

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2023)

WILLIAMS-BEAUMONT HOUSE

514 Main Street, Glen Williams, Town of Halton Hills

July 2023

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1.0 Property Description

514 Main Street	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	LT 50, RCP 1556, PART 1, 20R4767, EXCEPT PTS 1,2,3, 20R13445; HALTON HILLS; T/W 548772
Construction Date	c. 1856
Original Use	Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	Built for Charles Williams
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Mark Rowe; Laura Loney
Report Date	July 2023

2.0 Background

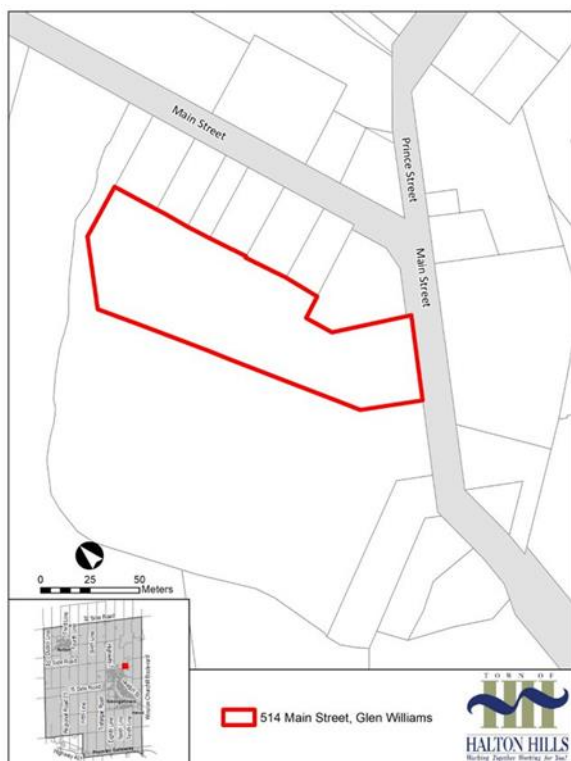


Figure 1: Location Map – 514 Main Street, Glen Williams



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 514 Main Street, Glen Williams

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 514 Main Street 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*.

2.1 Historical Background

John Butler Muirhead (1800-1824), son of a Loyalist family, received a location ticket for Lot 21, Concession 10 Esquesing in 1818 (Figure 3). John Butler Muirhead completed his settlement duties on his two hundred acres on 13 June 1823. On 25 September 1824, the Crown patent was issued to Muirhead; however, John Butler Muirhead died suddenly on 29 November 1824 and was buried at St. Mark's Church, Niagara.

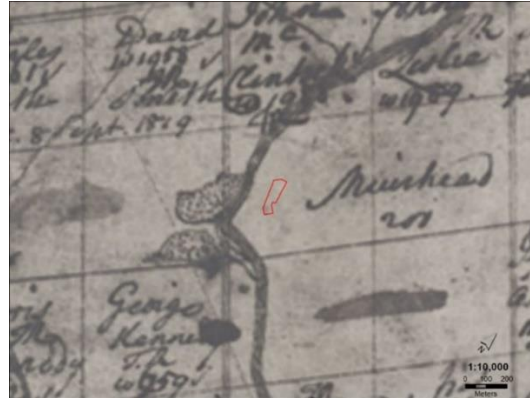


Figure 3: 1819 Patent Plan, subject property outlined in red

Benajah Williams (1765-1851) was a clothier in Gainsborough Township, Niagara. His third wife was Elizabeth Kennedy (1788-1842) and since most of her family had left for Esquesing, they decided to move there as well. On 12 October 1824, he listed his mill property and Grimsby township property for sale in the *Niagara Gleaner*. Whether Benajah had a deal with the young Muirhead, or it was happenstance, he purchased Lot 21, Concession 10, Esquesing Township from the heirs of John Butler Muirhead on 9 November 1825. Sixty-year-old Benajah reportedly had the saw mill up and running that same year. The subject property would have had a log cabin completed as part of Muirhead's settlement duties.

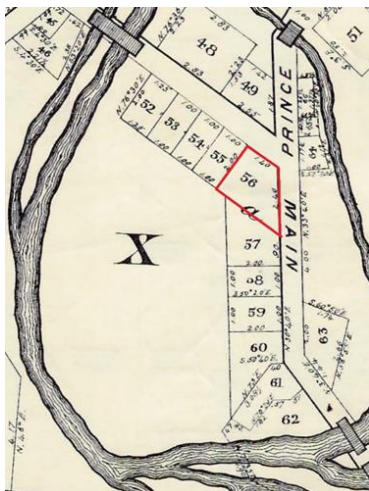


Figure 4: Lot 56 (in red) where the Williams frame house was built (1877 *Historical Atlas*)



Figure 5: The frame Williams house on Lot 56 (1877 *Historical Atlas*)

By 1836, Benajah Williams' son Charles had built a frame house for his family. This house eventually stood in the north-east corner of the lot, shown in the original plan of Glen Williams as Lot 56 (Figure 4 and Figure 5). When Benajah Williams died in 1851, Charles took over the running of the foundling village. On 6 August 1852, Williamsburg was granted a post office named Glen Williams. Charles Williams was named as Postmaster, which was a political appointment. In 1854, Charles Williams' daughter Elizabeth married Moffit Forster. Charles took the opportunity to build a magnificent two-storey brick house, the existing brick home on the property, in the heart of the village. Charles intended his new son-in-law to live in the home, provided he committed to running the saw and flour mills across the road. At the same time, he built a two-storey brick general store and post office (Copper Kettle Pub, 517 Main Street). They were both completed in 1856, as shown in the 1861 Census.

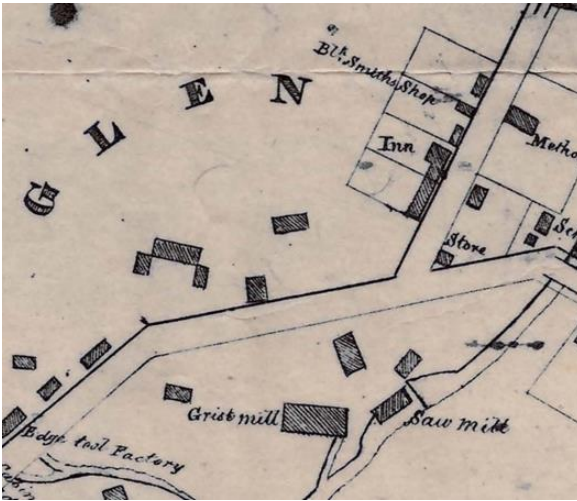


Figure 6: 1854 Map of Glen Williams; the existing building at 514 Main Street is not yet extant (EHS MG12 A3 01)

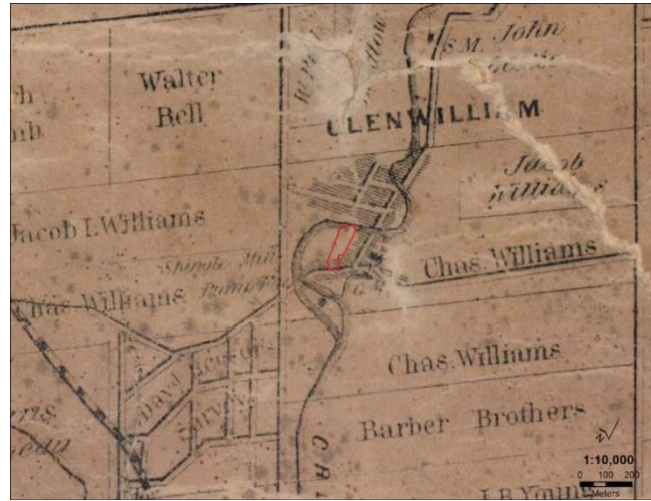


Figure 7: Tremaine's Map of the County of Halton, Canada West, subject property outlined in red (1858)

Although Charles Williams had plans for his son-in-law, Moffit Forster had other professional plans. Forster worked as a miller until 1861, and by 1871 he had become a medical doctor. After Forster left the home, Charles Williams and family moved into the completed "Manor House." Charles and Mary Jane Williams lived here for the rest of their lives. With Charles' death in 1889, the property passed to his daughter Lydia and her husband Thomas Board. They resided in the Manor House until 1910. The 1909 National Topographic Map shows the existing brick building within the growing community of Glen Williams (Figure 8).



Figure 8: 1909 National Topographic Map (Department of Militia and Defence)

The Williams-Beaumont House is well-documented following its construction in the mid-nineteenth century, captured in several photographs as well as the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton* (Figure 9 through Figure 18).

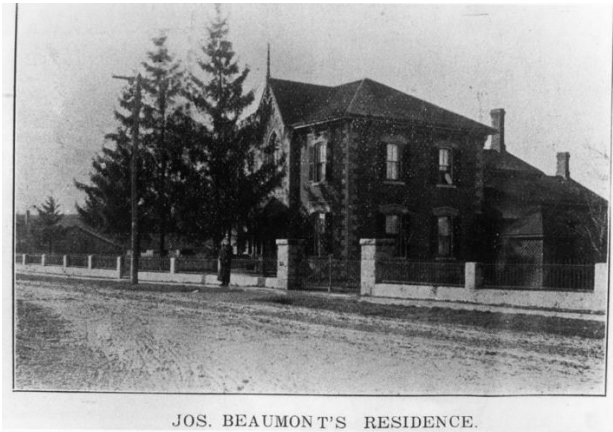


Figure 9: Joseph Beaumont House, c.1913 (EHS00076)

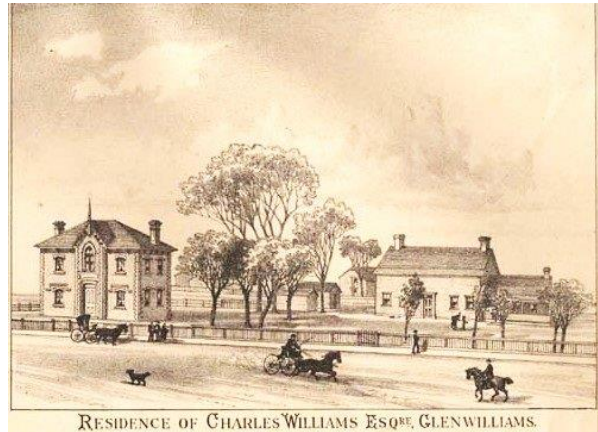


Figure 10: Residence of Charles Williams Esquire from the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton*



Figure 11: Photo of Orange Parade looking down Main Street, Williams-Beaumont House on the right identified with the red arrow, c.1908 (EHS00297)

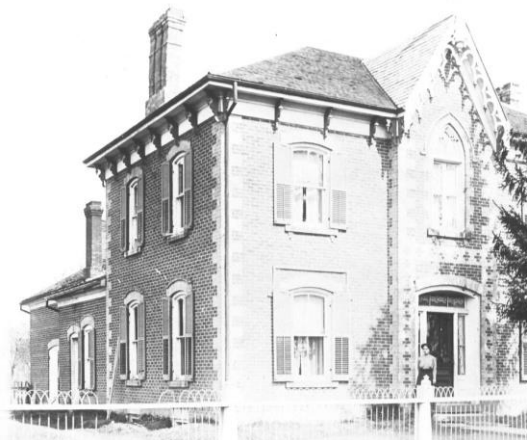


Figure 12: The Williams Manor House (514 Main Street), later purchased by the Beaumont family. It was owned by Mrs. Lydia (Williams) Board at this time, c. 1902 (EHS21746)

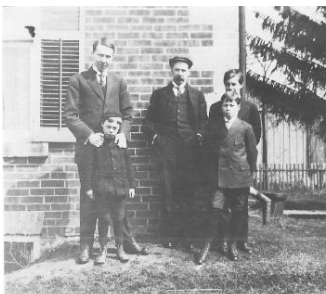


Figure 13: Art Beaumont (1896-1974), in the peaked cap stands with a group outside their new home, c.1910 (EHS20406)



Figure 14: Art Beaumont and family, c.1910 (EHS20407)



Figure 15: Art Beaumont and family, c.1910. At the far right stands Joseph Beaumont with his wife Janet who stands behind Eleanor (EHS20411)



Figure 16: Art Beaumont and family, c.1910 (EHS20408)



Figure 17: Joseph Beaumont (1863-1943) and Janet (Cooper) Beaumont (1870-1933) stand in the doorway of their home, c. 1910 (EHS20414)



Figure 18: Art Beaumont climbs the new stone post while Eleanor watches from the corner of the house, c.1912 (EHS20444)



Figure 19: Art Beaumont stands on the walk-in front of the Beaumont House, c.1930, showing a covered porch on the front elevation (EHS 20506)



Figure 20: A view of the lawn tennis court at the Beaumont House (514 Main Street), taken from the upstairs window of the Wheeler Ice Cream parlour (521 Main Street). A one storey garage structure is visible to the rear of the house which is no longer extant (EHS 20261)

The “other” woollen mill operation in the village, since 1878, was operated by Samuel Beaumont (Figure 21). In 1910, Samuel’s son Joseph Beaumont purchased the Manor House. Joseph Beaumont took over

the running of the Beaumont Woollen mill from his father and subsequently passed the business to his son Arthur Beaumont. In 1935, Arthur married Marie Graham and they moved into the Manor House to live with Joseph Beaumont, a widower. Marie Beaumont kept house for her father-in-law until his death in 1943.

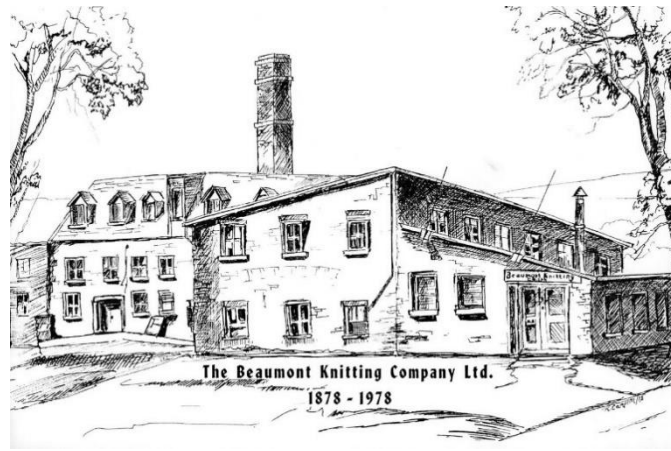


Figure 21: Sketch of the Beaumont Knitting Company Ltd. (EHS 02782)

With Joseph Beaumont's death, Arthur purchased the shares of the woollen mill from his brothers and operated as his own business until 1957, when the mill was sold to three partners. The Beaumont Woollen Mill operated until 1982. In 1967, Arthur and Marie Beaumont opened a Canadiana antiques store in the barn at the back of their property, shown in the 1960 aerial photograph of the property (Figure 22). Arthur died in 1974, leaving Marie Beaumont as the principal occupant of the house until her death in 1999.



Figure 22: 1960 Aerial Photograph, existing barn at the rear of the property identified with a red arrow



Figure 23: Williams-Beaumont House on Main Street, c.1987 (EHS p10480)

In 1999, owner Pat Houston severed former Lot 36. This is where the Beaumont family played lawn tennis, after the Williams frame house was moved to the rear of the property (later destroyed by fire). After the lot was severed, the property was sold to Gary Adamson and Pamela Smith who owned the property until 2023.



Figure 24: Williams-Beaumont House, 2022 during Open House



Figure 25: Williams-Beaumont House Barn, 2022 during Open House

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The property at 514 Main Street is located along the northwest side of Main Street in Glen Williams (Figure 26 and Figure 27). The property is an irregularly shaped parcel extending from Main Street to the Credit River at the rear. The property contains a brick residential building and a one-storey wooden barn towards the rear of the property with rubble stone foundation (Figure 30 and Figure 31).

The property is accessed via a driveway extending from Main Street towards the barn, connecting to a drive that extends beyond the property boundary. Glen Williams Public School is located to the southwest of the subject property, while an early 2000s brick residential building is located to the northeast (Figure 28 and Figure 29).



Figure 26: Looking north towards the Williams-Beaumont House (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 27: Looking northwest towards the Williams-Beaumont House (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 28: Looking north towards the subject property from Main Street (Google Streetview 2021)



Figure 29: Looking northwest towards the subject property from Main Street (Google Streetview 2021)



Figure 30: Aerial photograph from the rear of the property looking towards Main Street, showing the existing barn in the foreground and house in the background (Royal LePage Meadowtown Realty Inc., 2023)



Figure 31: Existing barn at the rear of the property (Royal LePage Meadowtown Realty Inc., 2023)

The existing brick building is a two-storey structure, featuring a hipped roof with a centre gable along the front elevation. A one-and-a-half-storey addition and one-storey addition, originally built as an attached garage, are located to the rear of the existing building.



Figure 32: Aerial photograph of the property at 514 Main Street, Glen Williams (Royal LePage Meadowtown Realty Inc., 2023)

The front elevation of the Williams-Beaumont House is symmetrical, with a central projecting bay beneath the central gable peak. Dichromatic brick is featured throughout, with red brick dominating the façade and lighter, tan brick quoining at the corners of the elevation, along the edges of the central bay, and within the brick voussoirs extent throughout the elevation (Figure 33 and Figure 34).



Figure 33: Front (southeast) elevation of 514 Main Street, Glen Williams (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 34: Detail of front elevation (southeast) elevation of 514 Main Street, Glen Williams (Royal LePage Meadowtown Realty Inc., 2023)

The main entrance features a single entrance door flanked by sidelights within a wooden door surround. The existing entry door does not appear to be original and is accessed by a low stone porch. The wooden entry surround is capped with a shallow projecting roof with metal flashing. A lancet window with wooden shutters is located beneath the gable peak with carved wooden bargeboard and finial above,

with a brick hood mould in the lighter brick above the window opening. The projecting eaves feature wooden brackets and soffits (Figure 35).



Figure 35: Detail of eaves and upper storey, 514 Main Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

Windows at the first storey on the front elevation have been replaced, within segmentally arched window openings with brick voussoirs, stone sills, wooden shutters, and a simple decorative brick feature above the window opening. The windows at the second storey are the same as the first storey and feature additional architectural detailing beneath the existing sills.

The southwest elevation of the two-storey building features two symmetrically placed, segmentally arched window openings with contemporary windows at the first and second storey and features the same detailing as the front elevation. Brick quoining is extant at each corner of this elevation, as are the bracketed eaves with wooden soffit (Figure 36).



Figure 36: South corner of Williams-Beaumont House, showing the partial southwest elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

The one-and-a-half-storey addition at the rear features brick at the first storey with shingles at the second storey. The window opening at the first storey is similar to that of the original structure, however the windows at the second storey are simple rectangular window openings with wooden surrounds. A brick chimney is visible above the roof of the one and a half storey addition. Beyond the one-and-a-half storey addition is a one-storey brick addition with a sliding door and segmentally arched opening with wooden door and paired window openings. This one-storey addition features a gable roof.



Figure 37: Side (southwest) elevation of 514 Main Street, Glen Williams (Royal LePage Meadowtown Realty Inc., 2023)

The northeast elevation of the original two-storey structure mirrors the southwest elevation. The one-and-a-half storey addition is fully brick on this elevation, with a one storey frame sunporch. The one-storey addition at the rear features a single-entry door with large, infilled opening (Figure 38).



Figure 38: Side (northeast) elevation of 514 Main Street, Glen Williams (Royal LePage Meadowtown Realty Inc., 2023)

Based on recent real estate listings for the property, the barn at the rear of the property (Figure 39 and Figure 40) appears to retain features characteristic of nineteenth century barns including beams, girts, support braces and bents. The roof boards appear to have been replaced. The barn can be described as a bank barn, as it is built into the side of a hill and accessed from ground level at the front and the rear.



Figure 39: Front elevation of the bank barn at 514 Main Street, Glen Williams (Royal LePage Meadowtown Realty Inc., 2023)



Figure 40: Interior of the bank barn at 514 Main Street, Glen Williams (Royal LePage Meadowtown Realty Inc., 2023)

2.3 Architectural Style, Integrity, and Comparative Analysis

The Williams-Beaumont House can be described as Gothic Revival in style as it reflects many of the characteristics prevalent in residential Gothic Revival architecture in Ontario in the mid-nineteenth century. Architectural features extant within the Williams-Beaumont House that contribute to this style, include the scale, form and massing of the building, the lancet window beneath the central gable above the main entrance, vergeboard along the central gable, and dichromatic brick accents.

Early photographs of the Williams-Beaumont House show very few changes to the exterior as seen from the public realm since its early construction. The two-and-a-half storey and rear one storey additions have been extant for over one hundred years; the 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton* shows the two-storey structure much as it appears today. The front entrance and surround have been altered

since its construction, as early photographs show a detailed glass transom and sidelights within the door surround, and the original wooden door. Other changes include removal of the southwest and northeast chimneys on the two-storey structure, and on the rear addition (which in Figure 41 is shown as a single storey), removal of the fence along Main Street, and removal of a rear entry door in the addition as indicated in Figure 41. Remarkably, most of the original features shown in early photographs are extant. A porch, shown in 1930 but not in earlier photographs, is no longer extant (Figure 42). The rear additions are also extant as early as 1910 (Figure 43) however were likely constructed sometime after 1877 based on the portrayal of the building in the 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton, Canada West*.

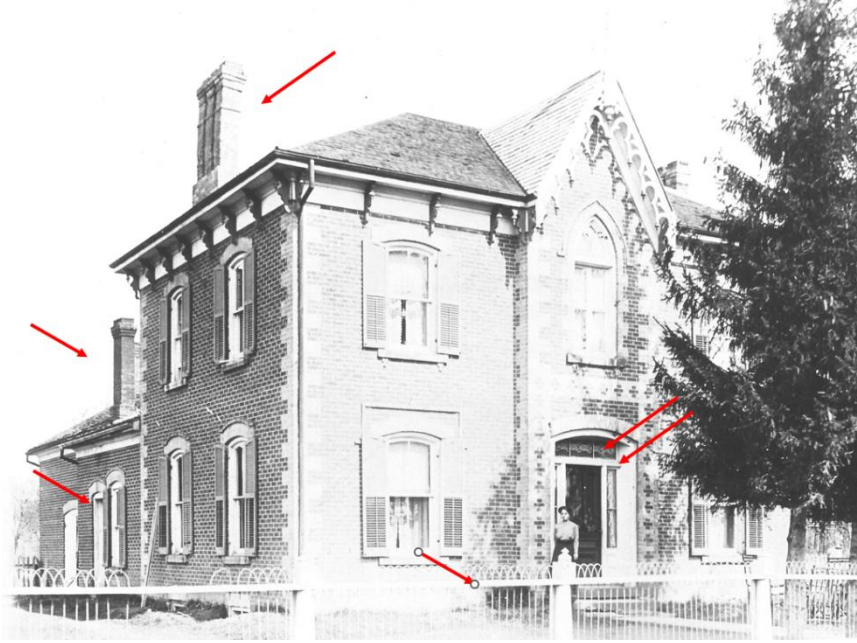


Figure 41: Williams-Beaumont House c. date, annotated (EHS 21746)



Figure 42: Art Beaumont (1896-1974) stands on the walk-in front of the Beaumont House, c.1930, showing a covered porch on the front elevation; annotated (EHS 20506)



Figure 43: The Beaumont House, built by Charles Williams at 514 Main Street, as viewed from across the road, c. 1910 (EHS21766)

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 is 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 514 Main Street has physical and design value as an excellent example of residential Gothic Revival architecture within the Town of Halton Hills. Notwithstanding minor alterations to the exterior of the building, the defining characteristics of the Williams-Beaumont House have been conserved since its construction in 1856. Elements contributing to the Gothic Revival style of the residential building include the scale, form and massing of the building, the lancet window beneath the central gable above the main entrance, vergeboard along the central gable, and dichromatic brick accents. Additionally, the barn at the rear of the property is an excellent example of a 19th-century bank 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

Historical or Associative Value	
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 514 Main Street has significant historical and associative value within the community of Glen Williams. The Williams-Beaumont House was constructed by Charles Williams, son of Benajah Williams who by 1833 had purchased the entire 400-acre parcel of land that became known as Glen Williams. Charles Williams, a leading figure in the community, was referred to as “Squire” Williams, and was a successful industrialist, Justice of the Peace, and postmaster. The original house on the subject property was a frame house built by Charles Williams, who later built the existing two-storey brick house for his son-in-law, miller, and later doctor, Moffit Forster. The property is also associated with the Beaumont family, as it was purchased by Joseph Beaumont in 1910. Joseph Beaumont was the son of Samuel Beaumont who established the Beaumont Woolen Mill. The house remained in the Beaumont family until 1999. The Williams-Beaumont House reflects the early prosperity of industrialists in Glen Williams and the predominance of the local Williams and Beaumont families in the community.

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	X

The property at 514 Main Street has contextual value as a significant landmark along Main Street to the east of the Credit River in the community of Glen Williams. The building has stood in this location since its construction in the mid-nineteenth century and has retained an extraordinary level of original features and architectural details. The hipped roof with central gable peak above the main entrance, vergeboard, dichromatic brick, lancet window beneath the central gable, along with the prominence of the building along Main Street, contribute to its historical, physical, functional, and visual links to the community of Glen Williams. The Williams-Beaumont House serves to define and maintain the historic character of the community as part of the historic streetscape of Main Street within the Glen.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 514 Main Street, Glen Williams 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 514 Main Street, Glen Williams are identified as follows:

- The location, setback, and orientation of the existing two-storey building along Main Street in Glen Williams;
- The scale, form, and massing of the two-storey brick residential building with rear additions, including the hipped roof with bracketed eaves, and central projecting bay with centre gable;

- The materials, including dichromatic brick, stone sills, wooden shutters, wooden vergeboard, wooden finial and brackets;
- On the front (southeast) elevation:
 - o The central projecting bay with dichromatic brick, flat-headed entrance with sidelights, lancet window with stone sill, wooden shutters, and brick voussoirs;
 - o The central gable with wooden vergeboard and finial;
 - o Segmentally arched window openings at the first and second storeys on either side of the projecting bay, with stone sills, wooden shutters, brick voussoirs and detailing above;
 - o The buff brick quoining at the corners;
- On the side (southwest) elevation:
 - o Segmentally arched window openings at the first and second storeys on either side of the projecting bay, with stone sills, wooden shutters, brick voussoirs and detailing above;
 - o The buff brick quoining at the corners;
 - o Within the one-and-a-half storey rear addition, the segmentally arched window openings at the first storey with stone sill, wooden shutters, brick voussoirs and detailing above;
- On the side (northeast) elevation:
 - o Segmentally arched window openings at the first and second storeys on either side of the projecting bay, with stone sills, wooden shutters, brick voussoirs and detailing above;
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-and-a-half storey and one storey rear additions with brick exterior.
- At the rear of the property, the 19th century bank barn, including gable roof, stone foundation, exterior wood cladding and extant window and door openings.

The rear elevation of the two-storey structure, interiors, and existing openings within the rear one-storey addition and covered side porch have not been identified as heritage attributes.

5.0 Sources

Primary Sources:

Georgetown Herald, Georgetown, ON

Independent, Georgetown, ON

Archival Photographs, Esquesing Historical Society Archives and Halton Images (individual citations in-text)

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