

8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills, ON
Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment



Prepared by
Heritage Resources Consulting
September 2021

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INTRODUCTION

8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills is a one and a half storey frame dwelling of neo-Gothic cottage design located near the northeast corner of lot one, concession seven, Esquesing Township, just north of the former village of Hornby West. The Town of Halton Hills has assessed this property, and several others, and has listed them in its Municipal Heritage Register as properties of cultural heritage value.¹ 8140 Hornsby Road has not been designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. The current owner has requested that Heritage Resources Consulting prepare a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment of the property.

DESCRIPTION OF 8140 HORNBY ROAD TODAY

The property is located about one kilometre west of the intersection of Highway 401 and Trafalgar Road in the Town of Halton Hills. The residence at 8140 Hornby Road is a simple rectangular one and a half storey structure with a single storey, two segment extension at its rear façade. It has a peaked roof and is clad in vertically aligned wooden boards which give a sense of height to the building. The front or east façade features a central entrance with two vertically arranged windows on either side. A single smaller window set in the central dormer provides light to the second level. The south façade has a large window on the main level and two smaller, but similar windows on the upper level. The north façade has two smaller windows on the second level. All the windows have matching lintels and sills. A single storey addition extends from the rear of the residence. (Figures 4, 5, 6 and 7).

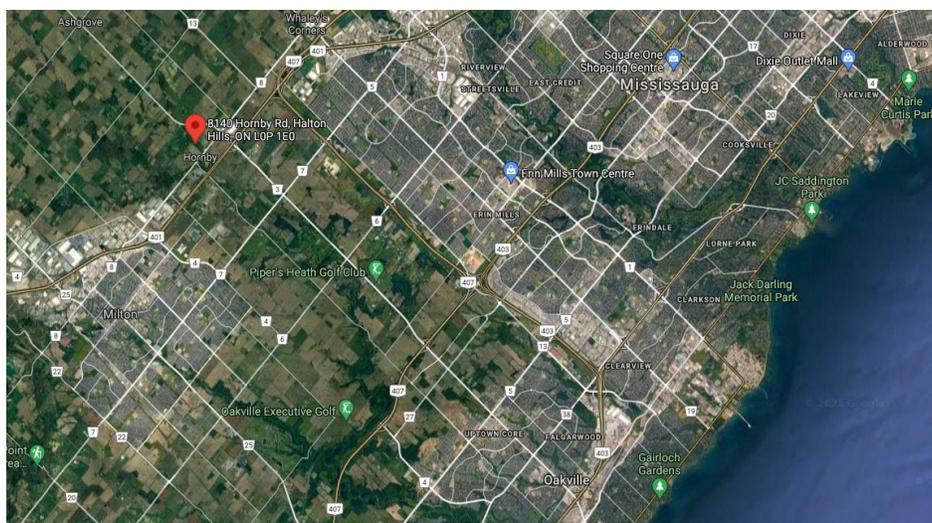


Figure 1 *An aerial view of 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills and the surrounding area.*
(Google Image,

<https://www.google.ca/maps/place/8140+Hornby+Rd,+Halton+Hills,+ON+L0P+1E0/@43.5413139,->

¹ By-Law No. 2018-0035, Town of Halton hills;

<https://www.haltonhills.ca/en/residents/resources/Documents/SignedBy-law2018-0035-OPA31A.pdf>.

[79.7792345,24989m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x882b6c1c3bcea825:0x83f84f25aed7dbb0!8m2!3d43.5711667!4d-79.8454958?hl=en.\)](https://79.7792345,24989m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x882b6c1c3bcea825:0x83f84f25aed7dbb0!8m2!3d43.5711667!4d-79.8454958?hl=en.)



Figure 2 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills, *in situ*. (Image from Town of Halton Hills web site;

<https://map.haltonhills.ca/HT5/Index.html?viewer=p.HT5&run=WFSU&qS=1&qL=4&q=OBJECTID%3D%278931%27%20&LayerTheme=8.>)

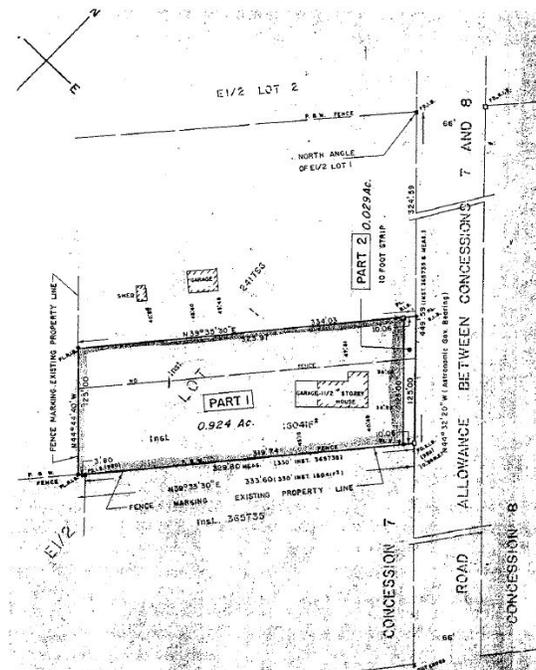


Figure 3 Survey detail of 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills, July 1974, formerly part of lot 1, concession 7, Esquesing, 15 July 1974. (Image from the owner.)



Figure 4 *The east façade of 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills. (Photo from Google Maps.)*



Figure 5 *The south façade of 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills, 2021. (Photo from client.)*



Figure 6 *The north façade of 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills, 2021. (Photo from client.)*



Figure 7 *The addition to the rear of 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills, 2021. (Photo from client.)*

SITE HISTORY

The following overview traces the evolution of the property and structure which is now identified as 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By the end of the 17th century much of what is now southern and south-western Ontario was occupied by the Ojibwa who pushed the Iroquois Confederacy south of the Lower Great Lakes during these years. The Credit River valley and a large tract of territory around it became the traditional hunting lands of the Mississauga, part of the larger Ojibwa cultural group early in the 18th century.² Here, at the mouth of the Credit River, the Mississauga met French traders and began exchanging furs for European manufactured good. It is said that the name of the river derives from the willingness of the French to extend credit to their native partners, a gesture of good will by and no doubt an economic benefit for the French.

In the first years of the 19th century it was becoming clear that European settlement was only going to increase along lakes Ontario and Erie. In 1805 the Mississauga sold their lands around the Credit River, retaining a reserve on the river and a one-mile wide stretch of land on either side of the river for fishing and hunting.³ The Mississauga Purchase in the southern half of Toronto Township was surveyed by Samuel Wilmot.⁴ Further sales took place in 1818 and 1820, an indication of the unrelenting tide of newcomers seeking farmland and establishing communities.

Similar developments were occurring immediately west of Peel County. Halton County was created in 1816 when the Gore District was separated from the Home District centred at York [Toronto]. The lower portion of Trafalgar Township, bordering on Lake Ontario, was surveyed in 1806; the upper part in 1820. Esquesing Township, immediately north of Trafalgar Township, was purchased from the Mississauga in 1818, and surveyed and opened to settlement the following year. The community of Hornby on the southern border of Esquesing Township and just south of our project's property, also began at this time.

8140 HORNBY ROAD: ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING PROPERTY

Our property, a .92 acre lot, is situated near the northeastern edge of lot 7, concession 1, Esquesing Township. In 1838 the eastern 100 acre portion of lot 7, concession 1 was patented to George Crawford, a farmer and by 1857 a Justice of the Peace or JP.⁵ His son, James Crawford separated several small lots from the northeastern part of his farm, including our property in

² Mississauga Heritage Web Site, Aboriginal Culture; <http://www.heritagemississauga.com/page/Aboriginal-Culture>.

³ Kathleen A. Hicks, *Port Credit: Past to Present* (Mississauga Library System: Mississauga, ON, 2007), p. xiii.

⁴ D. B. Simpson, "Major Samuel Street Wilmot," *Association of Ontario Land Surveyors*, <https://www.aols.org/sites/default/files/Wilmot-S.S.pdf>, pp. 108-11.

⁵ "Description of Hornby," *The Canada Directory for 1857-58* (ed. John Lovell: Montreal, 1857), p. 208.

By this date a small portion of this lot had been subdivided and sold though there is no indication of this on the map. The 1861 census shows a one and a half storey residence on this property. By 1877 our lot is shown as belonging to Dr. Anthony Fox, a physician well known in Hornby and the surrounding region.



Figure 9 Detail of the Tremaine Map of 1859 showing the location of lot 1, concession 7, Esquesing Township. (<http://maps.library.utoronto.ca/hqis/countymaps/peel/index.html>.)



Figure 10 Detail of Map of 1877 showing the location of lot 10, concession 2, Toronto Township in relation to Port Credit. (Historical Atlas of Peel County; <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas/Images/Maps/TownshipMaps/pee-m-toronto-s.jpg>.)

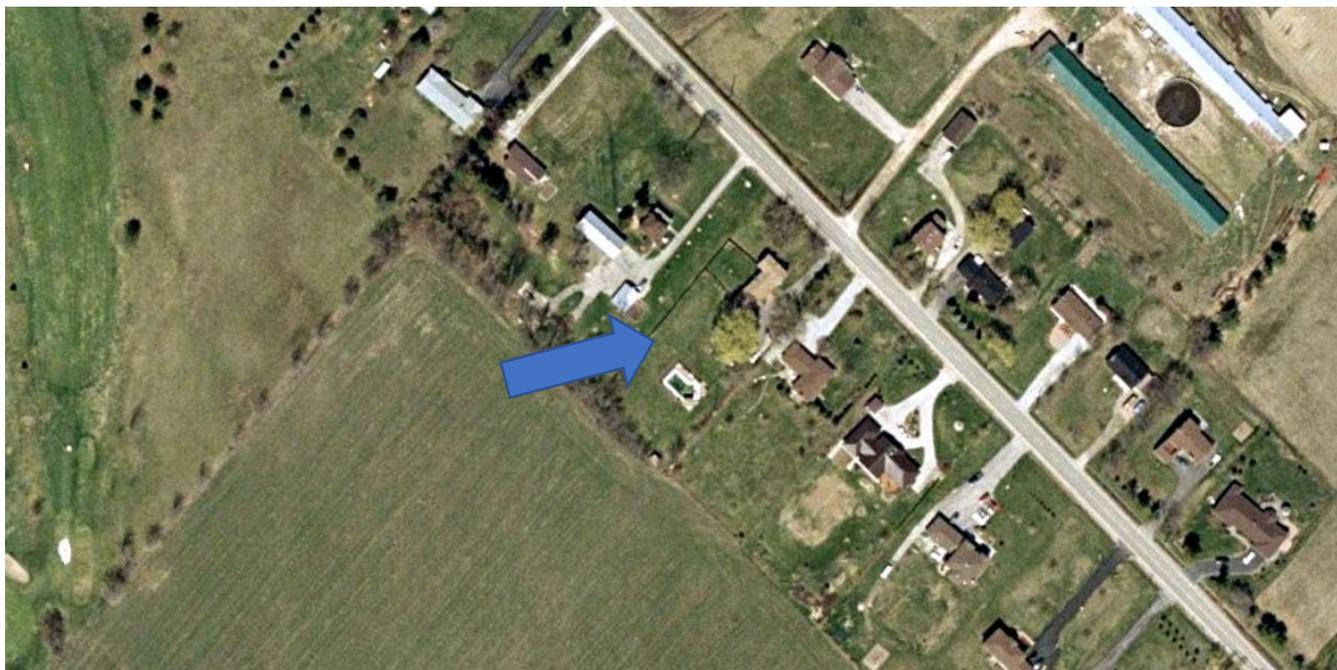


Figure 11 Aerial view of 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills, 1999. (Halton Hills web site: <https://map.haltonhills.ca/HT5/Index.html?viewer=p.HT5>.)



Figure 12 Aerial view of 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills, 2017. (Halton Hills web site: <https://map.haltonhills.ca/HT5/Index.html?viewer=p.HT5>.)

LANDSCAPE

8140 Hornby Road consists of a small rectangular lot fronting on Hornby Road. The lot is largely covered with grass lawns and, along the south side of the residence, a paved driveway and parking area. A wooden fence runs inside the lot boundary on the east and north sides of the property. A one storey frame building is located near the centre of the lot and at the end of the parking area. Trees line parts of the lot boundary on its north, west and south sides. A large willow tree grows near the one storey frame building behind the residence.



Figure 13 *A portion of the paved area east and south of the residence and the beginnings of the wooden fence. (Image from Google Maps.)*



Figure 14 *The wooden fence and lawns on the east and central portions of 8140 Hornby Road. (Image from Google Maps.)*



Figure 15 *The lawns to the rear of 8140 Hornby Road. (Photo from client.)*

STREETSCAPE

8140 Hornby Road sits in a semi-rural environment consisting of large lots and homes ranging from modest ranch style bungalows to more substantial homes. The following images show Hornby Road, north and south from our property and examples of the residences nearby.



Figure 16 *Looking north on Hornby Road. (Image from Google Maps.)*



Figure 17 *Looking south on Hornby Road. (Image from Google Maps.)*

HALTON HILLS: HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND 8140 HORNBY ROAD

Halton Hills has a robust cultural heritage conservation policy designed to identify, evaluate and conserve properties of possible cultural heritage values. Part of this effort focusses on the Premier Gateway Employment Area Phase 1B Secondary Plan bounded by Steeles Avenue to the south, Eighth Line and Sixth Line to the east and west, and the northern limits of lot 1, concessions 7 and 8. 8140 Hornby Road sits near the middle of this area and has been included in the town's Inventory of Cultural Heritage Properties, as has its immediate neighbour to the north, 8156 Hornby Road.



Figure 18 The area encompassed in the Premier Gateway Employment Area. (Image from Halton Hills website; <https://www.haltonhills.ca/en/residents/opa-30---premier-gateway-employment-area.aspx>.)

The by-law supporting this endeavour, No. 2018-0035, identifies prospective candidates and provides the following directives for evaluating cultural heritage properties within the Premier Gateway Employment Area:

H5A.12.4 Other cultural heritage resources have been identified as candidates for conservation and are shown on Schedule H5A as locations of Cultural Heritage Value. These comprise:

- 8140 Hornby Road;
- 8156 Hornby Road;
- Former Hornby General Store, 12993 Steeles Avenue;
- Former Hornby School, 13029 Steeles Avenue; and
- 13571 Steeles Avenue.

The abovementioned cultural heritage resources retain historical and associative, design and architectural and/or contextual value. Council, with advice from its Municipal Heritage Committee, will consider whether they should be included on the Town's Municipal Heritage Register. They may also be considered appropriate for municipal designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.⁸

⁸ Town of Halton Hills, *Premier Gateway Employment Area Phase 1B Lot 1 Secondary Plan*; <https://www.haltonhills.ca/en/residents/resources/Documents/SignedBy-law2018-0035-OPA31A.pdf>. 0

The town's official plan provides the following details regarding cultural heritage conservation:

- a) *the building or property is strongly associated with the life of a person who played an integral role in the development of the Town and/or is well-known locally, nationally or internationally;*
- b) *the building or property is the location of, or is associated in a significant way, with a significant local, national or international event;*
- c) *the building has an architectural style that is distinctive and representative of a period of history and/or is the work of a recognized architect;*
- d) *the building or property is considered to be an easily recognizable landmark in the Town and contributes to the character of the community, and/or;*
- e) *the neighbourhood contains a collection of buildings and properties described in Sections a), b), c) and d) above and which collectively contribute to the character of the Town.⁹*

HERITAGE EVALUATION OF 8140 HORNBY ROAD UNDER ONTARIO REGULATION 9/06

The government of Ontario has provided a series of booklets to explain the concept of cultural heritage properties. *Heritage Property Evaluation* is a guide for determining the cultural heritage values of a property and the means by which a municipality may protect those values.¹⁰ The guide provides the following description of the evaluation process:

Non-designated properties listed on the municipal register of cultural heritage properties and newly identified properties may be candidates for heritage conservation and protection. Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act enables municipalities to pass bylaws for the protection (designation) of individual real properties that have cultural heritage value or interest to the municipality. Heritage designation is a protection mechanism with long-term implications for the alteration and demolition of a cultural heritage property.

Individual properties being considered for protection under section 29 must undergo a more rigorous evaluation than is required for listing. The evaluation criteria set out in Regulation 9/06 essentially form a test against which properties must be assessed. The better the characteristics of the property when the criteria are applied to it, the greater the property's cultural heritage value or interest, and the stronger the argument for its long-term protection.

To ensure a thorough, objective and consistent evaluation across the province, and to assist municipalities with the process, the Ontario Heritage Act provides that:
 29(1) *The council of a municipality may, by bylaw, designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest if,*

⁹ Town of Halton Hills, Official Plan; <https://www.haltonhills.ca/en/business/official-plan.aspx>.)

¹⁰ Government of Ontario, *Heritage Property Evaluation: A Guide to Listing, Researching and Evaluating Cultural Heritage Property in Ontario Communities* (Queen's Printer, 2006.)

(a) where criteria for determining whether property is of cultural heritage value or interest have been prescribed by regulation, the property meets the prescribed criteria;

Regulation 9/06 prescribes the criteria for determining property of cultural heritage value or interest in a municipality. The regulation requires that, to be designated, a property must meet “one or more” of the criteria grouped into the categories of Design/Physical Value, Historical/Associative Value and Contextual Value.¹¹

The evaluation criteria are provided in Ontario Regulation 9/06 of the Ontario Heritage Act (2006) as Criteria For Determining Cultural Heritage Value of Interest.¹² The criteria are:

Criteria

1. (1) The criteria set out in subsection (2) are prescribed for the purposes of clause 29 (1) (a) of the Act. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (1).

(2) A property may be designated under section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria for determining whether it is of cultural heritage value or interest:

1. The property has design value or physical value because it,

i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method,

ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit, or

iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

2. 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,

ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture, or

iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.

3. The property has contextual value because it,

i. is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area,

ii. is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings, or

iii. is a landmark. O. Reg. 9/06, s. 1 (2).¹³

Criteria 1: Design Value or Physical Value

8140 Hornby Road is a one and a half storey structure typical of mid-nineteenth century rural residential design. While it is not rare or unique, it is a representative or early example of neo-Gothic cottage design. First identified in the 1861 census, there are no documentary or physical design elements suggesting that the existing structure has been replaced or significantly altered over the past 160 years.

¹¹ Government of Ontario, *Heritage Property Evaluation: A Guide to Listing, Researching and Evaluating Cultural Heritage Property in Ontario Communities* (Queen’s Printer, 2006), p 20.

¹² <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/060009>.

¹³ Emphases added.

Criteria 2: Historical Value Associative Value

8140 Hornby Road was the home of Dr. Anthony Fox and his family from 1874 to 1890. As noted above, Fox was a highly respected local physician who was much eulogized at his death for his contributions to the village of Hornby and surrounding area. As such the property has some associations with a person who is significant to the community.

Criteria 3: Contextual Value

8140 Horny Road is compatible with the character of the area. It is physically, functionally, visually and historically linked to its surroundings. It is not recognized as a landmark in the area.

HERITAGE EVALUATION OF 8140 HORNBY ROAD UNDER THE PROVINCIAL POLICY STATEMENT

The *Provincial Policy Statement (2014)* provides the following guidance on the conservation of cultural heritage properties:

2.6 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

2.6.1 Significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved.

2.6.2 Development and site alteration shall not be permitted on lands containing archaeological resources or areas of archaeological potential unless significant archaeological resources have been conserved.

2.6.3 Planning authorities shall not permit development and site alteration on adjacent lands to protected heritage property except where the proposed development and site alteration has been evaluated and it has been demonstrated that the heritage attributes of the protected heritage property will be conserved.

2.6.4 Planning authorities should consider and promote archaeological management plans and cultural plans in conserving cultural heritage and archaeological resources.

2.6.5 Planning authorities shall consider the interests of Aboriginal communities in conserving cultural heritage and archaeological resources.¹⁴

The *Policy* defines Conserved in these terms:

Conserved: means the identification, protection, management and use of built heritage resources, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources in a manner that ensures their cultural heritage value or interest is retained under the Ontario Heritage Act. This may be achieved by the implementation of recommendations set out in a conservation plan, archaeological assessment, and/or heritage impact assessment. Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches can be included in these plans and assessments.

8140 Hornby Road does not exhibit significant built heritage resources that should be considered for conservation under the terms of the Provincial Policy Statement (2014).

¹⁴ Government of Ontario, *Provincial Policy Statement (2014)*, p. 20.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The above analysis indicates that the structure at 8140 Hornby Road likely dates back to the early days of settlement in Esquesing Township and represents the area in its first stages of growth. The residence is also the former home of Dr. Anthony Fox, once a well known and much respected physician in and around Hornby in the late nineteenth century. Today the residence represents a community link to a past that was largely agricultural and in its nascent period of development. With the exception of the Loyal Orange Lodge in Hornby, a quasi-public building, the residence at 8140 Hornby Road is one of the remaining links to an agrarian past.

It is recommended that the Town of Halton Hills consider removing 8140 Hornby Road from its Municipal Heritage Register given the limited extent of its architectural, historical and contextual values. The property does not appear to exhibit sufficient heritage values to be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

With 8140 Hornby Road added to the Municipal Heritage Register, its current owners would be able to make any alterations or additions to the structure as they might deem appropriate, short of demolition. Should the owners determine that they wish to demolish and replace the existing structure, the municipality at present would have two options: designate the property or grant a demolition permit. If the Town of Halton Hills opts to retain the property in the Municipal Heritage Register, the client/owner would be free to make any alterations to the structure but would face the possibility of having the property designated should they apply for a demolition permit. Based on the above report it is the recommendation of this study that the client request their property be removed from the Halton Hills Municipal Heritage Register. In these circumstances the client would be free to extend the existing structure, preferably to the rear of the building, retaining as many heritage elements as possible of the residence as it stands today, or request a demolition permit and erect a new residence.

CHAIN OF OWNERSHIP

- 16 June 1838, patent is issued to George Crawford for east half (100 acres) of lot 7, con. 1, Esquesing Township
- 2 December 1853, George C. Crawford and wife sell 50 acres to James Crawford, memorial 427B
 - 7 January 1858, James Crawford and wife sell small portion of lot 7, conc. 1, Esquesing Twp. to Miles Miller, memorial 909C
- 7 January 1858, Miles Miller and wife sell small portion of lot 7, conc. 1, Esquesing Twp. to Robert F. Atkinson, memorial 910C
- 30 November 1874, Robert F. Atkinson and wife sell to Anthony Fox, memorial 1659L
- 31 May 1890, William C. Beaty and Thomas W. Fox, executors of will of Anthony Fox sell property to Mary Fox, memorial 5721T
- 31 May 1890, Mary Fox sells property to John James Thompson, memorial 5722T
- 11 December 1890, John James Thompson sells property to Richard S. Porter, memorial 5833T
- 29 April 1892, Richard Samuel Porter and wife sell property to George Robinson Anderson, memorial 6133U
- 1 March 1905, George Robinson Anderson sells property to Mary Elizabeth Jordan, memorial 8453Y
- 1 March 1905, Mary Elizabeth Jordan and husband Peter Jordan sell property to Hiram Edward Tuck, memorial 8454Y
- 16 July 1920, Hiram Edward Tuck sells property to Thomas Learmont, memorial 11867C
- 1 May 1930, Thomas Learmont grants property to William Ritchie Anderson and George Stanley Anderson, memorial 14098D
- 17 December 1942, William Ritchie Anderson grants property to Frederick Alvin Anderson and his wife Ellen Kathleen Anderson, memorial 16041F
- 15 Feb. 1968, Ellen Kathleen Anderson, executor of will of Frederick Alvin Anderson, grants land to Ellen Kathleen Anderson, memorial 241796
- 20 September 1974, Ellen Kathleen Anderson grants property to Glenmar Properties Ltd., memorial 399388
- 9 Oct. 1974, Glenmar Properties Ltd. grants property to William P. Kelly, memorial 400448
- 29 June 1984, William P. Kelly grants property to Richard C. Botting and Marianne V. Botting, memorial 602611
- 13 November 2012, Marianne V. Botting transfers property to current owner, memorial HR1063681

Qualifications of Author

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Principal

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Education

- PhD. in history, University of Western Ontario, London, ON

Career Highlights

- Principal, Heritage Resources Consulting, 1995 to the present
- Historian, Parks Canada, 1976 to 1995
- Manuscript editor, *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, University of Toronto, 1973 to 1976

Summary

Dr. Burns has over four decades of experience in historical research and analysis. As a Parks Canada Project Historian he prepared a narrative and structural history of Inverarden, a Cornwall, Ontario domestic property built in 1816, and a structural and social history of Fort Wellington National Historic Site at Prescott, Ontario. As a member (history) of the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) from 1990 to 1995 he participated in the review of some 500 federal properties including CFB Esquimalt and the Kingston Penitentiary. As a consultant since 1995 he has completed a wide range of heritage assessment and research projects in co-operation with Heritage Research Associates, Inc., Ottawa and has prepared FHBRO cultural heritage assessment reports on numerous federal properties including CFB Goose Bay and its buildings, hangars, munitions bunkers and former nuclear weapons storage facilities. His examination of the temporary storage of nuclear weapons at Goose Bay during the Korean War crisis led to the publication of "Bombs in the Bush," *The Beaver*, Jan. 2005.

Heritage Assessment Projects

Heritage Assessments prepared for the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office

- CFB Goose Bay, Heritage Assessment of 124 buildings, 2000. Building functional types included barracks, hangars, storage bunkers for conventional and nuclear weapons, guard towers, warehouses, and offices.
- CFB Goose Bay, Heritage Assessment of 16 buildings, 2001. Building functional types consisted of hangars for medium and heavy bombers.
- CFB Gagetown, Heritage Assessment of 77 buildings, 2002. Building Functional types

- included office/admin buildings, barracks, drill halls, garages, gate/guard houses, lecture/training buildings, mess halls, quarters, shops and recreational buildings.
- Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Heritage Assessment of the Van Steenburg and Polaris Buildings, 2003.
 - Hudson's Bay Company Post (abandoned), Ukkusiksalik National Park, Nunavut, 2005.
 - Nanaimo Foundry, Nanaimo, BC, 2005.
 - Heritage Assessments of the following lighthouses, lightstations and range light towers in the Great Lakes and Atlantic regions, 2006-2008:
 - Shoal Island Lighthouse, Manitoulin Island, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Badgeley Island Rear Range Light Tower, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Byng Inlet Rear Range Light Tower, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Brebeuf Island Rear Range Light Tower, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Pigeon Island Rear Range Light Tower, Lake Ontario, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Pointe Au Baril Rear Range Light Tower, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Rondeau East Pier Light Tower, Lake Erie, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Stokes Bay Rear Range Light Tower, Lake Huron, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Owen Sound Front Range Light Tower, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Brebeuf Island Front Range Light Tower, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Chantry Island Lighthouse Dwelling, Lake Huron, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Gros Cap Reef Lighthouse, St. Mary's River, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Janet Head Lighthouse, Manitoulin Island, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Red Rock Lighthouse, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Snug Harbour Lighthouse, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment 2006.
 - Byng Inlet Front Range Light Tower, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment 2007.
 - Kagawong Lighthouse, Manitoulin Island, Heritage Assessment 2007.
 - Manitouwaning Lighthouse, Manitoulin Island, Heritage Assessment 2007.
 - Shaganash Light Tower, Lake Superior, Heritage Assessment 2007.
 - Saugeen River Front Range Light Tower, Lake Huron, Heritage Assessment 2007.
 - Saugeen River Rear Range Light Tower, Lake Huron, Heritage Assessment 2007.
 - Shoal Light Tower, Lake Rosseau, ON., Heritage Assessment 2007.
 - Wilson Channel Front Range Light Tower, near Sault Ste. Marie, Heritage Assessment 2007.
 - Wilson Channel Rear Range Light Tower, near Sault Ste. Marie, Heritage Assessment 2007.
 - Canso Front Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2008.
 - Canso Rear Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2008.
 - Cape Croker Light Tower, Heritage Assessment, 2008.
 - Jones Island Front Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2008.
 - Jones Island Rear Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2008.
 - Margaree Harbour Front Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2008.
 - Margaree Harbour Rear Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2008.
 - Thunder Bay Main Lightstation, Heritage Assessment, 2008.
 - West Sister Rock Lighttower, Heritage Assessment, 2008.

Heritage Assessments prepared for the federal Heritage Lighthouse Preservation program

- Great Duck Island, Georgian Bay, ON, 2010.
- Janet Head Lighthouse, Manitoulin Island, Heritage Assessment, 2010.
- Kagawong Lighthouse, Manitoulin Island, Heritage Assessment, 2010.
- Killarney East Lighthouse, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment, 2010.
- Killarney Northwest Lighthouse, Georgian Bay, Heritage Assessment, 2010.
- Manitouwaning Lighthouse, Manitoulin Island, Heritage Assessment, 2010.
- Victoria Beach Lighthouse, NS, Heritage Assessment, 2011.
- Schafner Point Lighthouse, NS, Heritage Assessment, 2011.
- Port Bickerton Lighthouse, NS, Heritage Assessment, 2011.
- McNab Point Lighthouse, Heritage Assessment, 2011.
- Saugeen River Front Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2011.
- Saugeen River Rear Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2011.
- Pointe au Baril Front Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2014.
- Pointe au Baril Rear Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2014.
- Snug Harbour Front Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2014.
- Snug Harbour Rear Range Light, Heritage Assessment, 2014.

Heritage Assessments prepared for the private sector

- Madill barn, 6250 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, ON, Heritage Assessment, 2009.
- Stone residence, 7129 Tremaine Road, Milton, ON, Heritage Assessment, 2009.
- Smye estate, 394 Lakeshore Road West, Mississauga, ON, Heritage Assessment, 2009.
- Dudgeon cottage, 305 Lakeshore Road West, Oakville, ON, Heritage Assessment, 2010.
- five domestic structures, Bronte Road, Bronte, ON, Heritage Assessment, 2010.
- Lorne Park Estates cottage, 1948 Roper Avenue, Mississauga, ON, Heritage Assessment, 2012.
- Farm house, 11687 Chinguacousy Road, Brampton, ON, Heritage Assessment, 2012.
- Farm house, 3650 Eglinton Ave., Mississauga, ON, Heritage Assessment, 2013.
- Downtown Campbellford Properties, Heritage Assessment, 2013.
- residence, 1422 Mississauga Road, Heritage Impact Statement, 2015.
- residence, 2560 Mindemoya Road, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Statement, 2018.
- residence/offices, 70 Queen Street South, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2018.
- residence, 869 Sangster Avenue, Lorne Park Estates, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2018.
- residence, 795 First Street, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Statement, 2019.
- residence, 972 Bexhill Road, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2019.
- residence, 1341 Stavebank Road, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2020.
- residence, 10 Mississauga Road North, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2020
- residence, 2935 & 2955 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2021.
- residence, 347 Queen Street South, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2021.
- residence, 2230 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2021.
- residence, 40 Peter Street South, Mississauga, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2021.
- residence, 8140 Hornby Road, Halton Hills, Heritage Impact Assessment, 2021.

Heritage Assessments and Plaque Texts prepared for the Ontario Heritage Trust

- J. L. Kraft, Fort Erie, ON, 2003.
- Reid Mill, Streetsville, ON, 2004.
- George Weston, Toronto, ON., 2005.
- Pauline McGibbon, Sarnia, ON, 2006.
- W. P. Bull, Brampton, ON, 2007.
- Founding of Englehart, ON, 2008.
- George Drew, Guelph, ON, 2008.
- Founding of Latchford, ON, 2009.
- Ball's Bridge, Goderich, ON, 2011.
- Canadian Tire Corporation, 2012.
- Ontario Paper Mill, 2013.
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Publications and Other Major Projects

- "God's chosen people: the origins of Toronto society, 1793-1818", *Canadian Historical Association: Historical Papers*, 1973, Toronto, 1974. Republished in J. Bumsted (ed.), *Canadian History Before Confederation: Essays and Interpretations*, 2nd ed. (Georgetown, Ont.: Irwin-Dorsey Ltd., 1979).
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- "The Burns and Gamble Families of Yonge Street and York Township [with Stanley J. Burns]", *O.G.S. Seminar '85* (Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1985).
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 - A review of Bruce G. Wilson, *The Enterprises of Robert Hamilton: A Study of Wealth and Influence in Early Upper Canada, 1776-1812* (Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1983) in the *Canadian Historical Review*, LXVI, No. 3, Sept. 1985.
 - Lila Lazare (comp.) with an intro. by Robert J. Burns, "Artifacts, consumer goods and services advertised in Kingston newspapers, 1840-50: a resource tool for material history research", *Manuscript Report Series No. 397*, Parks Canada, 1980.
 - "W.A. Munn and the discovery of a Viking occupation site in northern Newfoundland", Historic Sites and Monuments Board agenda paper, 1982.
 - Research and writing of "The Loyalists," a booklet to accompany the Loyalist Bicentennial travelling exhibit prepared by Parks Canada, 1983.
 - "Paperboard and Paper Packaging in Canada 1880-1930: An Interim Report" *Microfiche Report Series No. 210* (1985).
 - "Packaging Food and Other Consumer Goods in Canada, 1867-1927: A guide to Federal Specifications For Bulk and Unit Containers, Their Labels and Contents" *Microfiche Report Series No. 217* (1985).
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 - "Thomas Ridout" in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. VI, Toronto, 1987.
 - "Paperboard and Paper Packaging in Canada, 1880-1930", 2 Vols. *Microfiche Report Series No. 393* (1989).
 - Curator, along with Marianne McLean and Susan Porteus, of "Rebellions in the Canadas, 1837-1838," an exhibition of documents and images sponsored by the National Archives of Canada, 1987.
 - "Marketing Food in a Consumer Society: Early Unit Packaging Technology and Label Design" in *Consuming Passions: Eating and Drinking Traditions in Ontario* (Meaford, Ont.: Oliver Graphics, 1990).
 - "Robert Isaac Dey Gray" reprinted in *Provincial Justice: Upper Canadian Legal portraits from the Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, ed. Robert L. Fraser (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1992).
 - "John Warren Cowan" and "Thomas McCormack" published in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, Vol. XIII, 1994.
 - *Guardians of the Wild: A History of the Warden Service of Canada's National Parks* (University of Calgary Press, 2000).
 - "'Queer Doings': Attitudes toward homosexuality in nineteenth century Ontario," *The Beaver*, Apr. May. 2003.
 - "Bombs in the Bush: The Strategic Air Command in Goose Bay, 1953," *The Beaver*, Dec. 2004/Jan. 2005.
 - preparation of a history of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under contract for the Force, 2004-2007.
 - press releases regarding heritage plaque unveilings for Parks Canada, Ottawa, ON, 2010.
 - a review and analysis of heritage bulk containers in the Parks Canada Artifact Collection, Ottawa, ON, 2011.

- *Port Stanley: The First Hundred Years, 1804-1904*, with Craig Cole (Heritage Port: Port Stanley, ON, 2014).

Related Professional Associations

- Member of Federal Heritage Building Review Board (retired).
- Chair, Heritage Central Elgin.
- President of the Sparta (Ontario) and District Historical Society.
- Member, St. Thomas-Elgin Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario.
- Member (Past), Board of Directors, Elgin County Archives Association.
- Member, Board of Directors, Sparta Community Association.
- Former member, Board of Directors, and Publications Committee Chair, Ontario Historical Society.
- Past president, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society.
- Past chair, Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, Cornwall, ON.
- Former chair, Heritage sub-committee, “Central Elgin - Growing Together Committee,” Municipality of Central Elgin.