Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2024)

Currie Farmhouse 9156 Trafalgar Road, Town of Halton Hills

January 2024

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1.0 Property Description

9156 Trafalgar Road	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	PART LOT 6, CON 7 ESQ, PART 1 20R4616 EXCEPT PART 1 20R6108
	& PART 1 HR1810257 SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PARTS 2,3
	HR1810257 AS IN HR1810257 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1900
Original Use	Residential/Farm
Current Use	Residential/Farm
Architect/Building/Designer	Unknown
Architectural Style	Ontario Cottage (Gothic Revival)
Additions/Alterations	Rear Additions; Outbuildings throughout
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Laura Loney
Report Date	January 2024

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 9156 Trafalgar Road 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 – 9156 Trafalgar Road



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 9156 Trafalgar Road

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.

Early Ownership & The Currie Family

The patent for both the east and west halves of Lot 6 were owned by the Canada Company as of 1822. During the mid-to-late 1830s, the property was sold off in pieces. In 1858, John McKay owned the northeast portion of the lot. In 1877, this portion was owned by carpenter and farmer Edwin Thornton (1835-1903), husband to Catherine Isabella McKinnon (1839-1910). A residence is identified on the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas* (Figure 5).

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: Subject property identified on the 1822 Patent Plan



Figure 4: Subject property identified on the 1858 Tremaine's Map of the County of Halton, Canada West

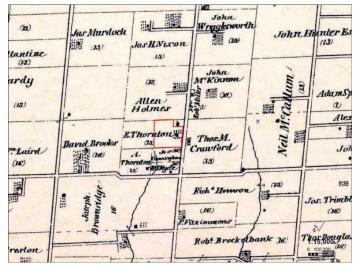


Figure 5: Subject property identified on the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton,* showing a structure within the property in addition to an orchard.



Figure 6: Margaret Currie (nee Hume), c.1883 (EHS 21941)

George Currie Sr. (1858-1918) Margaret (nee Hume) (1860-1946) (Figure 6) owned a portion of the property as of 1886 and purchased an additional twenty-five acres from Alonzo Thornton and his wife in 1889. The existing residential building on the property was constructed c.1900, suggesting that there was an earlier (frame) residence on the property when owned by Edwin Thornton.

The property was transferred to George Currie Jr. through probate of will in February 1918 following his father's death. The 1921 Census identifies that George Currie Jr. (1890-1975) then lived with his mother Margaret. However, in 1926 Margaret moved to a house on Main Street South in Georgetown.

Currie Jr. first married Bertha McAlpine (1900-1955) in 1925. The 1931 Census identifies George as the head of the household with wife Bertha and four children: George Douglas, Marion Eileen, Margaret Isobel, and John Alexander Currie.

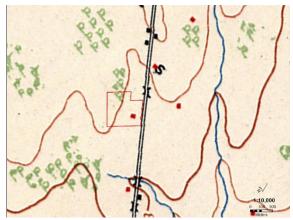


Figure 7: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Map

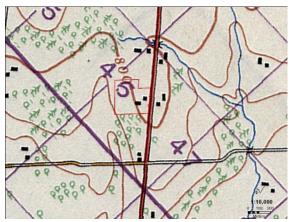


Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1942 National Topographic Map



Figure 9: Canadian Champion (Milton, ON), 30 Jan 1936, p. 2

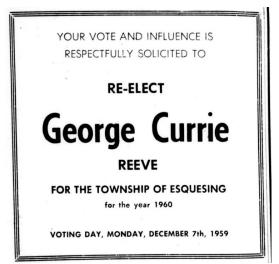


Figure 10: Canadian Champion (Milton, ON), 3 Dec 1959, p. 12

George Currie was elected to Council in 1927, served as the Reeve for Esquesing (1932-1937, 1949-1951, 1957-1959, and 1968-1970), as well as the Warden of Halton County for two terms. Currie died in his home in Ashgrove.

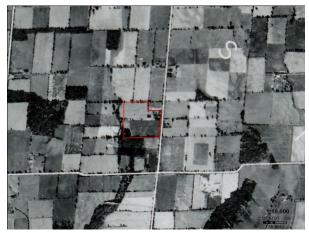


Figure 11: Subject property identified on the 1954 Aerial Photograph



Figure 12: Esquesing Council c. 1963; George Currie is second from the right (EHS 06809)

Currie Jr. later married his second wife Doris (nee Cash) (1906-1971) in 1969, who had lost her first husband William Hulls in 1967. She was an accomplished musician and led the Doris Hulls Orchestra for over 20 years and was also a member of St. John's Anglican Church in Stewarttown.

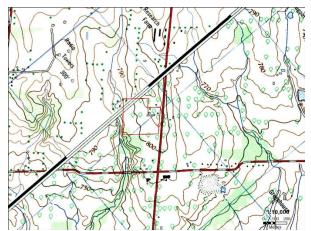


Figure 13: Subject property identified on the 1974/1974 National Topographic Map



Figure 14: Subject property identified on the 1990 Aerial Photograph

In 1977, the property was transferred from the estate of George Currie Jr. to Claude Pickett, who owned the property for approximately 3 years before selling to Albert Cormier.

Cormdale Genetics/Albert Cormier

Albert Cormier purchased the subject property in 1981 with Bruno Rosetti, and as of 1989 was the sole owner. Cormier established his business, Cormdale Genetics Inc., at the farm, and soon founded an artificial insemination company. Cormier was recognized in 1989 for having the top-milk-producing herd of Holsteins in all of Ontario, is recognized as being one of the pioneers in the export of Holstein cattle and embryos worldwide and was the first in North America to import genetics from Europe. Cormier partnered with Dave Easement to establish GenerVations in nearby Campbellville, a division on the larger company, although Eastman was the sole owner in 2004.



Figure 15: Georgetown Herald (Georgetown, ON), November 24, 1982, p. 1



Figure 16: Halton Hills This Week (Georgetown, ON), 21 November 1992, p. 3



Figure 17: Subject property identified on the 1999 aerial photograph, showing several outbuildings associated with the primary residential building on the site

AMMA Canada

AMMA Canada was original established as Amma Foundation of Canada, and established as a charity in 2003, serving the local community in many ways including a soup kitchen, associations with other charities, and filling Christmas baskets. AMMA Canada purchased the subject property in 2008. In 2010, a large fruit orchard with over 300 trees was planted on the 14-acre property, and the fruit and vegetables are donated to local charities. AMMA Canada continues to utilize the property for its charitable endeavours.



Figure 18: Spring 2022 Photographs of the subject property (AMMA Canada)



Figure 19: Spring 2022 Photographs of the subject property (AMMA Canada)



Figure 20: Spring 2022 Photographs of the subject property (AMMA Canada)



Figure 21: Spring 2022 Photographs of the subject property (AMMA Canada)

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The property at 9156 Trafalgar Road is an irregular-shaped parcel along the southwest side of Trafalgar Road in Halton Hills. The property contains a one-and-a-half storey farmhouse with rear additions, a contemporary bungalow, and several associated outbuildings within an agricultural landscape. The property is accessed via Trafalgar Road.



Figure 22: Looking southeast along Trafalgar at 9156 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 23: Looking northwest along Trafalgar at 9156 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

To the south of the original farmhouse is a one-storey bungalow with gable roof (built between 1980 and 1985 according to available aerial photography).



Figure 24: Looking south from the existing driveway towards the bungalow on the property (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

The existing brick farmhouse is a one-and-a-half storey brick building on a stone foundation with rear contemporary additions. The three-bay front (east) elevation features a central entrance within a segmentally arched opening with brick voussoirs and decorative brick hood mould, and single window openings with segmentally arched openings and brick voussoirs and decorative brick hood moulds on

either side; the original windows are no longer extant and have been replaced with contemporary hung windows, and the entry door is also contemporary.

Below the central gable peak is a round-headed window opening with brick voussoirs, which is unusual for the style, as well as the decorative brick hood moulds that are extant above openings throughout. The front elevation is otherwise unadorned and is quite modest, and features evidence of a former porch that is no longer extant.



Figure 25: Front (northeast) elevation of the existing residence at 9156 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 26: Southeast corner of the existing residence (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 27: Partial southeast elevation of the existing residence (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

The original farmhouse features a cross gabled roof which extends above the rear portion of the T-shaped building. A brick chimney is located within the gable peak of the one-and-a-half storey portion of the addition. A contemporary one-storey addition then extends to the rear perpendicular to the farmhouse and adjoins a one-and-a-half storey garage addition.



Figure 28: Partial southeast elevation of the addition to the existing residence (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 29: Looking towards the rear garage addition from within the existing driveway (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

The northeast elevation of the one-and-a-half storey farmhouse features a single segmentally arched window opening centered within the first storey and two single window openings centered beneath the gable peak at the upper storey. A brick chimney projects above the gable roof at this end of the house. The northwest elevation features two segmentally arched window openings at each storey, centered on the elevation.



Figure 30: Partial northeast elevation of the existing residence (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 31: Looking towards the northeast elevation of the existing residence, showing the rear addition (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 32: Looking towards the northeast elevation of the existing residence, showing the rear addition (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

Agricultural buildings including a large gable roof barn are located to the west of the residence as well as several smaller outbuildings throughout the property. Beyond the agricultural buildings are open fields, as well as orchards along the northeast lot line.



Figure 33: Looking southwest along the driveway at 9156 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 34: Looking north from the driveway showing the complex of outbuildings with the residence in the background (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 35: Looking towards the side (south) property line (Town of Halton Hills 2024



Figure 36: Looking towards the side (north) property line from the rear of the property (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 37: Looking towards the rear property line at 9156 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 38: Looking northeast from the rear property line (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

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	X
construction method	
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 9156 Trafalgar Road has physical and design value as it retains a representative example of a T-shaped, red brick Ontario Cottage farmhouse with cross-gable roof and stone foundation in the Gothic Revival style. The farmhouse features a unique round-arched window beneath the centre gable and decorative brick hood moulds above the window and door openings throughout the building's exterior elevations. Original window and door openings are extant throughout the building, and it has retained much of its integrity since its original construction. While associated outbuildings for farm use remain within the property, none currently serve as rare, unique or representative examples of latenineteenth-century/early-twentieth-century barns within the modified farmscape.

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 9156 Trafalgar Road has historical and associative value as an extant farmhouse within a historic farm property within the community of Halton Hills with long associations with the Currie family who owned the property for almost one hundred years. George Currie Sr. and his wife Margaret farmed the property with their family, including the family of George Currie Jr., who served as a Council member, the Reeve of Esquesing, and Warden of Halton County for many years. Following the Currie's ownership of the property, Albert Cormier, a renowned cattle farmer, and breeder, purchased the property. Cormier later established his business Cormdale Genetics Inc. on the site and is recognized worldwide for being a pioneer in cattle genetics. In 2008, charitable organization AMMA Canada (originally Amma Foundation of Canada) purchased the property and has used it since then to serve the community, growing fruits and vegetables on site in addition to providing many other community services.

Contextual Value	
Is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area	Х
Is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings	Х
Is a landmark	N/A

The property at 9156 Trafalgar Road has contextual value as one of the many rural agricultural properties within the area. The farmstead, and in particular the c.1900s farmhouse built by George Currie Sr., remains physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings in an agricultural area.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 9156 Trafalgar Road 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 9156 Trafalgar Road are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing farmhouse within the subject property;
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing one-and-a-half storey Ontario Cottage farmhouse with cross-gable roof;
- The materials, including red brick exterior and architectural detailing, and cut-stone foundation;
- The front (northeast) elevation of the one-and-a-half storey farmhouse, including:
 - At the first storey, the central entrance at the first storey within a segmentally arched opening with brick voussoirs and decorative brick hood mould, and extant single window openings with segmentally arched openings and brick voussoirs and decorative brick hood moulds on either side.
 - The central gable peak with a round-arched window opening with brick voussoirs and decorative brick hood mould below.
- The side (northwest) elevation of the one-and-a-half storey farmhouse, including:
 - Towards Trafalgar Road, the one segmentally arched window opening with brick voussoirs and decorative hood mould at the first storey and symmetrically placed, segmentally arched window openings with brick voussoirs and decorative hood moulds at the upper storey beneath the side gable roof;
 - Towards the rear, the dual segmentally arched window openings with brick sills, voussoirs, and decorative brick hood moulds adjacent to the side entrance within the segmentally arched openings with brick voussoirs and decorative hood mould;
- The side (southeast) elevation of the one-and-a-half storey farmhouse, including:
 - Towards Trafalgar Road, the two symmetrically placed, segmentally arched window openings at the first and second storeys with brick voussoirs and decorative hood moulds.
- The rear (southwest) elevation of the one-and-a-half storey farmhouse above the existing rear additions, including:

 Segmentally arched window openings with brick voussoirs and hood moulds on either side of the brick chimney extending above the roofline.

The interiors, the rear one-storey additions to the existing farmhouse, outbuildings, and 1980s bungalow have not been identified as heritage attributes as part of this report.

5.0 Sources

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