforced its role as a cultural landmark, ensuring that Acton's traditions are maintained and passed down through generations.

Prospect Park is not only a historical landmark but also an essential community anchor that maintains the social and recreational character of Acton. From its inception, the park was designed as a shared space where residents could gather and participate in public life. Its diverse amenities, including sports fields, a boathouse, walking trails, picnic areas, and play facilities, have ensured that it remains relevant and valuable to residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Another defining aspect of Prospect Park is its role in maintaining Acton's connection to nature. The preservation of Fairy Lake and green space has ensured that the park remains a scenic and ecologically valuable space, balancing public use with environmental conservation. Efforts to maintain the natural landscape have been ongoing. In the late twentieth century, concerns were raised about water quality and shoreline erosion, prompting initiatives in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation to restore and protect the area's natural features. These efforts included stabilizing the shoreline, improving water circulation, and introducing native plantings to support local biodiversity. By maintaining a balance between built structures and natural elements, the park reflects Acton's broader identity as a town that values both heritage and green space.

	Cultural Heritage Landscape	
Designed Cultural Landscape	A clearly defined and intentionally created human-made environment designed for aesthetics, inhabitation, or functionality	X
Evolved Cultural Landscape (Relic)	A landscape that has developed in response to initial social, economic, administrative, communal, or religious needs, where the evolutionary process has ceased, yet significant features remain discernible	N/A
Evolved Cultural Landscape (Continuing)	A landscape that has developed in response to initial social, economic, administrative, communal, or religious needs, that remains functionally active in contemporary society, sustaining traditional ways of life while exhibiting visible evidence of its historical development.	X
Associative Cultural Landscape	A site recognized for its religious, artistic, or cultural associations with the natural environment or a specific culture.	X

Prospect Park represents a Designed, Evolved, and Associative Cultural Heritage Landscape. Its intentional design, continuous adaptation, and deep cultural associations establish it as a historically significant site that reflects Acton's cultural development and continues to influence the community in the present as it remains a vital cultural landmark within Halton Hills.

Designed Landscape

Prospect Park exhibits deliberate planning, structured landscape, and integration of built and natural features to serve as a public recreational and cultural space. From its inception in 1882 as a small driving park, the land underwent intentional transformation to accommodate community needs. The park was gradually shaped through conscious design decisions by key figures such as A.W. Green and William Edgar Smith. These individuals recognized the land's potential and adapted it into a public gathering space. The formalization of the park in 1889, with the village's acquisition of 12.25 acres from Smith, was motivated by the community's intention to structure, maintain, and define the landscape for public use.

By the twentieth century, the park's design elements include structured pathways, open green spaces, and purpose-built amenities such as the grandstand, bandstand, and entrance pillars. The half mile graded and graveled track, initially designed for harness racing, reflects an early example of landscape planning that integrated both recreational and competitive functions. Continued enhancements to the landscape, including tree plantings, the creation of dedicated sports fields, and the introduction of amenities like the swimming pool, baseball diamonds, boathouses and the Acton Arena, were developed to align with evolving recreational trends.

Aesthetic considerations played a significant role in the park's design. The layout maximized the scenic views of Fairy Lake while incorporating elements of Rustic and Edwardian landscape design. Features such as ornamental stone entrance pillars and shaded walkways exemplify the park's aesthetic intent. Additionally, its location on a peninsula ensured an immersive natural experience that has been preserved and accentuated by the evolving designs of the park.

The successive enhancements to Prospect Park—from the addition of the arena in 1929 to the boathouses, playgrounds, and splash pad—demonstrate a continued commitment to structured, intentional design that prioritizes both aesthetics and functionality. This sustained approach to landscape development solidifies Prospect Park's classification as a Designed Cultural Landscape.

Evolved Landscape

Prospect Park is an Evolved Cultural Heritage Landscape that has continually developed in response to social and communal needs. It remains functionally active, sustaining traditional ways of life while exhibiting visible evidence of its historical development.

The park's evolution began with its early role as a harness racing track and agricultural fairgrounds. Initially developed as a driving park, it gradually transitioned into a civic space through both public and private investment. The 1889 acquisition by the village of Acton marked the beginning of municipal stewardship, reflecting changing attitudes toward public recreation and civic improvement. The decision to establish Prospect Park as the home of the Acton Fall Fair in 1913 reinforced its role as a dynamic, evolving landscape rooted in agricultural traditions while accommodating growing community participation.

Throughout the twentieth century, Prospect Park expanded its recreational offerings to align with evolving leisure trends. The introduction of the Acton Arena in 1929 responded to the community's increasing interest in hockey and curling. The mid-century construction of the swimming pool, ball diamonds, and enhanced picnic areas reflected broader societal shifts toward family-centred recreation. These additions maintained the park's active role in civic life while ensuring that traditional activities such as agricultural exhibitions and sporting events remained viable.

Environmental and infrastructural changes also illustrate the park's evolving character. The dredging of Fairy Lake in the 1970s, along with shoreline stabilization efforts in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation, reflected a growing awareness of ecological sustainability. Similarly, the expansion of parklands through the annexation of adjoining properties, such as the Lakeview subdivision lands in 1975, ensured that the park could accommodate increased urbanization while maintaining its role as a green space.

Throughout the twentieth century, significant investments were made to enhance the park and maintain its role in the community. In the mid-1950s, in response to a growing demand for modern recreational spaces, the Acton Board of Parks Management undertook several major improvement projects. These included the construction of a wading pool, new baseball diamonds, a beach area, and upgraded event spaces. By the late twentieth century, as Acton continued to grow, new initiatives were introduced to ensure that the park remained a vital community space. The 1999 Prospect Park Master Plan reaffirmed the town's commitment to maintaining and enhancing the park's facilities while also balancing historical preservation and environmental sustainability. This led to the development of additional walking trails, a dog park in 2003-2004, and the creation of a splash pad in 2010 to replace the outdated wading pool. These improvements, driven by direct community input, demonstrate the park's enduring importance in meeting Acton's evolving needs.

Prospect Park continues to evolve in the twenty-first century. The introduction of a splash pad in 2010, upgrades to the boathouse and docks, and accessibility enhancements demonstrate ongoing adaptation to contemporary recreational needs. Despite these modern developments, the park retains visible evidence of its historical phases, from the preserved Pioneer Cemetery to the repurposed Acton Drill Shed. This continuity of use, adaptation, and historical layering firmly situates Prospect Park within the "Continuing" category of Evolved Cultural Landscapes.

Associative Landscape

Prospect Park also qualifies as an Associative Cultural Landscape, recognized for its cultural and personal associations. The park holds strong associative value through its connection to Acton's founding figures and early settlers. The Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery, established in 1848, serves as a physical and symbolic link to the town's early European settlers, particularly the Adams family. The cemetery's presence within the park grounds reinforces Acton's cultural memory, preserving the legacy of its first inhabitants and their role in shaping the town's development.

Religious and commemorative associations further enhance the park's significance. The cemetery was originally associated with Knox Presbyterian Church, reflecting the early Scottish Presbyterian influence in Acton. Additionally, the park's role in hosting remembrance events, particularly during and after WWI and WWII, solidifies its place in Acton's collective consciousness. The proposed 1919 memorial garden,

while unrealized, underscores the community's desire to embed commemorative landscapes within the park.

Prospect Park has also played a significant role in Acton's artistic and cultural traditions. The Acton Fall Fair, held annually since 1913, is a major cultural event that continues to celebrate the town's agricultural heritage. The park's bandstand, a focal point for concerts and performances, has been an artistic hub for nearly a century, hosting community bands, cultural festivals, and civic celebrations. These traditions reinforce the park's status as a cultural landmark that embodies the town's artistic and communal identity.

Beyond structured events, the park's natural landscape contributes to its cultural associations. Fairy Lake, a defining feature of the park, has been depicted in historical postcards, photographs, and literary references, reinforcing its symbolic importance within Acton's visual and cultural heritage. The scenic views described in 1885 by H.C. Stovel capture the enduring aesthetic and inspirational qualities of the park, positioning it as an integral part of Acton's cultural imagination.

The continued preservation of heritage structures within the park, including the Drill Shed, entrance pillars, and Pioneer Cemetery, ensures that its historical and cultural associations remain tangible to present-day visitors. This ongoing connection between past and present solidifies Prospect Park as an Associative Cultural Landscape that continues to define Acton's identity.

Following research and evaluation in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, Prospect Park and Fairy Lake, composed of the properties legally described as PT LT 177 PL 227 HALTON HILLS AS IN EW5566; AS IN EW5566; S/T 452253, 758570, 758571, H856994; HALTON HILLS; & PT LT 192, PL 1098 , PART 1 , 20R5820; LT PARCEL N, PL 603, EXCEPT PT 1, 20R9956; ALSO SHOWN ON PL 1098 ; S/T 767833; HALTON HILLS DELETED 02 11 99 BY J MENARD; and LTS 108 & 109, PL 227; *S/T 484413 & 300270*; HALTON HILLS *ADDED 01 11 99 BY J MENARD, meet the criteria and definition of a Cultural Heritage Landscape as outlined in Section G34 of The Town of Halton Hills Official Plan (2008) and UNESCO's classification of Cultural Heritage Landscapes model. This property is classified under the following categories:

- Designed Cultural Landscape;
- Evolved Cultural Landscape (Continuing); and,
- Associative Cultural Landscape.

The utility buildings, modern structures, and contemporary infrastructure on the property are not identified as heritage attributes within this report.

Please note, this Research and Evaluation Report reflects the most up to date findings relating to its cultural heritage value as identified by staff. This report may be updated in future to reflect future findings as required.

5.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that Prospect Park and Fairy Lake have physical and design, historical and associative, and contextual value and therefore meets Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

The heritage attributes of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake are identified as follows:

- The central location of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake within the community of Acton;
- The existing built features, including:
 - The 1926 bandstand at the Prospect Park entrance, including:
 - The setback, location, and orientation of the 1926 octagonal Fachwerk Revival structure;
 - Its scale, form, and massing;
 - The materials, including local pine and decorative half-timbered framing;
 - The upper open-air platform;
 - The ornamental Gothic Revival brackets;
 - The wooden balustrade;
 - The octagonal roof;
 - The 1926 Prospect Park entrance pillars, including:
 - The setback, location, and orientation of the two remaining posts in their original location since 1926;
 - Their scale, form, and massing;
 - The materials, including local flagstone and lime mortar;
 - The 1867 Acton Drill Shed (currently known as the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed), including:
 - The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building, in its current location since 1929;
 - The scale, form, and massing of the 1867 frame building;
 - The materials, including the structure's original pine plank walls and exposed nineteenth century posts and beams on the interior;
 - The 1934 Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery Cairn, including:
 - Its original markers and monuments, with their surviving inscriptions;
 - The variety of styles, materials and symbolism represented in the markers and monuments;
 - The scale, symmetry, and design of the c.1930s cement cairn and monument;
 - Its location, orientation and dimensions;
 - Its c.1930s boundary posts and mature trees;
- Natural and human-made features within the landscape, including:
 - Fairy Lake;
 - The half-mile former drive track;
 - The mature deciduous trees along the former drive track; and,
 - The mature Coniferous trees in the former location of the Acton Grandstand.

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APPENDIX A: Cultural Heritage Landscapes

Definition of a Cultural Heritage Landscape

The concept of a cultural heritage landscape originated from early-twentieth century studies in cultural geography and was formally defined in 1926 to describe any area altered by both intentional and unintentional human activity. By the mid-twentieth century, this idea and its holistic approach to resource investigation gained international recognition through the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In 1992, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention was revised to include cultural heritage landscapes, creating the first legal framework to acknowledge and protect them. Article 1 of the Convention now defines cultural heritage landscapes as the “combined works of nature and man.” These spaces often evolve and change in response to both internal and external influences, including through effects of the natural environment and successive social, economic, and cultural forces.

UNESCO further refined this concept by categorizing cultural heritage landscapes into three types:

The three categories identified by UNESCO are:

- **Designed Cultural Landscape:** This type of landscape is clearly defined and intentionally created by humans. It includes gardens and parklands designed for aesthetic purposes, often associated with religious or monumental buildings and ensembles.
- **Evolved Cultural Landscape:** These landscapes result from initial social, economic, administrative, or religious needs and have developed in response to their natural environment. They reflect their evolutionary process in their form and features and are divided into two sub-categories:
 - Relict (Fossil) Landscape: Where the evolutionary process has ended, but noteworthy features remain visible. This is applicable to both natural and cultural heritage landscapes.
 - Continuing or Evolving Landscape: Where the landscape still plays an active role in contemporary society, maintaining traditional ways of life while showing evidence of its evolution over time.
- **Associative Cultural Landscape:** These landscapes are included on UNESCO’s World Heritage List due to their strong religious, artistic, or cultural associations with the natural environment, even if material evidence is minimal or absent.

While the UNESCO Guidelines establish a recognized framework for cultural resource management, preservation, and evaluation, definitions and processes for specifications vary at national, provincial or state, and local levels. The Ontario Heritage Trust defines a Cultural Heritage Landscape as:

A property or defined geographical area of cultural heritage significance that has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. These activities or uses may be key to the cultural value, significance and meaning of this landscape. A cultural landscape may be designed at a specific time by a specific person or it may have evolved organically over a long period time

(and may still be slowly evolving) ... It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features, such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements that together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts. (Cultural Heritage Landscapes, OHT: 2024, p.1).

The Town of Halton Hills Official Plan (2008) outlines the definition and guidelines for the constitution of Cultural Heritage Landscapes within the municipality as:

A geographical area of heritage significance that has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements, which together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts. (Town of Halton Hills Official Plan, 2008, p.G-34.)

APPENDIX B: Evaluation of Prospect Park & Fairy Lake's Built Features

Prospect Park & Fairy Lake Built Features: Design and Physical Value				
Site/Structure	A	B	C	Heritage Value
Acton Drill Shed	Y	N	N	Originally constructed in 1867 and subsequently moved in 1891 and 1929, the Acton Drill shed is a rare, unique, and representative example of a nineteenth century militia building in a rural Ontario community. At the time of its construction, it was the largest building in Acton. The structure, built from locally sourced pine, remains intact with minimal modifications beneath its modern aluminum exterior. As one of the oldest surviving wooden structures in Acton, it holds considerable historical and architectural value, representing an important aspect of the town's military and community heritage.
The Bandstand	Y	Y	N	<p>Constructed in 1926, the octagonal Acton bandstand is a rare and representative example of Fachwerk Revival architecture with Gothic revival influences. Swiss-inspired Fachwerk Revival architecture experienced a brief period of popularity in late Victorian and Edwardian park architecture during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While bandstands were once common features in public parks, few remain in their original form, making this structure a significant surviving example of early twentieth century public pavilion architecture. Its distinctive half-timbered façade is an uncommon feature within Acton's built heritage.</p> <p>The bandstand is an early example of inter-war park architecture, embodying a blend of revival styles that were prevalent in post-war Ontario. Its elevated octagonal design steeply pitched overhanging octagonal roof, and rustic wood construction are influenced by late Victorian bandstands while incorporating ornamental details that reflect a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit. Handcrafted elements such as decorative brackets and timber framing further emphasize the skilled workmanship involved in its construction.</p>
Entrance Pillars	Y	Y	Y	<p>The 1926 stone entrance pillars represent a rare and significant example of Rustic-style park architecture in Acton influenced by the early twentieth century emphasis on exposed natural materials and civic beautification. Constructed from locally sourced fieldstone, these pillars exemplify the handcrafted quality characteristic of the Rustic and Picturesque architectural movements, which were commonly employed in public parks, fairgrounds, and commemorative landscapes of the period. They are associated with architect and builder J. B. Mackenzie and stone mason Walter Lamb.</p> <p>As an early example of landscape architecture in Acton, the pillars represent the community's efforts to establish picturesque public spaces during the interwar period and commemorate its 50th anniversary. Despite the removal of the centre pillar in the 1950s, and the subsequent removal of the gas lamps, the north and south pillars continue to stand in their original location after a century.</p>

Pioneer Cemetery	Y	N	N	<p>Constructed in the 1930s, the Acton Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery memorial cairn is a rare and significant example of early cemetery preservation architecture in Acton. It represents an early approach to gravestone conservation, consolidating and embedding individual markers into a formalized, enclosed cement monument. This method, characteristic of early 20th-century cemetery preservation practices, was intended to safeguard historical inscriptions while creating a collective commemorative space. However, such techniques are now largely avoided due to the potential for damage to original memorials.</p> <p>Architecturally, the cairn exhibits Neo-Classical influences, evident in its symmetrical design, squared pillars, axial approach, and orderly arrangement. As one of the few known examples of this preservation method in both Acton and the greater Halton Hills community, the cairn is both unique and representative of early twentieth century burial preservation efforts and early cemetery conservation techniques.</p>

Prospect Park & Fairy Lake Built Features: Historical or Associative Value				
Site/Structure	A	B	C	Heritage Value
Acton Drill Shed	Y	N	N	<p>The Acton Drill Shed holds significant historical and associative value through its connections to key military, civic, and community events spanning over 150 years. Constructed in 1867 as the headquarters for Company No. 6 of the Halton Volunteers, the Drill Shed forms part of Canada's broader early national defense strategy, which relied on local militias in rural communities. Its construction was a collaborative effort, involving both professional builders and residents. The Drill Shed continued to serve an essential military function throughout its history, most notably during World War I, when it was repurposed as a training base for recruits of the Peel, Dufferin, and Halton Rifles, and as a storage facility in WWII.</p> <p>Beyond its military significance, the Drill Shed has served Acton's civic and social life for over a century. Following its relocation to Prospect Park in 1891, it became a key venue for public gatherings, political meetings, concerts, dances, and community celebrations. It also provided emergency shelter for displaced residents following a major fire in the 1880s and later became an integral part of the Acton Fall Fair, hosting agricultural exhibits and community events. Even after its sale to the municipality in 1929 and its subsequent incorporation into the town's greater arena complex, the Drill Shed remained a vital hub for both military and civilian purposes.</p>
Bandstand	Y	N	Y	<p>The Prospect Park Bandstand holds a direct association with significant community themes and events such as public celebrations and civic engagement. As part of the Park Improvement Committee's 1926 vision</p>

				<p>for Park improvement following Acton's 50th anniversary celebrations, the bandstand was constructed to serve as a central venue for public events, including the Acton Fall Fair, reinforcing its role as a centre for civic and cultural activities. Its dual function as both a performance space and a ticket booth emphasize its integral place within Acton's social and recreational landscape and reflects the broader themes of community identity, public entertainment, and communal development.</p> <p>Architecturally, the bandstand exemplifies the craftsmanship and design vision of J.B. Mackenzie, a prominent Georgetown-based builder and architect, and incorporates stylistic elements characteristic of the Swiss-Inspired Fachwerk Revival and Gothic Revival movements. Mackenzie's execution of the Park Improvement Committee's ambitious plan demonstrates his lasting influence on Acton's built heritage.</p>
Entrance Pillars	Y	N	Y	<p>The Prospect Park Entrance Pillars are directly associated with Acton's 50th anniversary celebrations in 1924, as funds were raised to construct them to commemorate the event. The pillars were designed by Georgetown architect J.B. Mackenzie to form the grand entrance to Acton's Park and were completed in 1926 by local stone mason Walter Lamb.</p>
Pioneer Cemetery	Y	N	N	<p>The Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery is associated with the early Scottish settlers of Acton and the Knox Presbyterian Church. Established in 1848 behind the Knox Presbyterian Church, the cemetery served as the final resting place for many early settlers, including Acton's founders, the Adams family; notably Eliphalet and Zenas Adams, are buried in the Pioneer Cemetery within the park.</p> <p>By the early twentieth century, the Pioneer Cemetery had fallen into neglect, prompting restoration efforts in the 1930s, which culminated in the creation of a commemorative cairn to preserve the site's historical significance. Further restoration and community-driven beautification projects in 1971 reaffirmed its role as a protected space honouring Acton's early settlers.</p>
Prospect Park Cultural Heritage Structures: Contextual Value				
Site/Structure	A	B	C	Heritage Value
Acton Drill Shed	Y	Y	Y	<p>The Drill Shed is physically, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings. Although it was moved to its current location in 1929 to make room for the construction of the Acton Arena, the Acton Drill Shed has been a fixture in Prospect Park for over 130 years. Historically, the park's fairgrounds served as parade and training grounds for the local militia. After World War I, the park was considered for the location of a monument or memorial gardens due to the Drill Shed's presence.</p> <p>Purchased by the municipality in 1929, the Drill Shed has since served the Acton Fall Fair Board and Agricultural Society. For nearly a century, it has</p>

				<p>been integral to the Acton Fall Fair, used for storage, displays, and as the poultry barn for annual shows. While the exterior of the Acton Drill Shed (now the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed) has been altered to preserve the structural integrity of the 1867 structure, the original interior remains a representative example of mid-nineteenth-century rural military structures in Southern Ontario. Today, it stands as one of the oldest structures in Acton and a landmark within Prospect Park. In its role as a poultry barn and fair building, the Acton Drill Shed is crucial in defining, maintaining, and supporting the agricultural character of the Acton Fairgrounds. Its interior serves as a well-preserved example of Acton's rural, military, and agricultural historical character.</p>
Bandstand	Y	Y	Y	<p>Constructed in 1926 along with the entrance pillars, the bandstand is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. Its Victorian and Edwardian stylistic features complement the Gothic Revival and Edwardian character of the residences along Knox Street and Lake Avenue. Specifically built for the park and fairgrounds, the bandstand functions as the ticket booth for the Acton Fall Fair, thereby reinforcing its contextual and historical connection to the parkland and fairgrounds.</p> <p>Together, the bandstand and entrance pillars serve as the historic and present entrance to Prospect Park, playing an important role in defining, maintaining, and supporting the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century character of the surrounding neighborhoods and parkland and standing as a local landmark within the community of Acton.</p>
Entrance Pillars	Y	Y	Y	<p>The entrance pillars at Prospect Park are physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to their surroundings. Constructed in 1926 alongside the bandstand, these pillars form the central part of the grand entrance to the park and fairgrounds. Physically, the pillars are situated at the entrance, marking the boundary and providing a clear point of entry to the property. Apart from a since-removed central pillar, the pillars have stood in their original location for nearly a century.</p> <p>Functionally, they continue to serve as markers for the entrance, despite the removal of the iron gates. They guide visitors into the park and fairgrounds and delineate both the current and historical boundaries of the Prospect Park Fairgrounds, a role they have maintained since 1926.</p> <p>Visually, the pillars are representative examples of early twentieth-century fairground architecture. They are designed in the Rustic style, which is prevalent throughout the park. This architectural style complements the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century character of the surrounding neighborhoods, creating a cohesive visual link between the park and its environs.</p> <p>Historically, the pillars were built to commemorate Acton's 50th anniversary services in 1924 and have remained in their original location for nearly a</p>

				century. They serve as landmarks within the community of Acton. Their presence is significant in defining, maintaining, and supporting the character of the area.
Pioneer Cemetery	Y	Y	Y	<p>The Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery is significant in defining, maintaining, and supporting the character of Acton by physically representing the town's early European settlement history and serving as a tangible link to its founders. Established in 1848, the cemetery served as the burial ground for early Scottish settlers, including the Adams family, on whose land much of Acton, including the Knox Church, cemetery, and Prospect Park, were established. Although later replaced by Fairview Cemetery, the Pioneer Cemetery remains a historical connection to Acton's formative years.</p> <p>The cemetery is physically, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings. Originally located behind Knox Presbyterian Church, the cemetery was directly associated with the town's religious and communal life. Its subsequent transition into a commemorative space and local landmark, marked by the 1934 cairn, reinforces its status as a cultural landscape. Enclosed by mature trees and adjacent to natural and recreational spaces, the cemetery's presence within the park supports its cultural landmark status.</p> <p>While the original nineteenth-century headstones have been gathered into a central cairn, the monument was constructed on the land of the original burial plot, and the general area has continued to serve the same purpose for over a century.</p>