

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2024)

Barraclough House

25 Mountain Street, Glen Williams, Town of Halton Hills

February 2024

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1.0 Property Description

25 Mountain Street	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	LT 41, RCP 1556
Construction Date	c.1901
Original Use	Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	Norman Ainley on the site of Jacob and Benajah’s frame house
Architectural Style	Queen Anne
Additions/Alterations	Interior
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town’s Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Laura Loney
Report Date	February 2024

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 25 Mountain Street in the community of Glen Williams in the Town of 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 – 25 Mountain Street



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 25 Mountain Street

2.1 Historical Background

Indigenous History Background

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

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

In 1818, the British Crown negotiated the purchase of 648,000 acres of land from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, including present-day Halton Hills, under the Ajetance Treaty (No. 19), named after Chief Ajetance. This left the Mississaugas with three small reserves on the Lake Ontario shoreline. The legitimacy of early land “surrenders” to the Crown is questionable when considering the Mississaugas’ traditional understanding of property ownership. Unlike the British, the Mississaugas understood land in spiritual terms, and did not share the idea that access to land and resources could be given up permanently¹.

European Settlement

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.

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



Figure 3: 25 Mountain Street identified on the 1819 Patent Plan



Figure 4: 25 Mountain Street identified on Tremaine's 1858 Map of the County of Halton, Canada West

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 as part of the business (son-in-law of Joseph Williams). 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 remained connected to the Williams family through the wife of its general manager Harry Holdroyd, who was Joseph Williams' daughter.



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

Glen Woollen Mills Company & Melrose Knitting Company

The Glen Woollen Mills Company Ltd. was established in 1907 and took over the mill from Sykes and Ainley. With its shareholders primarily located in England, H.P. Lawson, local landholder and the first to provide hydroelectricity in Georgetown from his power plant, served as the Vice-President of the company and E.Y. Barraclough served as Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager for the company in Glen Williams. At the height of the Glen Williams Woollen Company's success, between 60 and 70 people were employed by the business.



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 n.d. (EHS 00147)



Figure 8: Job advertisement for Glen Woollen Mills Ltd (*Georgetown Herald*, November 7, 1917, p. 3)



Figure 9: Mrs. Solway and Gertie Martin working on blankets in the Glen Woollen Mills, c.1930 (EHS 00995)

The Melrose Knitting Company was established during as a subsidiary of the Glen Woollen Mills Company 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 45,000 dozen pairs of socks each year.

Ernest and Ida Barraclough & Barraclough House

Ernest Young (E.Y.) Barraclough and his wife Ida (nee Stirrat) moved to Glen Williams for the business from Yorkshire and lived in the manager's home at 25 Mountain Street, originally built for John Sykes. A clapboard house had originally been located on this property, with a second home that burned down in 1900.

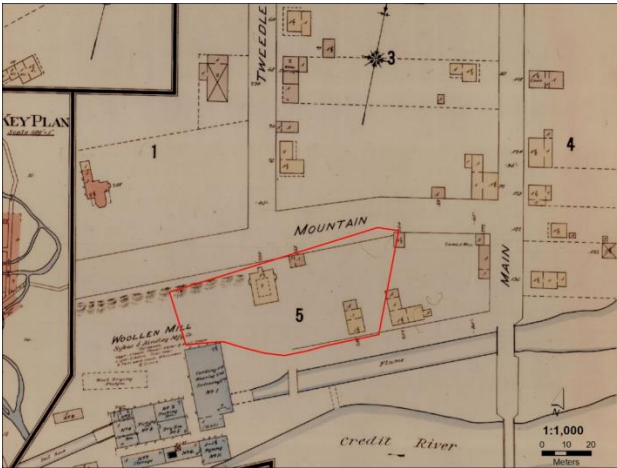


Figure 10: 25 Mountain Street identified on the 1898 Fire Insurance Plan of Glen Williams



Figure 11: 25 Mountain Street identified on the 1909 National Topographic Map

Barraclough later purchased the subject property in 1910, 3 years after the beginning of his tenure with the Glen Woollen Mills Company. Barraclough and his wife became prominent figures in the community and deeply connected to the Union Church, of which Barraclough was an elder and treasurer.



Figure 12: Barraclough House after an ice storm, c.1910 (EHS 00666)



Figure 13: Barraclough House after an ice storm, c.1910 (EHS 00670)



GLEN WOOLLEN MILLS AND MANAGER'S HOUSE.

Figure 14: Glen Woollen Mills and Manager's House, c.1913 (EHS 00080)

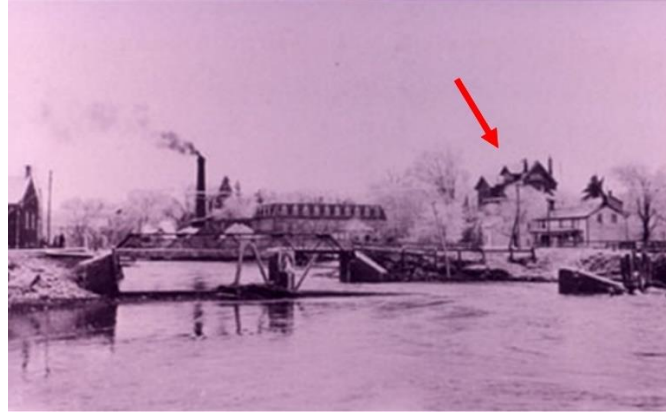


Figure 15: Looking downriver from the east bank of the Credit River - Barraclough House identified on the right, c.1910 (EHS 00292)



Figure 16: Ida and Ernest Barraclough with their housekeeper at 25 Mountain Street, c.1916 (EHS 20106)



Figure 17: Ernest and Ida Barraclough and relatives, c.1916 (EHS 20104)



Figure 18: Housekeeper Mrs. Graham and her children at 25 Mountain Street, c.1916 (EHS 20107)



Figure 19: Gentleman starting motor car at Barraclough House, Mountain Street, c.1920 (EHS 00970)

Connection with Lucy Maud Montgomery

In February 1926, E.Y. Barraclough and his wife Ida met Lucy Maud Montgomery and husband Reverend Ewan Macdonald; the pair spent their first night at Barraclough House in Glen Williams and became long-time friends with the Barraclough family. The author noted in her journal in 1927 that the “. . . house has, somehow, an agreeable personality” (Selected Journals of LM Montgomery, Volume III: 1921-1929). Montgomery and her husband were friends with the Barraclough’s for over 10 years.



Figure 20: E.Y. and Ida Barraclough with Reverend Ewan Macdonald, c.1927 (L.M. Montgomery Collection – MS A097037)



Figure 21: Side view of Barraclough House, c.1926 (L.M. Montgomery Collection - MS A097053)



Figure 22: Barraclough House, c.1926 (L.M. Montgomery Collection - MS A097053)



Figure 23: Glen Williams c.1926, showing the Barraclough Wool Factory (L.M. Montgomery Collection - MS A097053)



Figure 24: Glen Williams, Barraclough House identified on the right, c.1926 (L.M. Montgomery Collection - MS A097053)

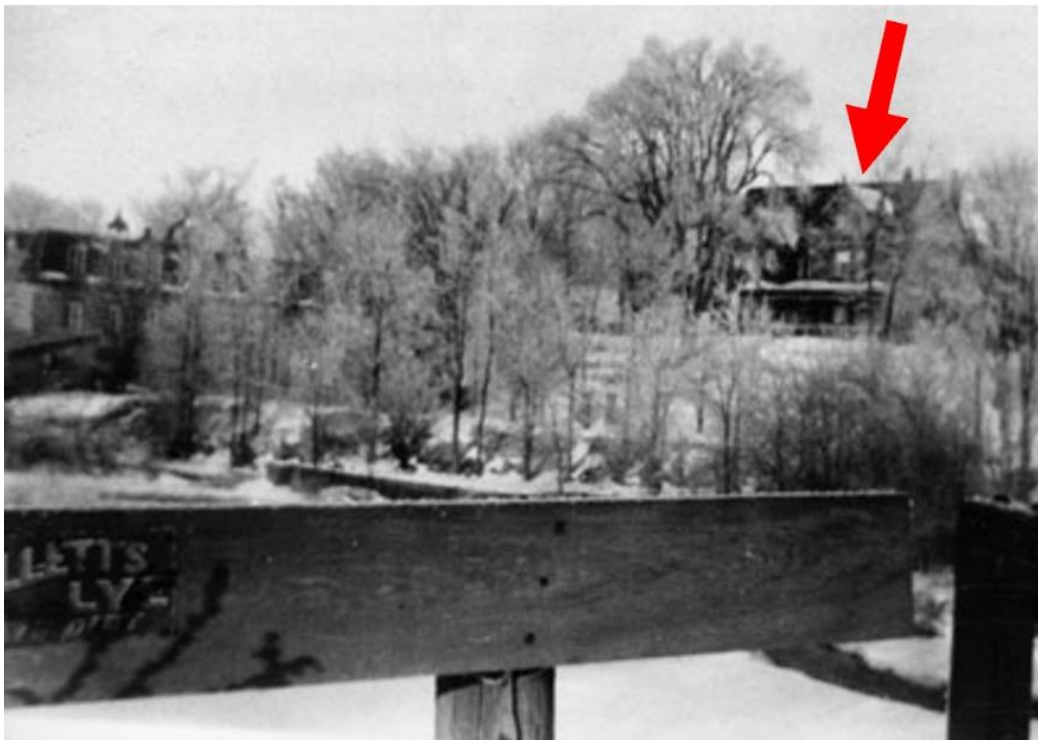


Figure 25: The Glen Woollen Mills and Barraclough House viewed from the bridge over the Credit River during the winter, c.1930 (EHS 01002)

Barraclough died suddenly of a stroke in 1936, following which the subject property was severed from the mill. Following Barraclough's death, 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.



Figure 26: 25 Mountain Street identified in a 1960 aerial photograph

Ida Barraclough died in 1967. In 1968, the property was transferred from the estate to Sarah and Fred Hemming, who sold the property the following year to Antoinette Braun. In 1972, Braun sold the property to the numbered company 243220 Holdings Limited, who then sold it in 1973 to Cairnlee Village, later Cairnlee Community, a residential care facility for children with disabilities. James and Adrienne Eagles purchased the property in 1982 and then sold it in 1988 to Alan Shiner. Gary Lubin purchased the property in 2003 from Shiner and owned the property until 2008 until it was transferred once again to Alan Shiner.

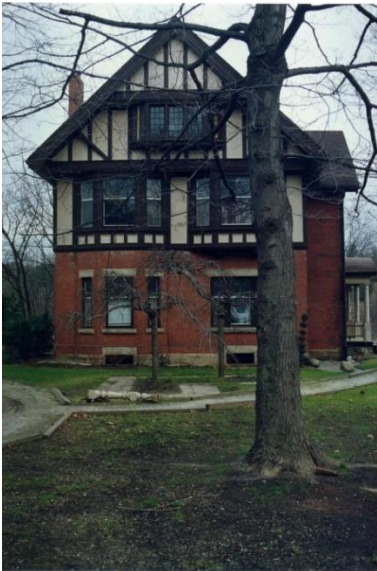


Figure 27: Barraclough House, c.1990 (EHS 10507)



Figure 28: Barraclough House, c. 1990 (EHS 10784)



Figure 29: Barraclough House, c.2010 (EHS 21202)

The property was purchased by Bonnie and Brian Collie in 2010, who owned the property until 2015 and who undertook significant restoration and repair work to the property during that time.

In 2015, the current owners purchased the property.

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The property at 25 Mountain Street is located at the south intersection of Tweedle Street and Mountain Street, along the south side of Mountain Street, in the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills. The property is an irregular-shaped lot with a wide frontage onto Mountain Street, with the Credit River at the rear (south) of the property. The property features many mature trees and significant landscaping along Mountain Street, with a paved driveway and walkways allowing access to the property. A fence runs along Mountain Street between the existing house and the right of way.



Figure 30: Looking south towards 25 Mountain Street from Tweedle Street, partially obscured by foliage (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 31: Looking east towards 25 Mountain Street along Mountain Street, partially obscured by foliage (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

Barraclough House is a two-and-a-half storey residence, with triple-wythe red brick construction and significant architectural detailing throughout.



Figure 32: Northwest corner of Barraclough House at 25 Mountain Street (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

The front (north) elevation of Barraclough House faces the intersection of Tweedle Street and Mountain Street in Glen Williams. The elevation is asymmetrical yet balanced in its composition, with openings of various sizes and architectural detailing providing interest throughout. At the first storey, the central entrance, accessed via an open stone porch, features a detailed wooden surround with sidelights. A large flat-headed window opening with stone sill and lintel with wooden shutters is located adjacent to the entrance on one side, with a smaller rectangular opening with brick voussoirs above and stone sill below flanked by wooden shutters on the other side. The western half of the front (north) elevation is defined by a bay with mansard roof at the first storey, with a brick base, wooden detailing, and flat-headed windows beneath the bracketed bay roof. This bay is flanked by a brick chimney that extends well above the gable roof.



Figure 33: Front (north) elevation of Barraclough House at 25 Mountain Street, partially obscured by foliage (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 34: North elevation of 25 Mountain Street (Property Owner 2024)

Above the first storey, the eastern half of the front (north) elevation features a vertical flat-headed window opening with stone sill, lintel, and shutters; two horizontal flat-headed window openings with stone sills, lintels, and wooden shutters centered above the front elevation, and arched window opening with stone sill and stone hood mould above. This window opening features an elaborate stained-glass window which is best appreciated from the interior (Figure 37). At the second storey, half-timbering wraps around the corner to the side elevation on the other side of the chimney.



Figure 35: Detail of the front (north) elevation of Barraclough House (Property Owner 2024)



Figure 36: Detail of the front (north) elevation of Barraclough House (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

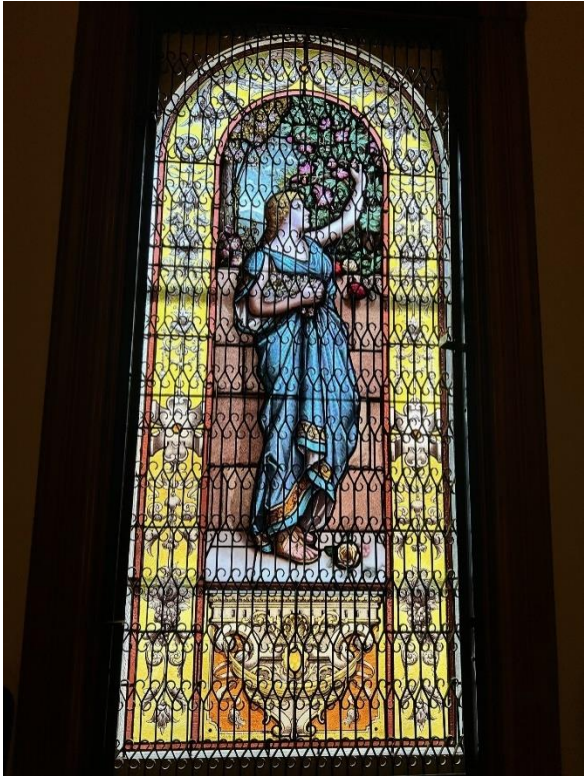


Figure 37: Stained glass window on the primary elevation, shown from the interior (Property Owner 2024)

Above the roofline of the front elevation, two tall chimneys project above the roof, and a gable-roofed former with wooden architectural detailing is located approximately at the centre of the roofline.



Figure 38: Southwest corner of Barraclough House (Property Owner 2024)

The side (southwest) elevation of Barraclough House reads as an extension of the front elevation in its detailing and orientation towards Mountain Street. At the first storey, the stone foundation is punctuated by flat-headed window openings with stone sills. A projecting bay extends upwards from a brick base at the first storey and features three symmetrically placed flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels. Adjacent to the bay at the first storey is a large window opening with three hung windows, stone lintel, and sill. At the second storey, two projecting bays mirror one another with wooden architectural detailing throughout, with the southernmost bay supported by wooden brackets. Above the second storey, half-timbering and stucco define the façade with a wooden projecting bay with multi-divided windows beneath the centre gable with wooden detailing along the eaves.



Figure 39: Southwest elevation of Barraclough House (Owner 2024)

The rear (south) elevation of Barraclough House facing the Credit River is arguably the most elaborate and detailed elevation of the home, originally oriented towards the Glen Woollen Mill for its manager E.Y. Barraclough. Built into the hill, this elevation is dominated by a large, covered verandah featuring elaborate wooden architectural detailing throughout.

At the southwest end of this elevation, a portion façade projects forward beneath a gable peak. The main wrap-around verandah is flanked by an elaborately detailed covered, round-arched porch with Doric columns over a flat-headed entrance which is accessed via a flight of wooden steps. A flat-headed tripartite window openings with stone lintel and sill is located directly adjacent to the rear entrance. On the other side of the entrance at the first storey beneath the main verandah is another flat-headed window opening with two hung windows within. The façade steps back again beyond this elevation to reveal brick at the first elevation and half-timbering at the second storey above.

A projecting bay extends along the southeast portion of this elevation through the first and second storeys and above the existing roofline into an elaborate dormer. At the first storey the bay is brick with symmetrically placed window openings, and smaller openings within the paneled portion of the bay at the second storey. Above the roofline the bay features a gable roof and smaller rectangular window openings beneath the bracketed roof which also features detailed woodwork and shingles. A brick chimney is located directly beside this dormer.

The southwest portion of the elevation at the second storey features an additional horizontal window opening with stone still and lintel with three windows within, and a smaller window opening infilled with glass blocks beside.



Figure 40: Southeast elevation of Barraclough House (Property Owner 2024)



Figure 41: Southeast corner of Barraclough House (Property Owner 2024)

The side (northeast) elevation features two entrances at grade, one within the wrap-around verandah portion and another towards the front corner with a small covered wooden porch. The first storey of this elevation projects from the main elevation wall and features two smaller window openings with wooden shutters and brick voussoirs beneath the eaves of the porch roof. Two symmetrically placed flatheaded window openings with stone sills, lintels and wooden shutters are located at the second

storey. Like the southwest elevation, a wooden, bracketed projecting bay is located at the upper storey and is located within the shingled façade beneath the decorative bracketed eaves.



Figure 42: Northeast elevation of Barraclough House (Property Owner 2024)

2.3 Architectural Style and Analysis

When the subject property was added to the Heritage Register (2010), the property was identified as an unusual example of Edwardian-style architecture with a stained-glass window. However, John Blumenson describes Edwardian Classicism as follows: “In contrast to the highly colouristic, complicated and often eclectic compositions of the late nineteenth century, Edwardian Classicism, through its balanced facades, simplified but large roofs, smooth brick surfaces and generous fenestration, restored simplicity and order to domestic architecture” (*Ontario Architecture*, p.166). Edwardian Classicism is typically understated with relatively simple detailing. While Barraclough House features classical features throughout, the overall composition blends several motifs and features a balanced, vs. symmetrical, composition, with a wide variety of materials used throughout. The style can be best described as Queen Anne Revival.

The Queen Anne style was built primarily between 1870-1880 to 1910 and was popular amongst the wealthy upper middle classes as buildings in this style are designed to be impressive. Shannon Kyles notes in *Ontario Architecture* that the inspiration of Queen Anne Revival architecture was from medieval principles of neighbourhoods and towns that focused on craftsmanship and community. The style featured a variety of decorative elements and forms, with complex and variable aesthetics that served to express the success of those who built the homes, often featuring characteristics including asymmetrical facades, steeply pitched and irregular rooflines, front-facing gables, overhanging eaves, towers with turrets in the corners, unusual windows, detailed textures, and bright colours.

3.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist

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

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

The property at 25 Mountain Street has significant physical and design value as a unique example of the Queen Anne Revival style within the community of Glen Williams, unique within the community in its detailing, construction, and style. Barraclough House features a balanced, vs. symmetrical, composition, a variety of materials, and varied architectural detailing throughout providing visual interest. A combination flat-headed, round-arched, and bay windows of assorted sizes throughout, an interesting mix of materials including red brick, stone, stucco and half-timbering, tall chimneys, dormers projecting through the roofline, and detailing on each façade demonstrate the high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit of the home. The detailed rear elevation facing the Credit River with wrap-around verandah, gable-roofed dormer and variety of window openings further enhance the physical value of this property. Additionally, an intricate stained-glass window demonstrates a high degree of technical achievement on the primary elevation of the home.

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	X

The property at 25 Mountain Street has extensive historical and associative value due to its associations with the woollen mill industry in Glen Williams, Ernest Barraclough and family, and Lucy Maud Montgomery. Barraclough House was built for Ernest Barraclough, Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager of the Glen Woollen Mills Company (previously the Williams' Woollen Mill and later Sykes and Ainley Manufacturing Company), which at the height of its success employed between 60 and 70 people in the community. In 1925, Ernest and Ida Barraclough met author Lucy Maud Montgomery and her husband Reverend Ewan Macdonald; friends with the couple for over 10 years, Montgomery noted in her journals that the house had "an agreeable personality".

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 25 Mountain Street has contextual value as a significant landmark in the community of Glen Williams, important in defining the character of the area in its location at the intersection of Tweedle Street and Mountain Street. Built within the hill above the former location of the woollen mill, the house is visually and historically linked to its surroundings. Its unique construction and architectural detailing make the property one of the most unusual and interesting homes within the community and serves as a reminder of the community's historical past as a milling community.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 25 Mountain 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 25 Mountain Street are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building along Mountain Street in the community of Glen Williams, Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing two-and-a-half storey Queen Anne Revival building, with stone foundation, gable roof, gable-roofed dormers, and brick chimney;
- The materials, including triple-wythe red brick construction, stone foundation, stone sills and lintels, stucco and half-wood timbering, wooden porch and verandah, and stained-glass window;
- The primary (north) elevation, including:
 - o The central entrance accessed via an open stone porch, with wooden surround and sidelights;
 - o At the first storey:
 - The large flat-headed window opening with stone sill, stone lintel, and wooden shutters;
 - The smaller rectangular window opening with brick voussoirs and stone sill with wooden shutters;
 - The projecting bay with mansard roof and brick base, wooden detailing, and flat-headed window openings beneath the bracketed bay roof;
 - o At the second storey:
 - The vertical flat-headed window opening with stone sill, lintel, and shutters; two horizontal flat-headed window openings with stone sills, lintels, and wooden shutters centered above the front elevation, and arched window opening with stone sill and stone hood mould above, including the stained-glass window within;

- The half-timbering wrapping around the corner to the side elevation;
 - Tall brick chimneys extending above the gable roof;
 - Gable-roofed dormer with wooden architectural detailing;
- The side (southwest) elevation, including:
 - The stone foundation is punctuated by flat-headed window openings with stone sills;
 - Projecting bay extending from a brick base at the first storey with three symmetrically placed flat-headed window openings with stone sills and lintels;
 - The large window opening adjacent to the projecting bay with three hung windows, stone lintel, and sill;
 - At the second storey, two projecting bays mirroring one another with wooden architectural detailing throughout, with the southernmost bay supported by wooden brackets.
 - Above the second storey, half-timbering, and stucco within the wooden projecting bay with multi-divided windows beneath the centre gable with wooden detailing along the eaves.
- The rear (south) elevation, including:
 - The wooden verandah flanked by an elaborately detailed covered, round-arched porch with Doric columns over a flat-headed entrance accessed via a flight of wooden steps;
 - Flat-headed tripartite window opening with stone lintel and sill and flat-headed window opening with dual hung windows within;
 - Brick at the first storey and half-timbering at the second storey;
 - The projecting bay and elaborate dormer with brick, symmetrically placed window openings and smaller openings within the paneled portion of the bay at the second storey;
 - Within the southwest portion of the elevation, the horizontal window opening with stone sill and lintel with three windows within and a smaller window opening beside;
 - Above the roofline, the bay with gable roof and smaller rectangular window openings beneath the bracketed roof featuring detailed woodwork and shingles as well as the brick chimney.
- The side (northeast) elevation, including:
 - Two door openings at grade, including the wrap-around verandah and small covered wooden porch beyond;
 - Small window openings with wooden shutters and brick voussoirs beneath the eaves of the porch roof;
 - At the second storey, symmetrically placed flatheaded window openings with stone sills, lintels, and wooden shutters; and,
 - Wooden, bracketed projecting bay is located at the upper storey and is located within the shingled façade beneath the decorative bracketed eaves.

The interiors have not been evaluated or identified as heritage attributes as part of this report.

5.0 Sources

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