



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: July 13, 2026

Report No: DS-051-26

Subject: Recommendation Report - Notice of Intention to Designate - 90 Mary Street, Cowin and Hartley House

Recommendation: **THAT** Staff Report DS-051-26, entitled: "Notice of Intention to Designate - 90 Mary Street," be received;

AND THAT Milton Council recognizes the historic house at 90 Mary Street in the Town of Milton as being of heritage significance;

AND THAT Milton Council designate the property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 for the reasons outlined in the Reasons for Designation attached as Appendix 1 to this Report;

AND THAT the Town Clerk provides the Notice of Intention to Designate as outlined in Section 29 (4) of the Ontario Heritage Act;

AND FURTHER THAT once the thirty-day objection period has expired and if there are no objections, a designation by-law will be brought forward for Council adoption.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The property has significant contextual value as one of the earliest houses built within the Foster Survey, one of Milton's first subdivisions. It also has historical value through its association with early owner and builder Richard Cowin, as well as later owner David Hartley, a prominent local farmer, Justice of the Peace, and Town Councillor.
- The property's current owner has voluntarily responded to the heritage designation program and desires that their property be designated.
- Staff has evaluated this historic home as a significant built heritage resource for the Town of Milton, which should be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (See Appendix '1').
- This significant built heritage resource fulfils more than two of the criteria set out in Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990), Ontario Regulation 9/06 (See

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Appendix 2). As such, it is worthy of designation under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

REPORT

Background

The historic Cowin and Hartley House at 90 Mary Street was built in 1854 by Richard Cowin shortly after he purchased the lot from Hugh Foster as part of the newly established Foster Survey, one of Milton's earliest subdivisions. Physically, it is a one-and-a-half-storey dwelling constructed on a stone foundation, featuring a simple rectangular form and a medium-sloped front-gable roof, characteristic of mid-19th century Gothic Revival-style architecture. Historically, it was the home of Richard Cowin, an early settler and active member of the St. Stephen's Anglican Church community, and later David Hartley, a prominent local farmer, Justice of the Peace, and Town Councillor. Contextually, it is one of the oldest houses in Milton and is likely the first dwelling constructed within the Foster Survey.

Discussion

Historically, the lot was owned by Hugh Foster, an early land developer. Hugh, along with Henry Huffman, purchased lots south of Main Street. The lot was registered to Hugh in May of 1854, part of which became the Foster Survey, one of the earliest subdivisions in Milton before the Town was incorporated in 1857. Hugh was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1794, and immigrated to Canada in 1816. Originally a cooper (barrel maker) by trade, he established the first cooperage in Milton. Hugh had five children with his first wife, Jane (née Coates) Foster (1808-1844) and one child with his second wife, Sarah Ann (née Centre) Foster. After the passing of Hugh in 1858, who is interred in the Milton Pioneer Cemetery, most of his land holdings were left in the family estate to be auctioned off.

In July of 1854, shortly after the lot was registered, Richard Cowin (also spelled Cowan) purchased the lot and built the house. The house is one of the oldest in Milton and is likely the first house built in the Foster Survey. Richard was born in Ireland in 1816 to Mary (née Switzer) Cowin, and she and her eight children immigrated to Hornby, Ontario, around 1831 following her husband's death. The Cowin family were very connected to St. Stephen's

Discussion

Anglican Church, having donated land for both the Church and its Cemetery. Richard served on various church committees and offices, including Choir Master, Rector's Warden, People's Warden, and Lay Delegate. Richard was also listed as a school trustee in Hornby and was very active during the possible Fenian Raid in Upper Canada, where he succeeded in obtaining 45 volunteers.

Following Richard's passing in 1870, the property was transferred to his wife, Eliza Cowin. That same year, the title was transferred to either her brother-in-law, John Cowin Sr., or his son, John Cowin Jr. In 1876, John Sr. or Jr. transferred the title to Theodore Brain and his wife, Susan Jane (née Cowin) Brain, who was the daughter of Richard's brother, William Cowin. Susan served as organist at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, and Theodore also served in various offices. The Brain family built and operated the Brain Brewery in Hornby and were very involved in their community.

Between 1879 and 1894, the ownership of the property was transferred five times. Later, in 1901, the property was sold to David Hartley, who had retired from operating his Mountain View Fruit Farm on Appleby Line in Nelson Township. David was born in Mochrum, Wigtonshire, Scotland, in 1834. In 1858, David married Ellen Catherine (née Shields) Hartley, and they had six children, all of whom attended Bell School. David was a Justice of the Peace, and he also held a government position as an Immigrant Agent for the district. In faith, David was a Methodist and was a supporter of the Mountain Chapel of the New Connexion Methodist Church. After retiring from farming and living in the Town, David served as Town Councillor from 1902 to 1903 and again in 1910. Shortly after, David passed in 1912 and is buried alongside his wife in Milton Evergreen Cemetery.

Following Ellen's passing in 1927, the property was transferred in 1928 to Melvin Edgar Hadfield and his wife, May Ethel (née Draper) Hadfield. Melvin initially worked at the Milton Brick Yard and later as a Policeman in Milton. Between 1970 and 1994, the ownership of the property was transferred four times. Today, the property is owned by James and Mirella Marshall. James is a farmer, while Mirella is a business owner with a longstanding commitment to local heritage preservation. She currently serves as President of the Milton Historical Society and was a member of the Heritage Milton Committee for 15 years, including 10 years as Chair. The property has therefore retained its connection to residents involved in Milton's civic and heritage community, reinforcing its significance within the Town's historical development.

Physically, the one-and-a-half-storey house is an example of mid-19th century Gothic Revival-style architecture. Built in 1854, the house is set on an original stone foundation and is defined by a simple rectangular form with a medium-sloped front-gable roof. Although the interior of the house has been renovated, the original wood framing remains intact beneath

Discussion

the current exterior cladding. The house retains two original semi-circular window openings with pointed lintels, which continue to convey the dwelling's historic architectural character.

The front (west) elevation is symmetrical in composition and features a centrally located entrance framed by a modest one-storey entrance porch with a shallow gable roof. Above the entrance, a prominent centre gable projects from the principal roof slope and contains one of the original semi-circular windows. The exterior is presently clad in horizontal siding with simple trim, reflecting later alterations to the building's exterior while preserving its original form and massing.

A one-storey side addition extends from the north-west elevation and is distinguished from the historic dwelling by its lower roofline and more contemporary design. The addition does not contribute to the property's physical or design value. A rear covered veranda extends from the rear (east) elevation of the house and is distinguished from the historic house by its contemporary design, exposed timber truss, square support posts, and modern deck with metal railings. The veranda also does not contribute to the property's physical or design value.

Contextually, the property is one of the oldest houses built in the Town of Milton and is likely the first house built in the Foster Survey. The lot is shown in the 1877 Historical Atlas of Halton County, further supporting the historic character of downtown Milton and its association with the early settlement and development of the Town.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that reflect the cultural heritage value of the property include:

- The one-and-a-half-storey house with a medium-sloped gable roof was built in 1854, representing one of the oldest houses in the Town of Milton.
- The original stone foundation, including visible foundation openings, reflects early construction methods and continues to support the historic structural form of the dwelling.
- The original timber framing, concealed beneath the current exterior cladding, demonstrates traditional wood-frame construction methods.
- The two original semi-circular windows with pointed lintels, including the prominent window centred within the front-facing gable, are distinctive architectural features of the Gothic Revival style.
- The early establishment of residential development within the Foster Survey, representing one of the first phases of planned subdivision in pre-incorporation Milton.
- The association with Richard Cowin, an early settler and builder of the dwelling, who was a prominent and active member of the St. Stephen's Anglican Church community and contributed to local civic and militia efforts.



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

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Discussion

- The association with David Hartley, a retired local farmer, Justice of the Peace, and former Town Councillor, reflects the property's connection to early 20th-century leadership and agricultural history in Milton.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the optimal conservation and protection measures for this heritage property are the designation of the property.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hogan
Commissioner, Development Services

For questions, please contact: David Twigg Phone: Ext. 2205
Director, Planning Policy & Urban
Design

Attachments

- Appendix '1'_Reasons for Designation_90 Mary Street
- Appendix '2'_CHVI Evaluation_90 Mary Street
- Appendix '3'_Photographic Record Heritage Attributes_90 Mary Street

Approved by CAO
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

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Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.

Reasons for Designation

90 Mary Street - The Cowin and Hartley House



Legal Description

LOT 7 BLOCK 5, FOSTER SURVEY

Description of Property

The historic Cowin and Hartley House at 90 Mary Street was built in 1854 by Richard Cowin shortly after he purchased the lot from Hugh Foster as part of the newly established Foster Survey, one of Milton's earliest subdivisions. Physically, it is a one-and-a-half-storey dwelling constructed on a stone foundation, featuring a simple rectangular form and a medium-sloped front-gable roof, characteristic of mid-19th century Gothic Revival-style architecture. Historically, it was the home of Richard Cowin, an early settler and active member of the St. Stephen's Anglican Church community, and later David Hartley, a prominent local farmer, Justice of the Peace, and Town Councillor. Contextually, it is one of the oldest houses in Milton and is likely the first dwelling constructed within the Foster Survey.

Statement of Cultural Value and Interest

Historical Value

Historically, the lot was owned by Hugh Foster, an early land developer. Hugh, along with Henry Huffman, purchased lots south of Main Street. The lot was registered to Hugh in May of 1854, part of which became the Foster Survey, one of the earliest subdivisions in Milton before the Town was incorporated in 1857. Hugh was born in County Down, Ireland, in 1794, and immigrated to Canada in 1816. Originally a cooper (barrel maker) by trade, he established the first cooperage in Milton. Hugh had five children with his first wife, Jane (née Coates) Foster (1808-1844) and one child with his second wife, Sarah Ann (née Centre) Foster. After the passing of Hugh in 1858, who is interred in the Milton Pioneer Cemetery, most of his land holdings were left in the family estate to be auctioned off.

In July of 1854, shortly after the lot was registered, Richard Cowin (also spelled Cowan) purchased the lot and built the house. The house is one of the oldest in Milton and is likely the first house built in the Foster Survey. Richard was born in Ireland in 1816 to Mary (née Switzer) Cowin, and she and her eight children immigrated to Hornby, Ontario, around 1831 following her husband's death. The Cowin family were very connected to St. Stephen's Anglican Church, having donated land for both the Church and its Cemetery. Richard served on various church committees and offices, including Choir Master, Rector's Warden, People's Warden, and Lay Delegate. Richard was also listed as a school trustee in Hornby and was very active during the possible Fenian Raid in Upper Canada, where he succeeded in obtaining 45 volunteers.

Following Richard's passing in 1870, the property was transferred to his wife, Eliza Cowin. That same year, the title was transferred to either her brother-in-law, John Cowin Sr., or his son, John Cowin Jr. In 1876, John Sr. or Jr. transferred the title to Theodore Brain and his wife, Susan Jane (née Cowin) Brain, who was the daughter of Richard's brother, William Cowin. Susan served as organist at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, and Theodore also served in various offices. The Brain family built and operated the Brain Brewery in Hornby and were very involved in their community.

Between 1879 and 1894, the ownership of the property was transferred five times. Later, in 1901, the property was sold to David Hartley, who had retired from operating his Mountain View Fruit Farm on Appleby Line in Nelson Township. David was born in Mochrum, Wigtonshire, Scotland, in 1834. In 1858, David married Ellen Catherine (née Shields) Hartley, and they had six children, all of whom attended Bell School. David was a Justice of the Peace, and he also held a government position as an Immigrant Agent for the district. In faith, David was a Methodist and was a supporter of the Mountain Chapel of the New Connexion Methodist Church. After retiring from farming and living in the Town, David served as Town Councillor from 1902 to 1903 and again in 1910. Shortly after, David passed in 1912 and is buried alongside his wife in Milton Evergreen Cemetery.

Following Ellen's passing in 1927, the property was transferred in 1928 to Melvin Edgar Hadfield and his wife, May Ethel (née Draper) Hadfield. Melvin initially worked at the Milton Brick Yard and later as a Policeman in Milton. Between 1970 and 1994, the ownership of the property was transferred four times. Today, the property is owned by James and Mirella Marshall. James is a farmer, while Mirella is a business owner with a

longstanding commitment to local heritage preservation. She currently serves as President of the Milton Historical Society and was a member of the Heritage Milton Committee for 15 years, including 10 years as Chair. The property has therefore retained its connection to residents involved in Milton's civic and heritage community, reinforcing its significance within the Town's historical development.

Physical or Design Value

Physically, the one-and-a-half-storey house is an example of mid-19th century Gothic Revival-style architecture. Built in 1854, the house is set on an original stone foundation and is defined by a simple rectangular form with a medium-sloped front-gable roof. Although the interior of the house has been renovated, the original wood framing remains intact beneath the current exterior cladding. The house retains two original semi-circular window openings with pointed lintels, which continue to convey the dwelling's historic architectural character.

The front (west) elevation is symmetrical in composition and features a centrally located entrance framed by a modest one-storey entrance porch with a shallow gable roof. Above the entrance, a prominent centre gable projects from the principal roof slope and contains one of the original semi-circular windows. The exterior is presently clad in horizontal siding with simple trim, reflecting later alterations to the building's exterior while preserving its original form and massing.

A one-storey side addition extends from the north-west elevation and is distinguished from the historic dwelling by its lower roofline and more contemporary design. The addition does not contribute to the property's physical or design value. A rear covered veranda extends from the rear (east) elevation of the house and is distinguished from the historic house by its contemporary design, exposed timber truss, square support posts, and modern deck with metal railings. The veranda also does not contribute to the property's physical or design value.

Contextual Value

Contextually, the property is one of the oldest houses built in the Town of Milton and is likely the first house built in the Foster Survey. The lot is shown in the 1877 Historical Atlas of Halton County, further supporting the historic character of downtown Milton and its association with the early settlement and development of the Town.

Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that reflect the cultural heritage value of the subject property include:

- The one-and-a-half-storey house with a medium-sloped gable roof was built in 1854, representing one of the oldest houses in the Town of Milton.
- The original stone foundation, including visible foundation openings, reflects early construction methods and continues to support the historic structural form of the dwelling.
- The original timber framing, concealed beneath the current exterior cladding,

demonstrates traditional wood-frame construction methods.

- The two original semi-circular windows with pointed lintels, including the prominent window centred within the front-facing gable, are distinctive architectural features of the Gothic Revival style.
- The early establishment of residential development within the Foster Survey, representing one of the first phases of planned subdivision in pre-incorporation Milton.
- The association with Richard Cowin, an early settler and builder of the dwelling, who was a prominent and active member of the St. Stephen's Anglican Church community and contributed to local civic and militia efforts.
- The association with David Hartley, a retired local farmer, Justice of the Peace, and former Town Councillor, reflects the property's connection to early 20th-century leadership and agricultural history in Milton.

Cultural Heritage Value or Interest Evaluation

Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* establishes the criteria for determining the Cultural Heritage Value of Heritage Resources. A property must have the potential to meet at least two of the criteria to be considered to have heritage significance. These criteria fall into three categories: (1) design or physical value; (2) historical or associative value; and (3) contextual value. The following table considers and evaluates the property against these criteria.

Table 6: Evaluation of the Cultural Heritage Value of 90 Mary Street

The property has design value or physical value because it,		
	Criteria	Evaluation
i	is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method	Yes, the property is a rare, unique, representative and early example of a one-and-a-half-storey Gothic Revival-style dwelling with a medium-sloped front-gable roof.
ii	displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	No, the property does not display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.
iii	demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	No, the property does not demonstrate a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
The property has historical value or associative value because it,		
i	has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community	Yes, the property is directly associated with Richard Cowin, who constructed the dwelling in 1854 and was an active member of the St. Stephen's Anglican Church community, and later with David Hartley, a prominent local farmer, Justice of the Peace, and Town Councillor.
ii	yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	Yes, the property has the potential to yield information that contributes to a historical understanding of the early subdivision and development of the Foster Survey, as shown in the 1877 Historical Atlas of Halton County.
iii	demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community	No, the property does not demonstrate or reflect the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is

		significant to a community.
The property has contextual value because it,		
i	is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area	Yes, the property is important in defining, maintaining and supporting the character of downtown Milton as it is one of the oldest houses built before the Town was incorporated.
ii	is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings	No, the property is not physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.
iii	is a landmark	No, the property is not a landmark.

According to the criteria above, the property has significant cultural heritage value based on the design/physical, historical/associative and contextual criteria. These attributes are sufficient to warrant a Heritage Designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.



Appendix 3

Photographic Record of Heritage Attributes
90 Mary Street

LEGEND	
H	Historical
A	Addition
V	Veranda
G	Garage
S	Shed



Location Map of 90 Mary Street

Historical Book Record

90 MARY ST.

LOT 7 BLOCK 5 FOSTER SURVEY

May 8, 1854	reg to Foster	B-56
July 10, 1854	Foster to Richard Cowan poss bldr.	
Dec. 12, 1865	Cowan to Geo. Sparling	
Apr. 3, 1869	Sparling to Richard Cowan	
Dec. 10, 1870	Cowan est. to Eliz. Cowan, wife	
Dec. 16, 1870	E. Cowan to John H. Cowan	
Jan. 5, 1876	Cowan to Susan J. & Theodore Brain	
Feb. 27, 1879	Brain to Thos. H. Lavery	
Feb. 5, 1881	Lavery to Chas. Downie	
Jan. 29, 1892	Lavery to Jane Cahpin, widow	
Aug. 25, 1894	Chapin est. to Hugh Wilson et ax.	
Oct. 27, 1894	Wilson to James Gorrie	
July 25, 1901	Gorrie est. to David Hartley	
Nov. 4, 1908	Downie est. to Mary & Janet Menzie	
May 18, 1912	Hartley est. to Eliz. C. Hartley	
	to 173F	

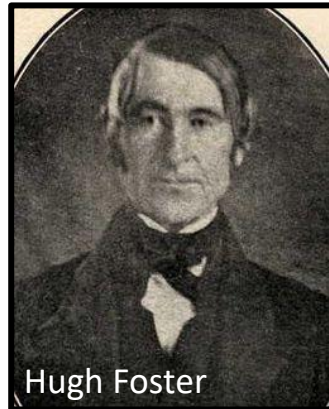
NOTES:

David Hartley would be the grandfather of the David Hartley that developed the cherry orchard on the mountain.

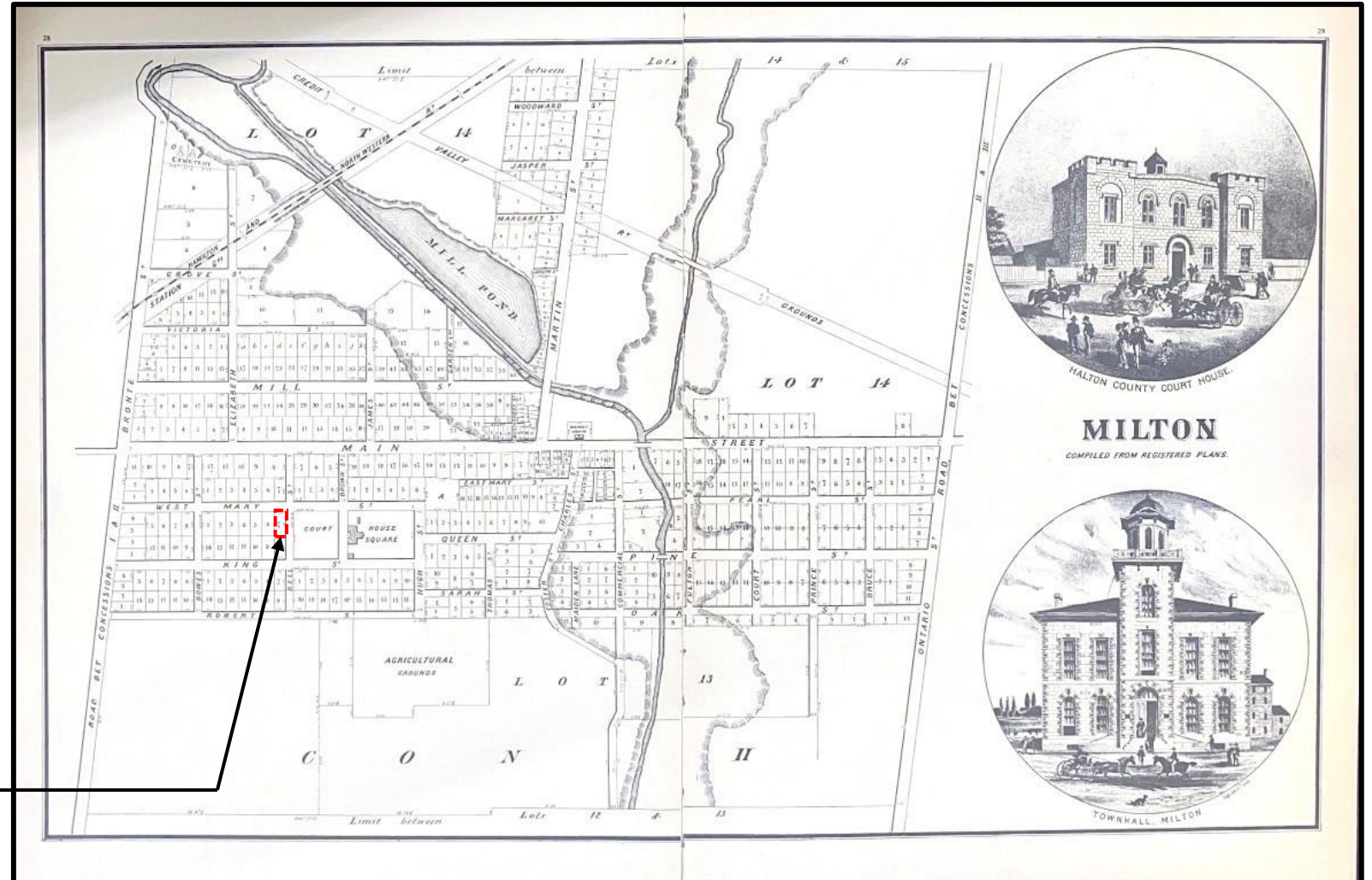
Historical Attributes

Lot 7 Block 5, Foster Survey

In 1854, the lot was registered to Hugh Foster, part of which became the Foster Survey, one of the earliest subdivisions in Milton before the Town was incorporated in 1857.



The lot is shown on the 1877 Historical Atlas of Halton County.



Historical Attributes – Cowin Family



Photo added by Patricia Jackson

Richard Cowin

BIRTH 1816
Ireland

DEATH 2 Jun 1870 (aged 53–54)
Ontario, Canada

BURIAL Saint Stephen's Anglican Cemetery
Halton Hills, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada [Add to Map](#)

PLOT Row 25

MEMORIAL ID 134715408 · [View Source](#)

[SHARE](#) [+ SAVE TO](#) [SUGGEST EDITS](#)

[+ Add Photos](#) [Request Photo](#)

Family Members

Parents

Mary Switzer Cowin
1771–1854

Siblings

William Cowin
1793–1869

John Cowin
1803–1877

Mary Cowin Switzer
1806–1878

Anne Cowin Perdue
1808–1868

Joseph Cowin
1809–1894

Margaret Cowin
1813–1836

Flowers

[Leave a Flower](#)

[Remove Ads](#)



Added by Rev Sue



Added by Rev Sue

Richard Cowin, brother of William Cowin



Photo added by Patricia Jackson

Susan Jane Cowin Brain

BIRTH 6 Aug 1848
Hornby, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 8 Feb 1925 (aged 77)
Hornby, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL Saint Stephen's Anglican Cemetery
Halton Hills, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada [Add to Map](#)

PLOT Row 10

MEMORIAL ID 135216765 · [View Source](#)

[SHARE](#) [SAVE TO](#) [SUGGEST EDITS](#)

[+ Add Photos](#) [Request Photo](#)

Family Members

Parents

William Cowin
1793–1869

Mary Thompson Cowin
1822–1853

Siblings

Fanny Jane Cowin
1846–1847

Spouse

Theodore Brain
1840–1922 (m. 1870)

Children

Wm William John Brain
1871–1931

Emily Jane Brain
1875–1938

Harriet Alice Brain Noble
1880–1949

Theodore Garnet Brain
1882–1938

Arthur Melvin Brain
1884–1952

Ernest Foster Brain
1886–1965

Charlotte F. Brain Ellenton
1889–1967

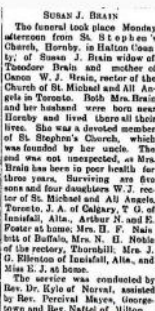
Flowers

[Leave a Flower](#)

[We Remember](#)
by ancestry



Added by Patricia Jackson



Added by Rev Sue

Susan Jane (née Cowin) Brain, daughter of William Cowin, niece of Richard Cowin, and wife of Theodore Brain



Photo added by Patricia Jackson

Theodore Brain

BIRTH 2 Feb 1840
Esqueping Township, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

DEATH 4 Nov 1922 (aged 82)
Esqueping Township, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL Saint Stephen's Anglican Cemetery
Halton Hills, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada [Add to Map](#)

PLOT Row 10

MEMORIAL ID 135213025 · [View Source](#)

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[+ Add Photos](#) [Request Photo](#)

Family Members

Parents

John Brain
1795–1865

Catherine Hand Foster Brain
1800–1883

Siblings

Catherine Louisa Brain
1830–1830

John Brain
1832–1895

George Brain
1834–1919

Caroline Matilda Brain Shand
1836–1875

Edwin Brain
1842–1904

Amelia Charlotte Brain
1848–1887

Spouse

Susan Jane Cowin Brain
1848–1926 (m. 1870)

Children

Wm William John Brain
1871–1931

Emily Jane Brain
1875–1938

Harriet Alice Brain Noble
1880–1949

Theodore Garnet Brain
1882–1938

Arthur Melvin Brain
1884–1952

Ernest Foster Brain
1886–1965

Charlotte F. Brain Ellenton
1889–1967

Flowers

[Leave a Flower](#)

[See 2 more](#)

[Remove Ads](#)



Added by Patricia Jackson



Added by Patricia Jackson

Theodore Brain, a farmer and member of the Brain family, founders and operators of the once renowned Brain Brewery

Historical Attributes

Richard Cowin was very active during the possible Fenian Raid in Upper Canada, where he succeeded in obtaining 45 volunteers.

The information was provided by *Moments in History: Reflections of Halton's County Town 1833-1864* compiled by Jim Dills.

1864

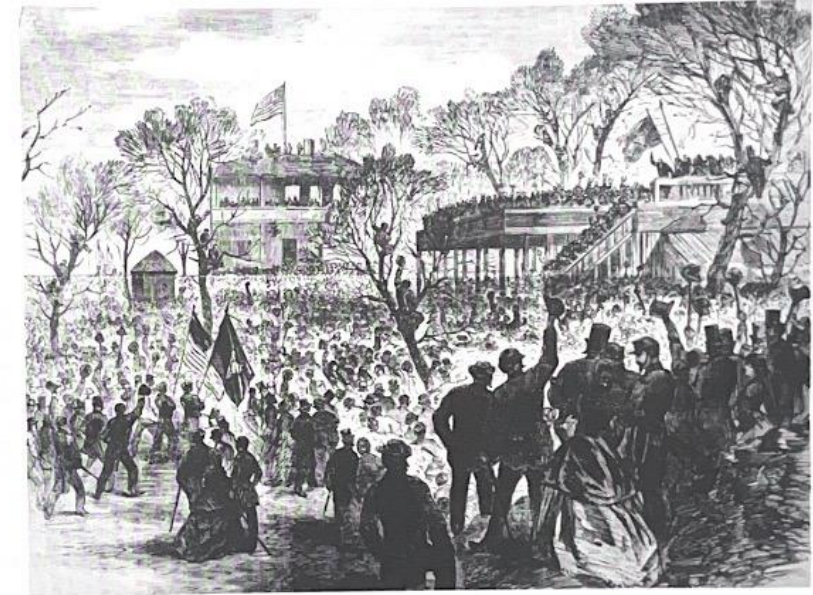
selves up to their present position as well as to go on improving.

A word of encouragement and advice from a man holding his honourable position in the British army does much to keep even a volunteer company together. It is far more than the encouragement received thus far from the Canadian government.

It is a disgrace that we have no volunteer company in Milton. Georgetown, Stewartown and Oakville support efficient companies. In Omagh a company has been formed for private drill and at Hornby there is a rifle company forming. Richard Cowan is very active in the matter there and has already succeeded in getting 45 names. A further company is forming at the Four Corners on the borders of Halton and Peel so that we are likely to be well protected in these quarters.

We feel confident an efficient company of volunteers could be raised in Milton. The

Moments in History



The Fenian Brotherhood, shown here at a monster meeting in Jones Wood, New York, is threatening our border.

-Illustrated Times, London, National Archives of Canada C-9130

Mayor should call a public meeting by proclamation, which he would undoubtedly do if he is authorized by a properly signed petition.

One wag has wickedly suggested that our best defense is the almost impenetrable mud to be found on all the highways and byways leading to the County Town. During the most of the year the roads would be absolutely impassable to an army. Virginia mud has a great reputation for depth and tenacity, but

Halton, it is thought, would carry off the award in both these respects. If the enemy did occupy Milton, by entering during the navigation season, and delayed their departure till a thaw took place, they would find themselves land locked and cut off from their supplies. 

References:

Canadian Champion Dec. 8, 1864, Dec. 22, 1864, Jan. 5, 1865, Jan. 12, 1865

Canadiana (Grolier) 1958

Historical Attributes – Hartley Family



Photo added by AlisonK

+ Add Photos + Request Photo

David Hartley

BIRTH 3 Mar 1834
Mochrum, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland

DEATH 23 Feb 1912 (aged 77)
Milton, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada

BURIAL Evergreen Cemetery
Milton, Halton Regional Municipality, Ontario, Canada [Show Map](#)

PLOT Blk: 040. Lot 2-4-1

MEMORIAL ID 109083592 · [View Source](#)

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MEMORIAL PHOTOS 1 FLOWERS 1

David was born in a Mochram, Wigtonshire, Scotland, to James and Margaret Christie Hartley. In September 1852. Margaret and three of her sons, David, Joseph and Eustace, left from Androssan, Scotland on the Spring Hill. After 8 stormy weeks at sea, they finally landed in Quebec, Canada. They then made their way to Ontario, to stay with David's sister, Margaret Hartley Crawford. By 1860, everone but David made their way to America.

Inscription
DAVID HARTLEY
Died Feb. 23, 1912
In His 78th Year
Born Mochram Wigtonshire Scotland

Family Members

Parents



James Hartley
1800-1851



Ellen Catherine Shields Hartley
1842-1927 (m. 1858)

Siblings



James Hartley
1825-1897



Margaret Hartley Crawford
1830-1904



Peter James Hartley
1830-1907



Thomas Hartley
1832-1887



Rev Alexander Young Hartley
1838-1902



Joseph Christie "Uncle Joe" Hartley
1840-1905



Eustace Douglas Hartley
1842-1929

Spouse



Ellen Catherine Shields Hartley
1842-1927 (m. 1858)

Children



William James Hartley
1861-1944



Ellen Catherine "Nettie" Hartley Crawford
1865-1943



Peter David Hartley
1866-1958



Emma Agnes Hartley Johnson
1878-1971

MILTON AREA BIOGRAPHIES

Hartley, David

Farmer, Justice of the Peace, Immigrant Agent, municipal politician 1834-1912

Born on March 3, 1834 at Mockran, Wigtonshire, Scotland, David Hartley was the son of James Hartley and Margaret Christie.

On December 16, 1858 Mr. Hartley married Ellen C. Shields (Feb. 3, 1842-Mar. 10, 1927), the daughter of William Shields (- Feb. 5, 1852) and Rachel Ramshaw. Mr. and Mrs. David Hartley had six children, three sons and three daughters.

Mr. Hartley farmed in Nelson Township. He was a Justice of the Peace and he also held a government position as Immigrant Agent for the district.

In religion he was a Methodist and was one of the chief supporters of the Mountain Chapel. He retired from farming and came to Milton in 1900 or 1901. He was a Town Councillor for 1902-1903 and 1910.

Mr. Hartley died on February 23, 1912 and was survived by his wife and three sons, Peter J. and William of Nelson Township, Alexander of Bowsman, Man., and three daughters, Myrtle, (Mrs. J. A. C. Tock) of Milton, Ellen C. (Mrs. Murray Crawford) of Campbellville, and Agnes E. (Mrs. Hector Johnson) of Brantford. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton.

Research: Alex S. Cooke
Sources: *The Canadian Champion. Cemetery Recordings*, published by Halton/Peel Branch O.C.S. *Members of the Municipal Council*, compiled by Brenda Whitlock for Milton Historical Society.

Published by Milton Historical Society 1995



Heritage Matters

90 Mary Street was built in 1854 and is one of the oldest houses in Milton. It is likely the first house built following the registration of the Foster Survey, which included Victoria Park and Courthouse Square, one of the earliest subdivisions in Milton created even before Milton was incorporated as a Town in 1857. The house was designed in the Gothic Revival style and was built by R. Cowan, an Irish immigrant farmer. David and Ellen Hartley, pictured above, purchased the home in 1900 after retiring from their fruit farm on Appleby Line.

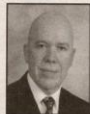
— Submitted by Heritage Milton and Milton Historical Society

David Hartley (left) and his wife Ellen Catherine (née Shields) Hartley (right)



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Rosella & W.J. Hartley
~ circa 1890 ~



Peter D. Hartley Family
~ circa 1925 ~
L to R: Ellen, Cora, Jean & Lillian



Evelyn & Cora
Walsh
~ circa 1920 ~



David Hartley Fruit Farm
~ 1923 ~

L to R: Ed Harrop, David and Joe Hartley, Mr. Harrop

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SHOEBOX



Mabel & Peter
Hartley
~ circa 1900 ~



David Hartley came to Canada from Mochram, Wiltshire, Scotland and married Ellen Catherine Shields. He apparently worked in the Milton area for some time before purchasing property. His son, Peter, born in 1866, used to tell his grandchildren, "I was born in that field," pointing to a location on the west side of Steeles Avenue from Appleby Line, presumably in a long-gone log cabin. 1867 David Hartley bought Lot 12, Conc. 5, on Appleby Line, Nelson Township. In 1871 he and his brother Joseph bought 50 acres each at Lot 15, Conc. 5, south side of Steeles on the same line. David and Ellen had six children: William James (W.J.), Alexander John, Ellen Catherine, Peter David, Agnes Emma and Myrtle. The family played a large part in the early life of the area. The Hartleys attended Bell School and were active members of the Mountain Chapel of the New Connexion Methodist Church. It was part of the Milton Circuit which included Milton, Per Ashgrove, and Farlon. Peter was Sunday School Superintendent for many years then on the Board of St. Paul's United Church in Milton. Will (W.J.) married Rosella Luckese of the Lowville area. They farmed on Derry Road on the Absalom Bell homestead, near Bell School Line. Their crops included apples and grapes. They had six daughters and one son. Tillie, Jessie, David, Maude, Clara Ivaugh and Wilda. W.J. also owned about 80 acres on Lot 12, Bell School Line where his son David first began farming with his wife Pearl Anderson. David and Pearl originally maintained a jersey herd, but David's dream was to have a fruit farm. He imported cherry tree nursery stock from France. Unfortunately, a severe ice storm split the trees when they were young. Willing helpers winched the trees back together. Mother Nature did the healing and the trees produced excellent quality fruit for over 40 years.

Men from Milton Heights walked to the farm to dig post holes for 20 acres of grape vines at 1 cent an hour. These same men and their families also picked many cherries at the farm. Dave and Pearl's son Joe was born in 1922. Pearl was the bookkeeper and organizer of the worker records. A Mennonite family of boys from St. Jacobs installed the drain. Pearl had plum trees added. Hartley grapes went to Niagara wineries with some to local Italian families. The other fruits went to the "Smart Cannery" in Collingwood. In 1943 Joe married Dorothy Cleave of rural Georgetown, and Dave and Pearl retired to Milton. Sadly, Dave died suddenly from a heart attack while strolling through his cherry orchard in 1945. Joe and

David Hartley
b. 1834, d. 1912



Hartley
Family Tree

Ellen Shields
b. 1842, d. 1927

Partial direct line for the Hartley family of Lot 12, Conc. 5, Nelson Township. Photos and background information courtesy of Mabel Coulson, Ruth McCready and Dorothy Hartley. Compiled by Betty Brownridge.

William James Hartley
b. 1859, d. 1944
Rosella Luckese
Alexander John Hartley
m.1 Annie Walker
m.2 Isobel Dallzell
Ellen Catherine Hartley
m.1 Hector Johnson
m.2 Hilliard Wicks
Margaret (Myrtle) Hartley
Joseph Tock

Murray Crawford
Peter David Hartley
b. 1866, d. 1958
Mabel Lush
b. 1874, d. 1953
Agnes Emma Hartley
m.1 Hector Johnson
m.2 Hilliard Wicks
Margaret (Myrtle) Hartley
Joseph Tock

Cora Pearl Hartley
b. 1893, d. 1990
m.1 Fred Walsh
m.2 Norman
Marjorie Jean Hartley
b. 1895, d. 1984
Robert Anderson
Ellen Hartley
b. 1896, d. 1980
m.1 Earl Wilson
m.2 Ernest Ross
m.3 Fred Har
Lillian Estelle Hartley
b. 1901, d. 1957
Allan McCready

Tillie Hartley
Walter Roach
Jessie Hartley
Lloyd Kenny
David Hartley
b. 1889, d. 1945
Pearl Anderson
Maude Hartley
Edwin Harrop
Clara Hartley
Ivaugh Hartley
Taylor Hepburn
Wilda Hartley
George Marsha

Cora Pearl Hartley
b. 1893, d. 1990
m.1 Fred Walsh
m.2 Norman
Marjorie Jean Hartley
b. 1895, d. 1984
Robert Anderson
Ellen Hartley
b. 1896, d. 1980
m.1 Earl Wilson
m.2 Ernest Ross
m.3 Fred Har
Lillian Estelle Hartley
b. 1901, d. 1957
Allan McCready

Vintage Newspaper Clippings Shoebox Memories of the Hartley Family Tree

MEMORIES



Pearl & David
Hartley
~ circa 1920 ~



Dorothy continued the business and raised three children. Carolyn married Bill McCartney of Burlington. David, an RCMP officer, married Sharon Davies. Dean married Annette Gaudy and live near Acton. About 1961 Joe and Dorothy sold the farm and it is now known as Springridge Farms. They moved to Burlington where Joe was head gardener at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton for some years. Peter Hartley attended the equivalent of today's teachers' college. However he did not have the opportunity to teach as he took over the farm. He married Mabel Lush of Eramosa, a daughter of Thomas and Margaret Jane Lush. Peter and Mabel farmed the Lot 12 homestead that overlooked the Escarpment near Rattlesnake Point. Their main livelihood was growing strawberries and raspberries and some mixed farming. Peter and Mabel had four daughters: Cora, Jean, Ellen and Lillian. Cora married Fred Walsh. He was killed in W.W.I. A stained glass window remains in place at St. Paul's United Church in memory of Cedric Harrop and Fred Walsh. Cora later married Norman Wrigglesworth of Ashgrove. Jean married Robert Anderson, a brother of Pearl Hartley. He worked for Halton Cream and Butter Co. Jean supplied top quality board for local workers and played the organ in Knox Presbyterian Church for many years. Jean and Bob had two sons, Hartley and Colin. Hartley was first married to Joy Ruddell of Ashgrove who died in a plane crash. He then married Elaine Hodge of Mount Royal, Quebec. He was an insurance manager for London Life and later he owned an independent agency. Colin married Carol Hopper and he too was in insurance. Peter Hartley Anderson, grandson of Joan and Robert Anderson, lives with his family in their former home on Sarah Street in Milton. Ellen was a school teacher and was first married to Earl Wilson who farmed south of Ashgrove. She then married Ernest Readhead of Lowville. She was also married to Fred Harbottle of Milton and very active in St. Paul's United Church. Lillian married Alan (Mac) McCready. He farmed at one time and then went to Toronto where he was a farm trade agent for Imperial Oil. Lillian and Mac raised four daughters: Ruth married Tom Bousfield and they farmed on the Fifth Line south of Steeles and have since retired to Milton. Anna married Bob Harper. Ellen married Herb Lyon. Carol married Isaac Taylor. These three couples now live in the Muskoka area, semi-retired.

Cherry Picking at Dave Hartley's Farm
~ circa 1925 ~

Edgar Crawford
Pearl Crawford
Edward Mahon
Gertrude Crawford
James Mahon
Lloyd Crawford
May Small
Hart Crawford
Evelyn Keffer

Evelyn Walsh
Edith Wrigglesworth
Frances Wrigglesworth
Gilbert Wrigglesworth
Mabel Wrigglesworth
Jean Wrigglesworth
John H. Wrigglesworth
Gordon Wrigglesworth

Ruth McCready
Anna McCready
Ellen McCready
Carol McCready

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1911 Picnic at Rattlesnake Point
Men: Will Dales, Will Hume, Jim Shields, Charlie Norris, Harvey Agnew, Harold Brownridge and Stewart Richardson. Women: Margaret Brownridge, Stiel Richardson, Jean, Ellen and Lillian Hartley, Florence, Estelle and Olive Ruddell, and Nell Shields.



Anderson/Ruddell Wedding
~ 1946 ~
L to R: Mrs. Anderson, Peter and Mabel Hartley, Hartley and Joy Anderson and Minerva Ruddell.



Peter and Mabel Hartley 58th Anniversary, 1950
From left to right, front: Linda Coulson, Norah Barnes, Anne Barnes, Carol McCready, Jack Barnes, Charles Twiss, Carol DeForest, Gordon Wrigglesworth, Fred Barnes. Second row: Lillian McCready, Cora Wrigglesworth, Mabel Hartley, Peter Hartley, Ellen Readhead, Jean Anderson. Third row: Norma Wrigglesworth, Gilbert Wrigglesworth, Jean Wrigglesworth, Evelyn Barnes, Barbara DeForest (baby), Edith DeForest, Hazel Allen, Bob Anderson, Mabel Coulson, Frances Twiss, Bob Harper Jr., Bob Harper. Fourth row: Harold Coulson, Alan McCready, Chester DeForest, Norman Wrigglesworth (partly hidden), Colin Anderson, Carol Anderson, Peter Anderson (infant), Joy Anderson, Hartley Anderson, Tom Bousfield, Ruth Bousfield, Ellen Lyon, Anna Harper, Herb Lyon. Back: John Wrigglesworth, Horace Barnes, Claude Twiss.

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Halton Hills Arts Week

Halton Hills Arts Week is fast approaching and the Town of Halton Hills wants everyone to take the time to explore the local art scene. Taking place over a ten-day period, April 23 to May 2, many events have been planned which span the artistic range of our community. View a number of artist's studios, see a number of exciting performing arts evenings, or visit the many event sites to enjoy music, visual art and great food in the company of many talented artists and craftspeople.

Some of the events include: Georgetown Children's Chorus performing their best of Broadway concert to residents of the Bennett Centre and the Estabrook Centre, Williams Mill Visual Arts Centre whose Spring Fantasy motif features art to enhance your life, the Town Art Collection, and the Students' Art Show, which will be located in the Georgetown Marketplace Mall and display original artwork from students of schools in the Halton Hills area.

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2026 Photograph of Historical House



West (Front) Elevation

2026 Photographs of Historical House

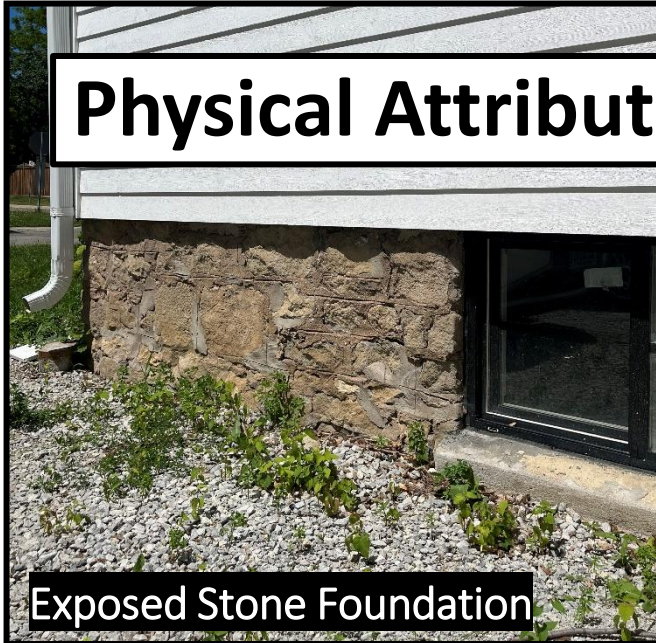


Physical Attributes



One-and-a-half-storey house with a medium-sloped gable roof, characteristic of mid-19th century Gothic Revival-style architecture

Physical Attributes



Physical Attributes

Two (2) semi-circular windows with pointed lintels

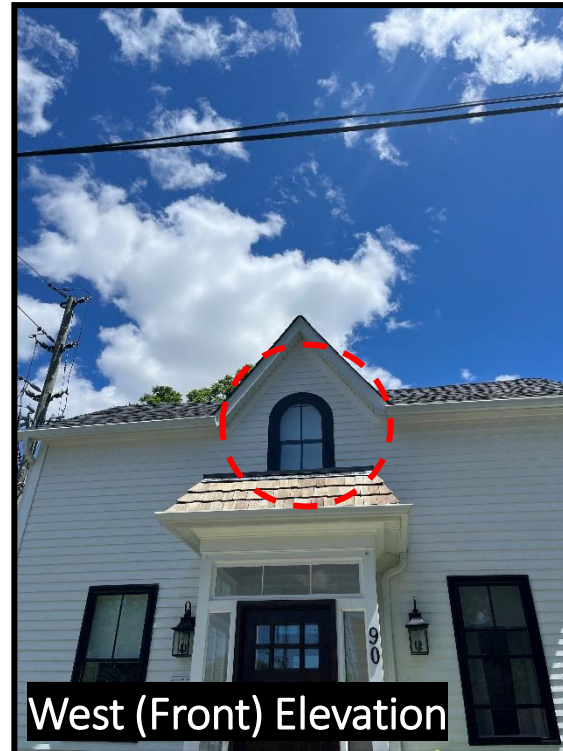
Detail View



South-East Elevation

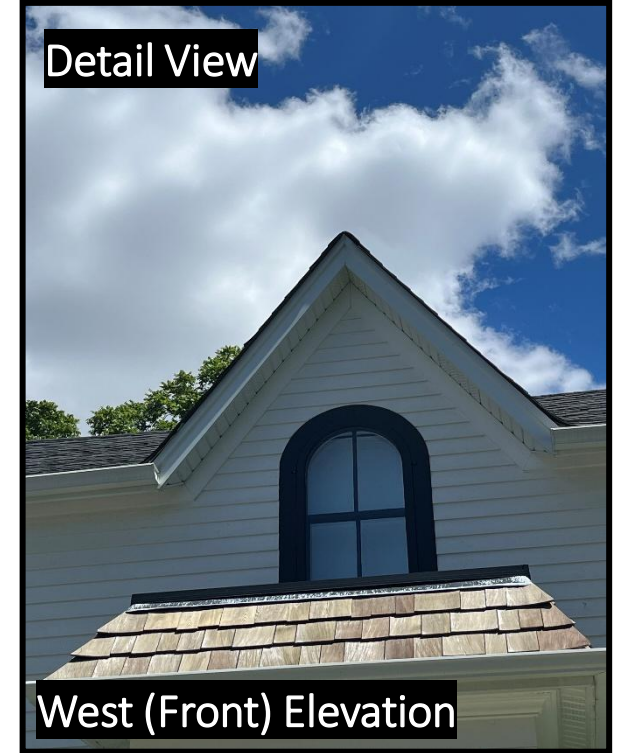


South-East Elevation



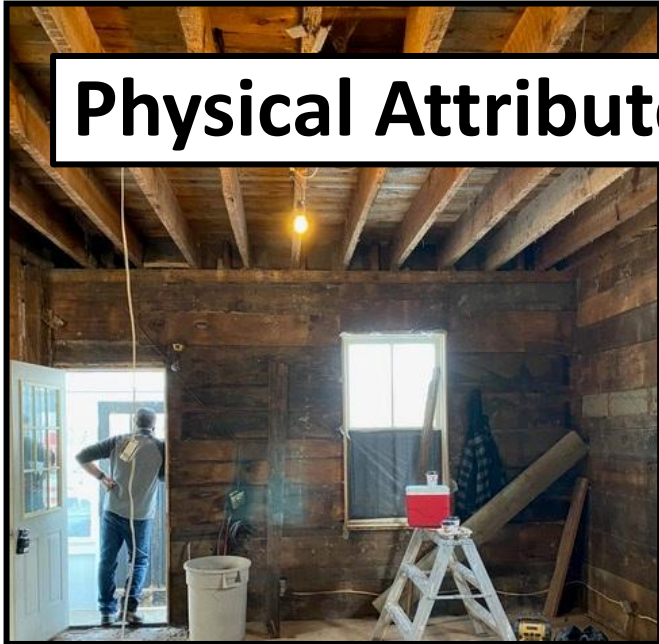
West (Front) Elevation

Detail View



West (Front) Elevation

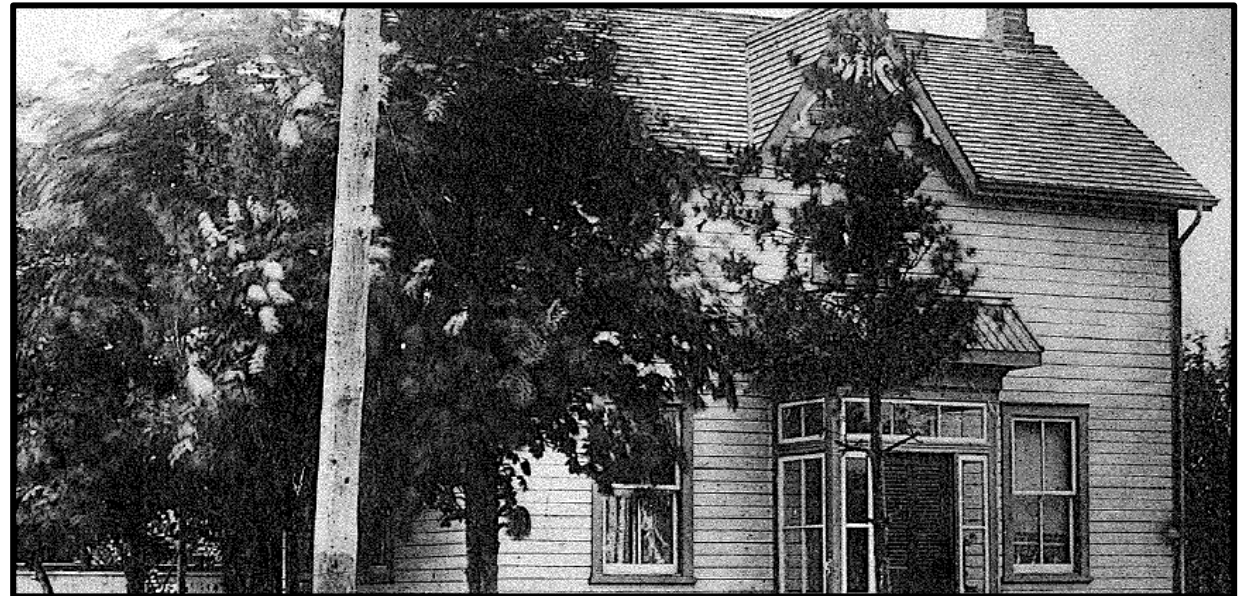
Physical Attributes



Original timber framing, now concealed beneath the current exterior cladding



Pre-Renovation Photographs of the House



2026 Photographs of Addition



West Elevation



West Elevation



North-West Elevation



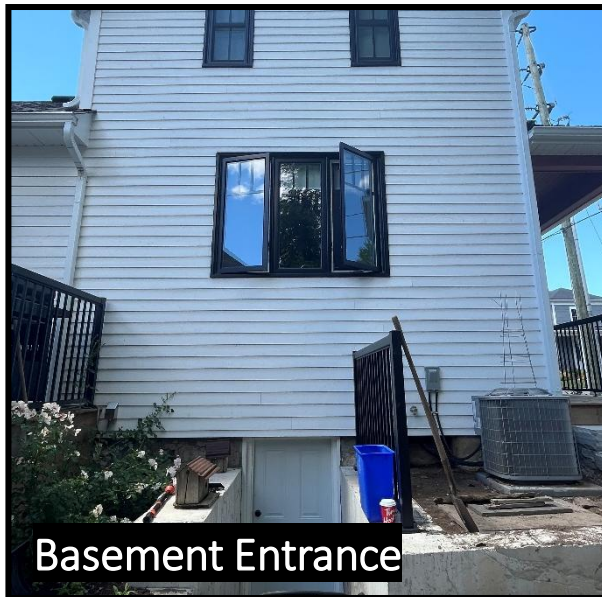
North-West Elevation



East (Rear) Elevation



East (Rear) Elevation



Basement Entrance



2026 Photographs of Veranda

East (Rear) Elevation

Non-Physical Attributes

Recently constructed veranda located in the backyard of the historic house



Non-Physical Attributes

Recently constructed garage and shed
located in the backyard of the historic house



Non-Physical Attributes

One-storey addition located on the northwest side of the historic house

