Research and Evaluation Report



(John Mark Rowe 2024)

Hawkins House

7 Prince Street, Glen Williams, Town of Halton Hills

September 2024

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1.0 Property Description

7 Prince Street, Glen Williams	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Regional Municipality of Halton
Legal Description	PT LT 51, PL 56, AS IN EW17606 EXCEPT 244833 S/T 64751;
	HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1851
Original Use	Residential / Commercial
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	James Hawkins
Architectural Style	Georgian
Additions/Alterations	N/A
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	John Mark Rowe with Laura Loney
Report Date	September 2024

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 7 Prince Street in Glen Williams, Halton Hills, Ontario (Figures 1 and 2). The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

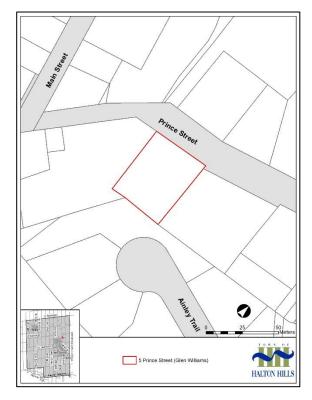






Figure 2: Aerial photograph - 7 Prince Street

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 archeological 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 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 permanently.¹

In the spirit of reconciliation, the government of Canada agreed to compensate the Mississaugas of the New Credit in 2010 by paying \$145 million for their land. In 2013, remains of 13 different Huron-Wendat First Nations archeological excavations were reinterred at the Kleinberg ossuary by the University of Toronto on lands owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Early European Settlement History

The son of a Loyalist family, John Butler Muirhead (1800-1824) received a location ticket for Lot 21, Concession 10 Esquesing in 1818; he completed his settlement duties on his 200 acres on June 13, 1823. He married Ann Doestader in May 1824. On September 25, 1824, the Crown patent was issued to Muirhead. John Butler Muirhead died suddenly on November 29, 1824, and was buried at St. Mark's Church, Niagara.

¹ Cultural Heritage Strategy, Town of Halton Hills, 2023. 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 1819 Patent Plan

Figure 4: Subject property identified on the 1822 Patent Plan

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 Niagara for Esquesing Township, they decided to relocate to the area. On October 12, 1824, Benajah listed both his mill property and Grimsby township property for sale in the *Niagara Gleaner*. Benajah purchased Lot 21, Concession 10, Esquesing Township from the heirs of John Butler Muirhead on November 9, 1825. Benajah, then 60, reportedly had the saw mill up and running that same year; the area soon became known as Williamsburg, later known as Glen Williams in 1852.

Benajah's oldest son Joel Williams began farming Lot 21, Con. 11 which he had purchased from The Canada Company in 1838. Benajah divided his property between his second and third sons. Charles Williams (1811-1889) received the south-easterly 106 acres on 4 February 1842, and Jacob Williams (1816-1853) received the north-westerly 94 acres on 24 July 1843. Jacob Williams' land included the woollen mill he had established in 1839. Following the division of the property, the brothers had a Village Plan drawn up in 1854.

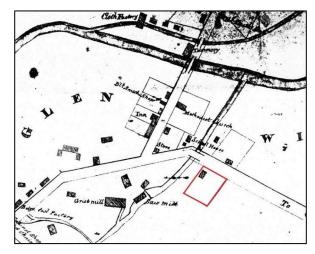


Figure 5: Subject property identified on the 1854 Survey of the Village of Glen Williams

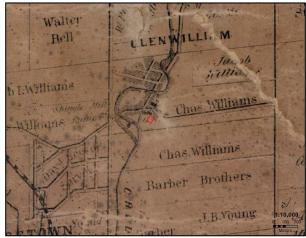


Figure 6: Subject property identified on Tremaine's 1858 Map of the County of Halton, Canada West

The subject property is shown as Lot 51 (outlined in red) in Figure 5. It is at this point that Prince Street begins its steep incline to the cemetery at the top of the Credit Valley. Note that the northwestern lot line faces a raceway, which in fact was the channel dug to provide waterpower from the Credit River to the Williams' sawmill, further downstream. A bridge can be seen marked on the plan which was printed in this 1877 *Historical Atlas* (shown in Figure 8 below).

The 1854 survey map of the Village of Glen Williams (Figure 5) included all the existing buildings in the village. Lot 51 is also outlined in red, and the existing house is shown. The long-edge of the Georgian centre-hall plan house facing the raceway was established as the front of the house. The structure was built as a store oriented towards the principal buildings at the intersection of Main and Prince Streets.

The 1854 map identified principal buildings in the village; additionally, the mill raceway can be easily traced from the Credit River at the top, under Prince Street, past #7 Prince Street and to the rear of the sawmill to provide power. The Williams Mill building (515 Mill Street South) is extant at this location today. Figure 7 shows the intended front elevation of the house during the spring. The mill raceway runs across the front of the house. Prince Street starts up the hill on the left. The top of a picket fence surrounds the yard opposite #3A Prince Street.



Figure 7: Front elevation of the extant dwelling at 7 Prince Street, c.1912 (Detail, EHS 20154)

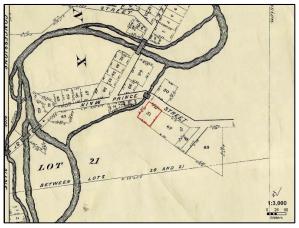


Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton

Village Lot 51 was sold to James Hawkins by Charles and Mary Jane Williams on February 8, 1850. Lot 51 covered half an acre of land. This red brick one-and-a-half-storey house was likely completed c.1850-1851, however, has since been painted.

James Hawkins (1819-1893) and Fanny Hawkins (nee Reesor) (1819-1891) had a son Nelson about 1850. James Hawkins was born in New Brunswick about 1819, making him a contemporary of Frances (Fanny) Heustis Beek (1822-1887), who became the wife of Jacob Williams. Frances Beek was the daughter of Joseph Beek, a leading Wesleyan Methodist minister in New Brunswick. Beek likely arrived in Williamsburg (Glen Williams) after Jacob Williams opened his woollen mill in 1839.

James Hawkins advertised his property for sale in 1855 with an advertisement placed in the *Halton Journal*:

"FOR SALE OR TO LET: That new brick store and dwelling house situated in the flourishing village of Glen Williams, in the township of Esquesing. The subscriber will sell or let for a term of years on reasonable terms. The building consists of six bedrooms, Store and Kitchen and Cellar, there is also a good well of water and also a cistern of Rain Water on the premises with half an acre of land attached thereto. Apply to the subscriber on the premises. JAMES HAWKINS, [Glen Williams], Nov. 15, 1855"

The advertisement suggests Hawkins may have been a shopkeeper in the village for a short time, however local directories do not identify him as such. The New Brunswick-born Hawkins was identified in the 1861 census as a schoolteacher in Markham, York County.

The subject property was sold on November 3, 1857, to John Gardhouse and then on July 12, 1869, to Sarah and Edward Lawson, residents of Bolton, Peel County. The Bolton Flour Mill had been sold in 1860 by Edward Lawson, owner from 1855, to John Gardhouse, and was operated by Gardhouse until 1881. Gardhouse was also a professed Wesleyan Methodist. This information implies that the house on Lot 51 was likely rented out to the many mill workers in Glen Williams during their tenure.

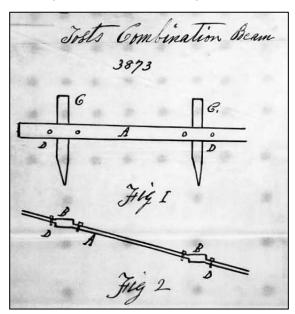


Figure 9: Illustrated Detail of Tost's Combinations Beam (Patent Number 3873, Granted 1874-09-30)



Figure 10: Blacksmith shop on Prince Street built by William Tost, c. 1871 (EHS1026)

In March 1870, blacksmith William Tost attended the organization meeting to build the Glen Williams Town Hall at the home of Charles Williams; Tost would remain a Town Hall Trustee until 1899. On February 2, 1871, Tost purchased Lots 65 and 66 (now 3 & 3A Prince Street) from Charles Williams. Two days later, Edward and Sarah Lawson sold the half-acre property at Lot 51 to William Tost and his wife Helen (nee Burwell).

Tost soon proceeded to build the two-storey red brick blacksmith and manufacturing building at 3A Prince Street. The building at 7 Prince Street became the home of William and Helen with children Latitia, Mary (Minnie) and Margaret (Maggie). Tost advertised as a general blacksmith, edge tool, and

mill iron manufacturer in an 1869-1870 Hamilton-based directory. The 1871 Census also noted Tost owned 3 village lots, 2 houses, 1 shop and 2 barns.

The 1877 Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton (the Atlas) noted that "Mr. W. Tost attends to the wants of the horses, and has built a very fine brick blacksmith shop and carriage shops. He has been in business in the Glen a long time, and does an extensive trade. He is also the manufacturer and patentee of Tost's celebrated iron beam harrow, which are becoming so deservedly popular." The Atlas gives his birthplace as England and year of settlement as 1846. He immigrated to Canada in 1831, so it is likely that he established his business in the village as early as 1846.

An 1882 directory lists Tost simply as a blacksmith. The 1884 Esquesing Assessment Rolls listed William Tost as a 45-year-old blacksmith owning one-and-a-half valued at \$800.

Mrs. Helen Tost (nee Burwell) died on May 29, 1886, and is buried at the Glen Williams Cemetery. Their daughter, Letitia, became Mrs. Jacob Worden, daughter Minnie became Mrs. R.S. McCrea while daughter Maggie remained at home to care for her father. William Tost died at age 79 on 21 January 1910.

William Tost had sold the blacksmith shop on Prince Street to shopkeeper Andrew Wheeler on July 9, 1906. William Tost's executors sold the half-acre Lot 51 to Maggie Tost and Letitia Worden on March 26, 1910, for \$1. In 1915, the property was transferred to Maggie Tost's sole ownership after her sister's death.



Figure 11: Grandma Wheeler and other residents, with the extant dwelling at 7 Prince Street in the background, c. 1908 (EHS976)



Figure 12: View of the village; the extant dwelling can be seen in the left-hand corner, c. 1908 (EHS480)

Maggie Tost died on August 13, 1931; the *Georgetown Herald* eulogized her by writing the following: "Margaret Tost, with religion as the keynote of her life, will be best remembered for her devoted and consistent work in connection with the Methodist Church of which she was a lifelong adherent."



Figure 13: Wheeler children on Prince Street, c. 1910 (EHS977)

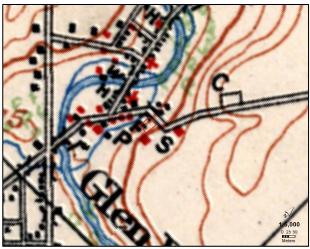


Figure 14: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Survey

Andrew Wheeler, who had leased the Tost blacksmith shop to a blacksmith (and later a motor car mechanic) sold the property (3A Prince Street) on June 15, 1925, to William Schenk (1890-1972) and Evelyn Schenk who opened a soft drink bottling plant here. William and Evelyn Schenk purchased the house at 7 Prince Street in 1931 from Maggie Tost's estate.



Figure 15: (1) Alexander House, (2) 1837 Schoolhouse, (3) 1873 schoolhouse spire, (4) Hawkins House, c.1912 (EHS 20262)



Figure 16: Residents posing near Prince Street, c. 1920 (EHS 00975)

In 1934, William and Evelyn built a new house on Lot 65 (now known as #3 Prince St.) adjacent to the bottling plant and later hosiery mill. They likely also leased out the home at 7 Prince Street as they maintained ownership of the property.

At the end of WWII, Private Roy Puckering returned and in June 1948 he purchased #7 Prince Street, moving in with his wife Nellie (nee Stamp) and children Linda and Brian.

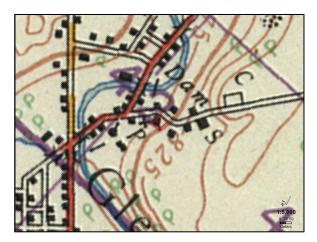


Figure 17: Subject property identified on the 1942 National Topographic Survey

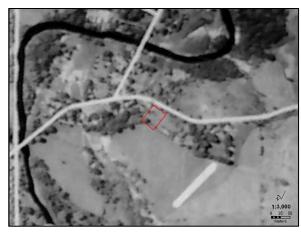


Figure 18: Subject property identified on 1954 aerial photography

On 29 May 1959, Roy and Nellie Puckering severed the south quarter of their lot and sold it to David Newton Stamp, Nellie's father. This portion of the property had a separate small one-and-a-half storey frame house (appearing in early photographs); this property was eventually numbered #5 Prince Street. The current owners were told it dates from about 1900, but the 1871 Census returns mentions two houses on the lot, so it may be older.

After David Stamp's death in 1967, the property was conveyed to Mary Elizabeth Stamp, Nellie's mother. In March 1968, Mary Stamp conveyed the property back to her daughter Nellie Puckering, restoring Lot 51 to its original dimensions.



Figure 19: Subject property identified on 1960 aerial photography



Figure 20: Subject property identified on 1977 aerial photography

Following Roy Puckering's death in 1981, Nellie Puckering continued to live at 7 Prince Street, walking to Preston's store daily for her needs. Unfortunately, her memory became weaker, and she could no longer live alone. In November 2000, the subject property (including both 5 Prince Street and 7 Prince Street) was conveyed by Nellie Puckering to her daughter Linda Anderson. The property was vacant when it was sold to its current owners on September 5, 2001.



Figure 21: Partial front and side elevation of 7 Prince Street, c. 1990 (EHS942)



Figure 22: Subject property identified on 2002 aerial photography

The current owners reside in #7 Prince Street. The painted brick was started by Roy Puckering, but the gable end was never completed since he had a heart attack during the work. The house at #5 Prince Street is a workshop today.



Figure 23: Subject property identified on 2007 aerial photography



Figure 24: Subject property identified on 2017 aerial photography

2.2. Property & Architectural Description

Hawkins House is located at 7 Prince Street, Glen Williams, Halton Hills. The subject property is a rectangular village lot, situated on the south side of Prince Street, just at the point where the street ascends sharply to the top of the Credit River valley. The property is legally known as PT LT 51, PL 56, AS IN EW17606 EXCEPT 244833 S/T 64751; HALTON HILLS.



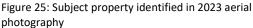




Figure 26: Side (north) elevation of the existing dwelling, fronting Prince Street (John Mark Rowe 2024)

The subject property contains a one-and-a-half-storey Georgian plan residential brick house building with moderately pitched cedar shake roof with gable returns on both facades and cedar shakes. It is situated near the western property line, demarcated by the drop in elevation to what was once a substantial raceway from the Credit River to the Williams sawmill and for a time, through a flume to the power plant and thence into the current ballpark. The front elevation faces west, at an angle matching the former raceway.



Figure 27: Front (west) elevation of the existing dwelling (John Mark Rowe 2024)



Figure 28: Basement windows on the extant dwelling (John Mark Rowe 2024)

The existing building is currently obscured from view by a line of trees and bushes along the western property line. A concrete sidewalk leads from Prince Street across the front of the house, firstly to the

former front entrance, secondly to the kitchen door at the back of the frame single-storey addition and thirdly to the front door of the workshop, municipally known as #5 Prince Street. The wide gravel driveway at the rear of the house leads to a car port and shed. The angle of the drive mirrors the house angle and follows the steep embankment of the valley.



Figure 29: Side (east) elevation of the existing dwelling (John Mark Rowe 2024)

Hawkins House is a two-storey house constructed with locally made, compact red terra-cotta brick, laid in a common bond pattern, although the bond pattern does vary on the front of the house. The ground floor is triple-wythe construction with the second floor being double-wythe².

The building features a rubble foundation that is six feet deep under the south end and features a three-foot crawl space on the north end of the house. A three-course brick plinth sits on top of the stone foundation. The five steps up to the front door, seen in historic photographs, are now replaced by three steps built into a flagstone landing.

The original front door is a panelled framed door of either solid red pine or hemlock. It is in remarkable shape as it has been covered with storm doors over the years. A twist bell has been installed as well as a slot for mail delivery (installed in 1967). It has eight panels (six identical) with a wide lock rail. A secondary door facing Prince Street appears to be a replacement wood frame door (age unknown) with a six-pane window insert.

The transom is a single piece of glass in a painted wooden frame. It is protected by an exterior two pane storm window.

The window openings and door opening are supported by a flat soldier brick voussoir. Windows are framed in plain hemlock on the exterior and red pine internally. A solid hemlock lug sill supports the windows. Windows are two over two sashes, primarily featuring original glass, and are currently protected by a four-pane wooden storm window. The house has an asymmetrical window configuration on the other three walls.

The rear (east) wall has only two close-set ground floor windows, corresponding to the placement of the original kitchen. The north wall, facing Prince Street, has two balanced windows on the ground floor

 $^{^2}$ These bricks may well have come from brickyards owned by John Leslie's brickyards. Leslie was the farmer on Main Street leaving the Glen towards the 10^{th} Tenth Line.

with a door set at a lower level, while the upper floor has only one window. A corresponding single upper floor window is set in the south wall.



Figure 30: Interior windows along the front (north) elevation of the extant dwelling, looking towards Prince Street (John Mark Rowe 2024)



Figure 31: Wooden front door and transom found on the side (west) elevation of the existing dwelling (John Mark Rowe 2024)

The medium pitch gable roof, with projecting eaves, is clad with cedar shakes, as it would have been originally. The simple flat fasciae are covered by aluminium eavestrough but like the gable ends may have a decorative narrower fascia board placed on the base board. The soffits are wide with three levels of overlapping boards, giving the roof trim a profile. A frieze board with molding finishes the top of the brick walls.



Figure 32: Rear (south) elevation of the subject dwelling (John Mark Rowe 2024)



Figure 33: Existing pine floorboards found throughout the interior (John Mark Rowe 2024)



Figure 34: Interior windows on the second storey, overlooking Prince Street (John Mark Rowe 2024)

Attached to the south wall is a frame summer kitchen that is currently sided, visible in all historic photographs. The door has been moved to the south end of the structure and accommodates a contemporary kitchen. The roof features shake shingles to match the house and simple flat fascia ends in short eaves return to echo the original returns found on the brick house.



Figure 35: Interior of the framed summer kitchen (John Mark Rowe 2024)



Figure 36: Existing fireplace in the extant dwelling (John Mark Rowe 2024)

Rooms inside the house seem to remain true to the original layout, which census records mentioned as having 9 rooms. The floorboards are wide pine boards and all door moldings, window casings and baseboards are original. The staircase is steep and is made of the original red pine treads. The simple brick hearth (with modern insert) features a stepped-back brick mantle.



Figure 37: Existing fireplace in the extant dwelling (John Mark Rowe 2024)



Figure 38: Existing fireplace in the extant dwelling (John Mark Rowe 2024)

At the rear of the property is the home at #5 Prince Street. It is a simple wood frame 1½ storey house with a steep pitched roof featuring cedar shakes. The summer kitchen sits at the southern end of the building. The east side has a deck with a pop-out dormer in the roof, containing a sliding door for access.

The building appears to have originally been a stable and may date from the building of the house, being converted by William Tost into a dwelling. Rob Wilson decommissioned the kitchen which had water supplied from a cistern, via a hand pump on the sink. He removed interior walls and added a second-storey deck. The second house (#5 Prince St.) has not been identified as a heritage attribute of the property.



Figure 39: Existing dwelling at 5 Prince Street, located in the rear yard of the subject property (John Mark Rowe 2024)

2.3. Architectural Style & Comparative Analysis

Hawkins House is a modest, three-bay Georgian plan building, of the style beloved by the Williams family. Patriarch Benajah Williams brought this love of the Georgian design from New England as did many United Empire Loyalists. It was greatly simplified and modified in the backwoods of Upper Canada. The c.1854 home of Frances Williams, widow of Jacob Williams, at 15 Mountain Street (Figure 39), seems to be a modelled on this building, albeit with a shallower second storey. Mrs. Williams, being a New Brunswicker and a Wesleyan Methodist suggest that James Hawkins was well-known to the Williams family.

The c.1851 is the oldest brick residence in the village of Glen Williams. The brick Georgian plan buildings built by the Williams family include 504, 510 and 514 Main Street, and many clapboard examples, all of which were built after Hawkins House.



Figure 40: Example of a Georgian House at 15 Mountain Street, Glen Williams (John Mark Rowe 2024)

Balanced and symmetrical facades are a hallmark of Georgian houses, and this building boasts three bays across the front with the centre door topped with a transom. A chimney is located at each gable end and originally all window openings featured shutters. The original heavy solid plank door is still extant and would have been opens outwards and hooked open during the good weather. The door stop and hook are still in place on the front façade.

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 7 Prince Street has physical and design value as the first brick house built in the pioneer village, using the Georgian floor plan common to the world of Benajah Williams, family patriarch. He brought his love of this design from New England. The Williams family were doubtless party to the design and building of this house, reflecting the austere tastes of the Wesleyan denomination at that time. It is remarkably true in most respects to the original design of the dwelling place.

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

The property at 7 Prince Street has historical and associative value as one of the few surviving earliest village homes in the community of Glen Williams and the oldest brick home, built with the help of the founding family. Its associative value is reflective of New Brunswick native James Hawkins search for employment in Upper Canada and reflects the principles of early Wesleyan Methodism. It is secondly associated with respected village blacksmith William Tost who successfully patented an iron beam harrow and built an imposing two-storey brick blacksmith ship and plow depot. Thirdly it has a long association with the family of World War II veteran Roy Puckering.

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

The property at 7 Prince Street has contextual value as a building that defined the road layout by its placement, thereby making it a prominent landmark on Prince Street as an early shop and as the house passed by generations of school children and those accompanying friends and relatives to their final resting place in the Glen Williams Cemetery. Its very placement reflects the milling heritage of the village, aligning with the millrace.

Hawkins House at 7 Prince Street, Glen Williams, Halton Hills, is an historic landmark in the hamlet of Glen Williams that physically defines the layout of this section of the village and defines the charm and attraction of this Credit Valley hamlet as a tourist attraction.

4.0. Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 7 Prince 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 7 Prince Street are identified as follows:

- The placement and orientation of the c.1851 Hawkins House on the south side of Prince Street, Glen Williams;
- The scale, form and massing of the building as a two storey, simple brick vernacular Georgian building designed for commercial and residential use with an attached frame single-storey summer kitchen;
- The medium-pitched cedar shake roof with gable returns at both ends and enhanced fascia and soffit;
- On the front (west) elevation;
 - The original panelled timber front door, original two-pane sash windows clad with original framing and interior casings
- Interior features including;
 - o The wide pine floorboards and stair treads; and,
 - The original simple fireplace with stepped brick mantle.

The second house (#5 Prince St.) has not been identified as a heritage attribute of the property.

5.0. Sources

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