

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2023)

Sykes & Ainley Workers' Cottage
14 Tweedle Street, Town of Halton Hills

October 2023

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Table of Contents

1.0 Property Description	5
2.0 Background	5
2.1 Historical Background	6
2.2 Property & Architectural Description	11
2.3 Architectural Style and Comparative Analysis	13
3.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist	14
4.0 Summary	15
5.0 Sources.....	16

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Location Map – 14 Tweedle Street	5
Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 14 Tweedle Street	5
Figure 3: Job advertisement for Glen Woollen Mills Ltd (<i>Georgetown Herald</i> , November 7, 1917, p. 3) ...	7
Figure 4: Mrs. Solway and Gertie Martin working on blankets in the Glen Woollen Mills, c.1930 (EHS 00995)	7
Figure 5: Employees in front of the Sykes and Ainley Mill, c.1910 (EHS 21781)	7
Figure 6: Job advertisement for the Glen Woollen Mills Limited and Melrose Knitting Company (<i>Georgetown Herald</i> , September 27, 1922, p.2).....	8
Figure 7: Rear view of the Glen Woollen Mills and Melrose Knitting, c.1910 (EHS 00147)	8
Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1819 Patent Plan	8
Figure 9: Subject property identified on the 1898 Fire Insurance Plan of Glen Williams.....	8
Figure 10: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Map	9
Figure 11: A happy group around a new car parked in front of 14 Tweedle Street, c.1919 (EHS 11263)....	9
Figure 12: Ernest Rogers and Emma Hill in a gig on Tweedle Street when they were engaged; 14 Tweedle Street is pictured in the background, c.1917 (EHS 00149)	10
Figure 13: Members of the Hill and Brennan family, c.1922; 14 Tweedle Street shown in the background (EHS 01005).....	10
Figure 14: Gathering at 14 Tweedle Street, including Robert Brennan (centre), c.1920 (house is not shown) (EHS 00099).....	10
Figure 15: 14 Tweedle Street, date unknown (via Mark Rowe)	11
Figure 16: Looking north along Tweedle Street towards the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2023)	12
Figure 17: Looking south along Tweedle Street towards the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2023)	12
Figure 18: Front (east) elevation of 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)	12
Figure 19: Detail of front (east) elevation of 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)	12
Figure 20: Northeast corner of the existing house at 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023).....	13
Figure 21: Detail of the side (north) elevation at 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)	13
Figure 22: Partial side (south) elevation of 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023).....	13

Figure 23: Partial side (south) elevation of 14 Tweedle Street (Google Streetview) 13

1.0 Property Description

14 Tweedle Street	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	PT LT 21, CON 10 ESQ, PART 2, 20R5104; AKA; PT LT 17, RCP 1556; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING
Construction Date	c.1905
Original Use	Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	Built by the Sykes and Ainley Manufacturing Company Ltd.
Architectural Style	Ontario Cottage (Gothic Revival)
Additions/Alterations	Rear addition
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town’s Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Laura Loney
Report Date	October 2023

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 14 Tweedle 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*.



Figure 1: Location Map – 14 Tweedle Street



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 14 Tweedle Street

2.1 Historical Background

In 1824, the Crown granted Lot 21, Concession 10, to John Butler Muirhead of Niagara. On November 9, 1825, the executors of his estate sold the lot to Benajah Williams, whose son Jacob started a woollen mill on the Credit River in 1839. The property was surveyed into village lots by Benajah Williams, with the first lots near the river sold beginning about 1849.

Williams' Woollen Mill

In 1839, Jacob Williams erected a woollen mill along the Credit River. Williams' mill also housed Brown's Pump Factory and Bradshaw's Comb Factory in 1866, however the mill was destroyed by fire in 1867. Following the fire, Williams built a new stone mill in its place. Following a second fire in 1875, Charles' son Benajah rebuilt the mill as a two-and-a-half storey structure powered by a forty horse-power waterwheel. The mill employed over fifty individuals and processed 450 pounds of wool every day.

By January 1878, the mill was advertised for sale in the Toronto *Globe*, however Joseph Williams continued to run the business. In 1889, Williams sold to John Sykes and his son-in-law Norman Ainley, who partnered with Harry Holdroyd (son-in-law of Joseph Williams) as part of the business. The men established the Sykes and Ainley Manufacturing Company and operated the mill at this location for several years.

Sykes and Ainley Manufacturing Company

The Williams' Woollen Mills were sold to John Sykes (1833-1909) and Norman Ainley (1858-1938) in 1898, however the businesses remained connected to the Williams family through the wife of its general manager Harry Holdroyd, who was Joseph Williams' daughter. The company was a significant employer in the community.

Glen Woollen Mills Company

The Glen Woollen Mills Company Ltd. was established in 1907 in Yorkshire. The company took over the mill from Sykes and Ainley. H.P. Lawson, local landholder, and entrepreneur, served as the Vice-President of the company. E.Y. Barraclough, who was sent by the company from England, served as Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager for the company. He moved to Glen Williams for the business and lived in the manager's home at 25 Mountain Street. At the height of the Glen Williams Woollen Company's success, between 60 and 70 people were employed by the business.

WANTED AT ONCE
BY
Glen Woollen Mills Ltd.
SPINNERS
by piece or day work. Steady Employment.
**Weavers, Winders, Spoolers and
Warpers**
Good Wages Paid
BY KNITTING FACTORY
**Jenckes Knitters can earn \$2.50
to \$3 per day.**
Lumbermen's Sox Knitters, Winders and Menders. Best
wages throughout. Apply to
E. Y. BARRACLOUGH
Managing Director Glenwilliams, Ont.



Figure 3: Job advertisement for Glen Woollen Mills Ltd (*Georgetown Herald*, November 7, 1917, p. 3)

Figure 4: Mrs. Solway and Gertie Martin working on blankets in the Glen Woollen Mills, c.1930 (EHS 00995)



Figure 5: Employees in front of the Sykes and Ainley Mill, c.1910 (EHS 21781)

The Melrose Knitting Company was established during this time and was set up within the mill, which was run by waterpower and a dynamo which produced electricity for the machines and lighting and ran out of the mill until 1949. The Melrose Knitting Company produced approximately 540,000 pairs of socks each year.



Figure 6: Job advertisement for the Glen Woollen Mills Limited and Melrose Knitting Company (*Georgetown Herald*, September 27, 1922, p.2)



Figure 7: Rear view of the Glen Woollen Mills and Melrose Knitting, c.1910 (EHS 00147)

Following manager E.Y. Barraclough's sudden death in 1936, the Glen Woollen Mills Company Limited filed for bankruptcy. The housing and lands in the village were sold by the company as part of its reorganization. The Second World War resulted in a renewed success of the former Glen Woollen Mills, now known as Glen Textiles. The mill closed in 1950, following which it served as a warehouse until it was destroyed by fire in 1954.

14 Tweedle Street



Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1819 Patent Plan

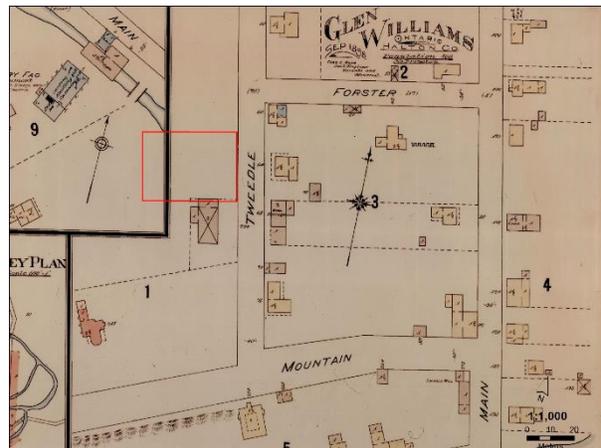


Figure 9: Subject property identified on the 1898 Fire Insurance Plan of Glen Williams

The existing house at 14 Tweedle Street was built on village lot 36 by the Sykes and Ainley Manufacturing Company, on part of Back Street, which is shown in historic mapping, but which was never opened. The house was built c.1905, the same year that many other homes were constructed in Glen Williams. The property was tenanted by Robert Brennan (1860-1933) in 1912.

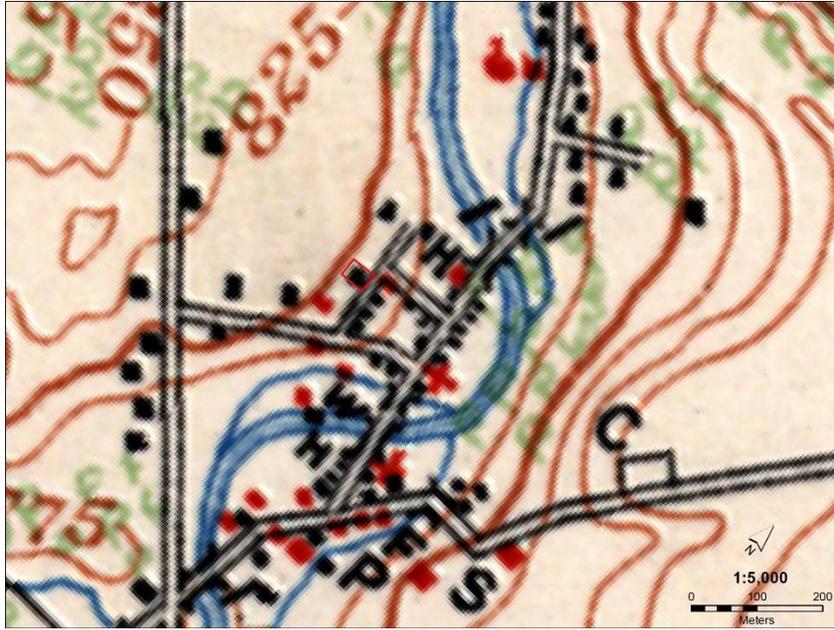


Figure 10: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Map

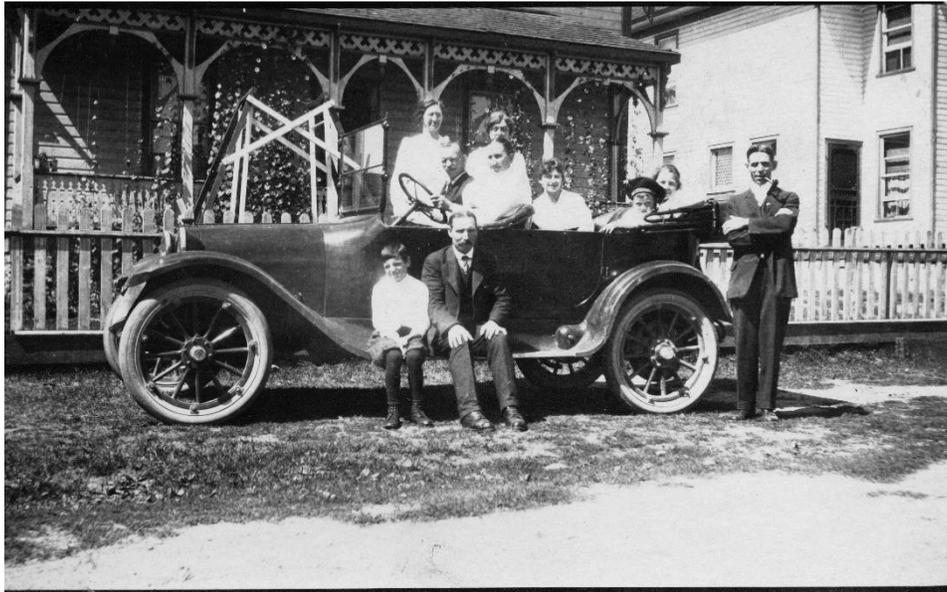


Figure 11: A happy group around a new car parked in front of 14 Tweedle Street, c.1919 (EHS 11263)



Figure 12: Ernest Rogers and Emma Hill in a gig on Tweedle Street when they were engaged; 14 Tweedle Street is pictured in the background, c.1917 (EHS 00149)



Figure 13: Members of the Hill and Brennan family, c.1922; 14 Tweedle Street shown in the background (EHS 01005)



Figure 14: Gathering at 14 Tweedle Street, including Robert Brennan (centre), c.1920 (house is not shown) (EHS 00099)

The property at 14 Tweedle Street was sold in 1939 by the Glen Woollen Mills and was leased out for several years. In 1955, Sheridan Nurseries began to purchase farms near the village, as well as lands in Norval, to expand their business. In 1964, Sheridan Nurseries purchased additional lands including the subject property to be used as housing for its seasonal workers. In July 1981, Sheridan Nurseries sold the subject property to Tony and Sarah Lilley, who owned it until it was purchased by current owners Ian and Michelle Jarvie.



Figure 15: 14 Tweedle Street, date unknown (via Mark Rowe)

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The property at 14 Tweedle Street is a rectangular shaped parcel located on the west side of Tweedle Street in the community of Glen Williams within the Town of Halton Hills. The property is legally described as PT LT 21, CON 10 ESQ, PART 2, 20R5104; AKA; PT LT 17, RCP 1556; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING. The property contains a single-detached, one-and-a-half storey wood frame residential building constructed c.1905, surrounded by mature trees on the south and west lot lines, with a small contemporary outbuilding towards the rear.



Figure 16: Looking north along Tweedle Street towards the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 17: Looking south along Tweedle Street towards the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

The property is accessed via an unpaved driveway extending from Tweedle Street. The existing residential building is a representative example of an Ontario Gothic Revival Cottage and features a gable roof with a central gable peak at the front (east) elevation. The central entrance, flat-headed with simple surround, is flanked by symmetrically placed flat-headed window openings with wooden shutters (not original) at the first storey.



Figure 18: Front (east) elevation of 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 19: Detail of front (east) elevation of 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

A covered porch is located at the first storey with a hipped roof, wooden columns, and decorative woodwork beneath bracketed eaves. The wooden porch railing is an ornate design above the wooden porch floor, accessed via a flight of wooden steps from the sidewalk extending from Tweedle Street. Above the first storey, a round-arched window opening with wooden surround frames a two-over-two hung window beneath the gable peak, which features decorative bargeboard/vergeboard. The residence is currently clad with siding throughout.

The side (south) elevation features two single, flat-headed window openings at each storey beneath the gable roof featuring decorative wooden bargeboard. Beyond the c.1905 structure, a two-storey addition connects into the rear of the original building with a cross-gable roof.



Figure 20: Northeast corner of the existing house at 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 21: Detail of the side (north) elevation at 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

The side (north) elevation mirrors the south elevation, with two single, flat-headed window openings at each storey beneath the gable roof with decorative wooden bargeboard.



Figure 22: Partial side (south) elevation of 14 Tweedle Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 23: Partial side (south) elevation of 14 Tweedle Street (Google Streetview)

2.3 Architectural Style and Comparative Analysis

The Gothic Revival Cottage, or Ontario Cottage, style, was the most popular residential style in Canada until 1950 and the most prevalent residential design style in all of Ontario. Identified in the Canadian Farmer magazine in 1865, the small cottage with centre-gable is extant with variations in stone, brick, and wood throughout the province.

Features characteristic of the Ontario Cottage style that are featured within the existing residential building at 14 Tweedle Street including the steeply pitched roof, gable peaks, bargeboard and decorative

wooden architectural detailing, and one-storey covered porch on the front elevation are still extant, as is the one-and-a-half storey form of the early-twentieth century residential building.

14 Tweedle Street is an excellent representation of a workers' cottage built by the Sykes & Ainley Manufacturing Company Ltd. at the beginning of the twentieth century for its employees.

3.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist

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

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

The property at 14 Tweedle Street has physical and design value as representative of a worker's cottage in the Gothic Revival style in the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills. The one-and-a-half storey frame structure exhibits features characteristic of an Ontario Cottage in the Gothic Revival style found throughout the province, including features such as its steeply pitched roof, bargeboard and decorative wooden architectural detailing, and one-storey covered porch on the front elevation. The scale, form and massing of the one-and-a-half-storey structure remains legible with an addition to the rear.

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

The property at 14 Tweedle Street has significant historical and associative value due to its connection with the woollen mill industry in the hamlet of Glen Williams. Built as worker's housing in 1905 by the Sykes and Ainley Manufacturing Company Ltd., 14 Tweedle Street served as housing through several changes in the mill's ownership until its closure in the mid-twentieth century, including housing for the Sykes and Ainley Manufacturing Company Ltd., the Glen Williams Woollen Mills, and later Glen Textiles. The property also served as housing for seasonal workers for Sheridan Nurseries until it was sold in the 1980s and has remained a residential property since.

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

Is a landmark	N/A
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The property at 14 Tweedle Street has contextual value as it serves to maintain and support the character of the area, including the modest worker's housing extant along Tweedle Street in the community of Glen Williams. The existing house is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings, and although the former woollen mill is no longer extant, the collection of worker's housing in this area reflects the growth of the community in relation to the wool industry in Glen Williams.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 14 Tweedle Street 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 14 Tweedle Street are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the one-and-a-half storey residential Ontario Cottage home in the Gothic Revival Style along Tweedle Street in the community of Glen Williams;
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing building, including its gable roof with central gable at the front elevation;
- The materials, including stone foundation and wooden architectural and decorative elements throughout;
- The front elevation, including:
 - o The centrally located entrance with symmetrically placed flat-headed window openings at the first story;
 - o The one-storey wooden porch with hipped roof, wooden columns and decorative woodwork beneath bracketed eaves, and ornate wooden porch railing above a wooden porch floor;
 - o Beneath the gable peak, the single flat-headed window opening beneath decorative bargeboard;
- The side elevations, including:
 - o The symmetrically placed single flat-headed window openings at the first and second storeys.

The rear elevation, rear addition, and interiors have not been identified as part of this report.

5.0 Sources

Primary Sources

Newspapers

Georgetown Herald

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