

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2024)

McColl House

4 Queen Street, Georgetown, Town of Halton Hills

June 2024

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1.0 Property Description

4 Queen Street	
Municipality	Georgetown, Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	LT 2, PL 37, SE OF QUEEN ST, EXCEPT 348324; HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1880s
Original Use	Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	John McColl
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival
Additions/Alterations	Rear Addition
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town’s Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Caylee MacPherson with Laura Loney
Report Date	June 2024

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 4 Queen 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*.

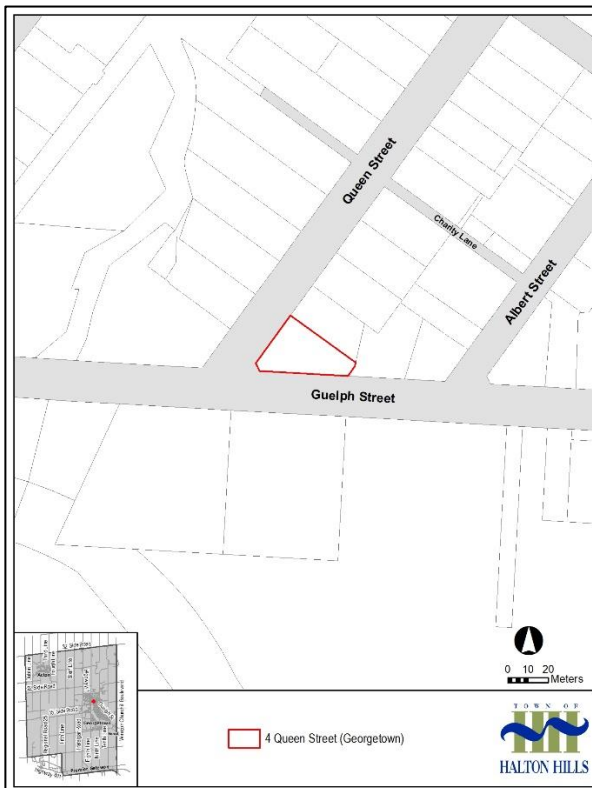


Figure 1: Location Map – 4 Queen Street



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 4 Queen Street

2.1 Historical Background

Indigenous History

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 permanently

In 1986, the Mississaugas initiated a claim against the Government of Canada over the 1805 Toronto Purchase. On June 8, 2010, the parties involved reached a final compensatory agreement. It resulted in a cash payment of \$145 million to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.¹

McColl and Holmes Family

The subject property was once owned by John Moore, who was granted Lot 18, Concession 9 of Esquesing township by the Crown. In 1823, Moore sold the land to George Kennedy, who eventually surveyed the land into separate plots. An auction was held in 1852 to sell the building lots. Following the subdivision of land, the property was sold to Joseph Freestone in 1857. The property was then sold to John (1822-1883) and Mary Gordon (nee. Forbes) (1854-1889) McColl for \$300 in 1883. Before moving

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.

to Queen Street, John farmed his family's property along Fifth Line near the Scotch Block community. During the same year, John passed away, and the property was sold to Allan Holmes for \$1,450, indicating a structure was likely constructed during this time.



Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1822 Patent Plan



Figure 4: Subject property identified on the 1858 Tremaine Map

Holmes was originally born in the community of Norval and eventually became a farmer in Ashgrove along Seventh Line, later moving to Queen Street in 1883. After moving to Georgetown, Holmes worked as a drover, which entailed moving or herding groups of animals. During his time in the community, he also became a member of the local Methodist Church on Guelph Street (now St. John's United Church).

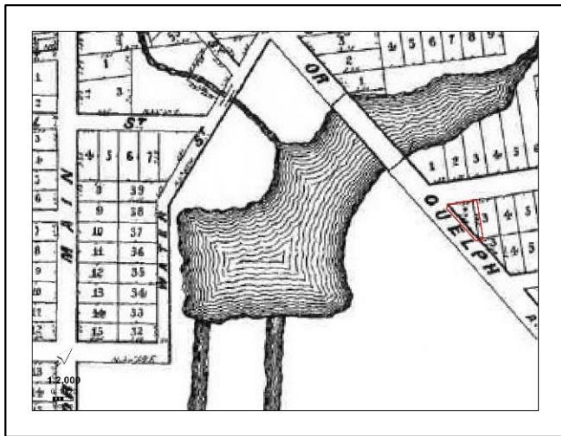


Figure 5: Subject property identified on the 1877 Halton County Atlas

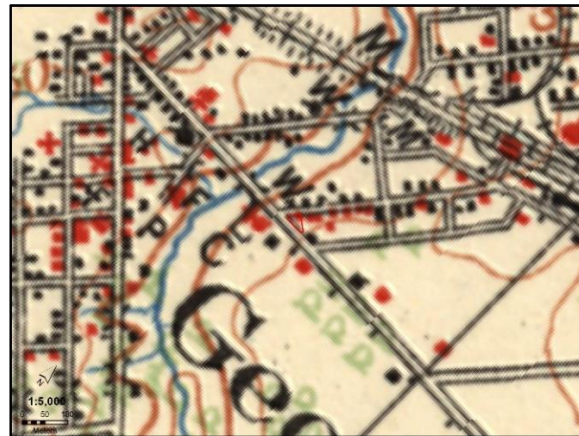


Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Survey

—The homestead of the late John McColl, in Esqueving, was sold to Mrs. John McColl for \$5,000, and the brick dwelling in Georgetown to Mr. Allan Holmes for \$1,450.

Figure 7: Acton Free Press (Acton, ON), November 15, 1883, p. 3

Clark Family

Following Holmes' death in 1903, his wife sold the property in 1906 to Hugh (1861-1940) and Anne Elizabeth (1864-1959) Clark. Hugh Clark, also a drover, was employed as a farmer prior to moving to Queen Street. In 1931, the Clark's son, James (1881-1931), was involved in a sudden fatal accident near Brampton. James served in WWI and was a member of the Georgetown Post of the Canadian Legion, Presbyterian Church, and the Young Mans Class.

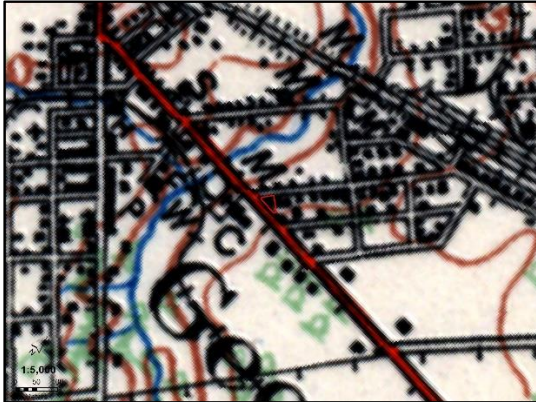


Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1933 National Topographic Survey



Figure 9: Mrs. Hugh Clark at the Official opening of the new hall at Knox Presbyterian Church c.1954 (EHS04699)

Ross and Scott Families

Shortly after James' passing, the Clark's transferred their property in 1932 to their daughter Elma (1893-1947) and her husband Douglas Ross (1896-1956). Prior to moving to Georgetown, the Ross' resided in Montreal, Quebec, where Douglas worked as an accountant.



Figure 10: Subject property identified on the 1934 Fire Insurance Plan



Figure 11: Looking northeast towards Queen Street c. 1938 (EHS26084)

The Ross family remained in Georgetown for almost a decade before selling the property to Harry (1891-1977) and Alicia (1904-1990) Scott in 1941. Harry was self-employed as a truck driver, while Alicia worked as a mail carrier on RR3, Georgetown. Alicia also often made contributions to the *Acton Free Press* and the *Georgetown Herald* regarding local news events.

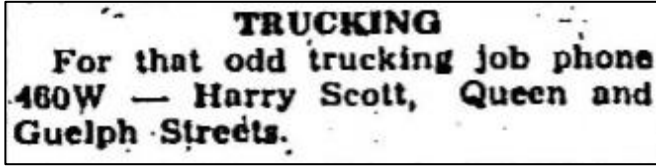


Figure 12: Georgetown Herald (Georgetown, ON), August 9, 1950, p. 4



Figure 13: Georgetown Herald (Georgetown, ON), April 26, 1962, p. 12

1960 to Present Ownership

The Scott family eventually sold the property to Henry (1930-2003) and Gay Dykstra (nee. De Boer) in 1962. Henry worked as an electrician for Leo's Electric Service and later in his career for the Piggott Construction Co. Gay Dykstra worked as a primary school teacher at Georgetown District Christian School (now Halton Hills Christian School).



Figure 14: Georgetown Herald (Georgetown, ON), May 19, 1954, p. 10

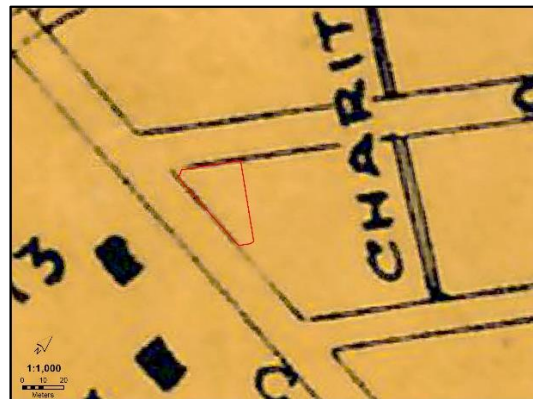


Figure 15: Subject property identified on the 1956 Town Survey, Georgetown

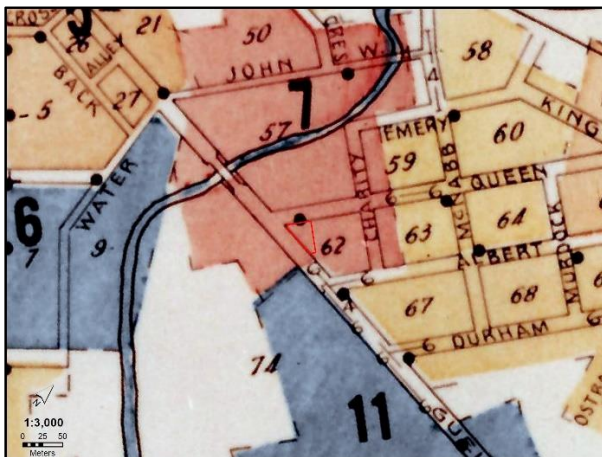


Figure 16: Subject property identified on 1960 Fire Insurance Plan



Figure 17: Subject property identified on 1974 aerial photography

By 1973, John and Catherine Halovanic purchased the property. Three years later, in 1976, the present owners purchased the property from the Halovanic.



Figure 18: 4 Queen Street c. 1990 (EHS10596)



Figure 19: Subject property identified on 2005 aerial photography

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is located along the southeast side of Queen Street in the community of Georgetown within the Town of Halton Hills. The property is a semi-rectangular shaped lot and features a two-storey dwelling with brick cladding, a gable roof, and a rear one-storey addition. The property can be accessed by vehicle via a gravel driveway, located in the rear fronting on to Guelph Street. Stairs along the front (northwest) elevation provide pedestrian access from Queen Street.



Figure 20: Subject property identified in 2023 aerial photography



Figure 21: Front (northwest) elevation of the existing dwelling (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 22: Looking towards Queen Street, viewing the partial front (northwest) and side (southwest) elevation (Google Streetview 2011)

The front (northwest) elevation of the existing two-storey structure features a one-storey projecting bay, with a bracketed roof and three segmentally arched double-hung window openings with metal capped sills, surrounded by painted voussoirs. Located above the bay are two segmentally arched window openings with metal capped sills, decorative wooden bargeboard, and a painted lozenge pattern, all contained beneath the gable peak. Extending beyond the roofline is a centrally placed brick chimney, setback from the gable peak.

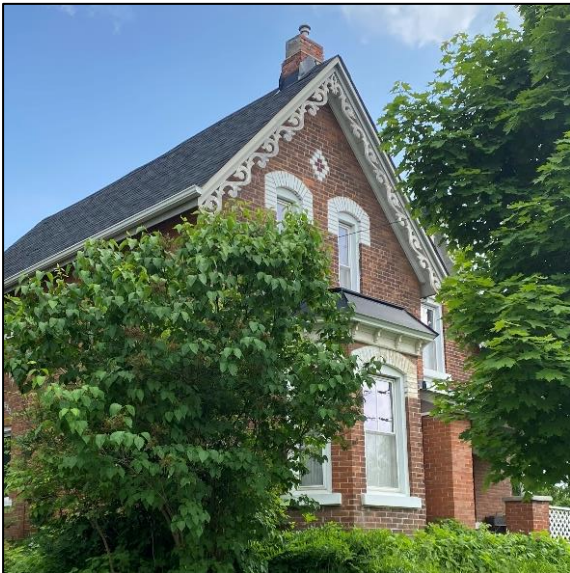


Figure 23: Partial front (northwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 24: Front (northwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

The existing front entryway is contained by a one-storey covered wooden porch with a gable roof, which features wooden columns with brick piers. The entryway is flanked by transoms and sidelights and features a segmentally arched opening, and painted brick voussoir. Similarly, beside the entrance is a segmentally arched window, with a painted brick voussoir. Above the front porch is a segmentally arched window with a radiating brick voussoir, aluminum capped sill, and decorative cross-shaped brick work, located beneath the gable peak. The gable peak also features decorative wooden bargeboard.



Figure 25: Decorative white lozenge pattern directly above the bay on the front (northwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 26: Decorative white brick in a cross pattern above the porch on the front (northwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

The side (southwest) elevation features a one-storey projecting bay with three segmentally arched window openings with metal-capped sills, and white-painted brick voussoirs, with a bracketed roof. On the second storey are two symmetrically placed segmentally arched window openings, with metal capped sills, and white-painted brick voussoirs surrounding. Decorative wooden bargeboard is featured beneath the gable peak. One window opening is presently enclosed by wooden shutters.



Figure 27: Side (southwest) elevation of the existing dwelling (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 28: Partial side (northeast) elevation of the existing dwelling (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

On the northeast (side) elevation is a segmentally arched window opening containing a tripartite window at the first storey, as well as a contemporary flat-headed window opening directly beneath the roofline.



Figure 29: Side (southeast) elevation of the existing dwelling (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

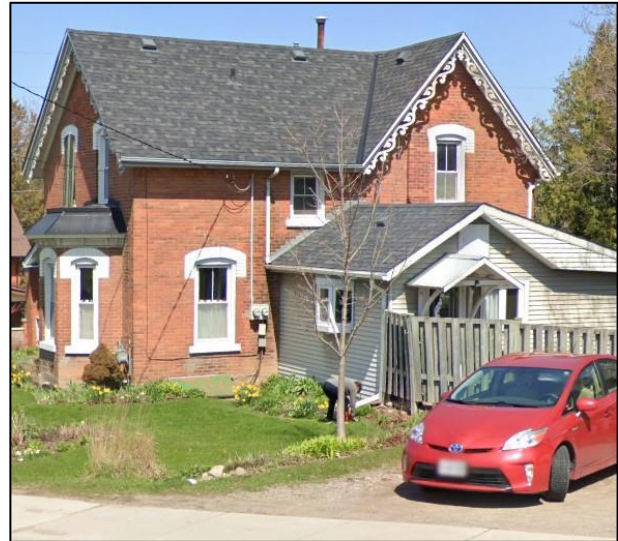


Figure 30: Rear (southeast) elevation of the existing dwelling (Google Streetview 2023)

The rear (southeast) elevation features a one-storey addition clad with horizontal vinyl siding, as well as a segmentally arched window opening with a painted brick voussoir and metal-capped sill. At the second storey, a segmentally arched window opening with a painted brick voussoir and aluminum-capped sill is contained beneath a gable peak, which also features decorative bargeboard. Above the rear addition is a flatheaded window opening. A one-storey garage is located towards the rear of the property along Guelph Street. The garage features brick cladding, a shed roof, and flat-headed openings.



Figure 31: White paint weathering off the existing brick voussoirs (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 32: Accessory building located at the rear of the property, along Guelph Street (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

While the existing brick voussoirs surrounding the window and door openings have been painted with white paint, weathering reveals that the surrounding brick voussoirs are buff brick, making this an example of dichromatic brickwork.

2.3 Architectural Style

The existing building at 4 Queen Street is representative of the Gothic Revival architectural style, which was prevalent in Ontario between 1830 and 1900. Based on Shannon Kyles of *Architecture Ontario*, buildings constructed in this architectural style feature decorative elements such as, but not limited to:

- A steep, gabled roof with decorative wooden bargeboard;
- One-and-a-half to two-storeys in massing, with an L-shaped footprint;
- Bay window along the front elevation;
- Central door flanked by transoms and sidelights; and,
- Dichromatic or polychromatic brick patterns.

Extant architectural features that represent the Gothic Revival style include the gable roof, dichromatic brickwork, entryway flanked by sidelights and transoms, front and side bay windows, decorative wooden bargeboard, segmentally arched window and door openings, and the covered wooden porch.

The existing dwelling has been somewhat modified with the construction of a rear addition and an accessory structure in the rear of the property, along Guelph Street. Despite these alterations, the dwelling remains a representative example of a residential building in the Gothic Revival architectural style.

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	N/A

The property at 4 Queen Street has design and physical value, as it is a representative example of a late-nineteenth-century residential building in the Gothic Revival style. The two-storey brick residential building exhibits features typical of this style, including the gable roof, dichromatic brickwork, entryway flanked by sidelights and transoms, front and side bay windows, decorative wooden bargeboard, segmentally arched window and door openings, and the covered wooden porch. The existing wooden bargeboard, use of dichromatic brick, and decorative brick patterns on the front elevation display a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit.

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 also has historical and associative value, due to its associations with the development of Queen Street during the expansion of the railroad. During this time, the surrounding area experienced significant residential development and growth.

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

The property at 4 Queen Street has contextual value as it serves to define and maintain the late-nineteenth century character of the area surrounding the railway. The property is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings in the residential neighbourhood, within proximity to the Georgetown GO Station. The existing building is relative in its scale, form, and massing to the surrounding residential buildings along Queen Street and has not been identified as a landmark in the community.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 4 Queen 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 4 Queen Street are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building along Queen Street in Georgetown;
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing c.1883, two-storey Gothic Revival residential building with gable roof and stone foundation;
- The materials, including dichromatic brick, wooden bargeboard and detailing throughout;
- The front elevation, including:
 - o The one-storey projecting bay with a bracketed roof, as well as three segmentally arched window openings and buff-brick voussoirs;
 - o Segmentally arched window openings with brick voussoirs;
 - o Decorative brick lozenge pattern and brick cross-shaped detailing;
 - o Decorative wooden bargeboard;
 - o Segmentally arched entryway, flanked by transoms and sidelights, beneath the existing covered wooden porch;
- The side (southwest) elevation, including:
 - o One-storey projecting bay with a bracketed roof, as well as three segmentally arched window openings and brick voussoirs;

- Decorative wooden bargeboard;
- Segmentally arched window openings with brick voussoirs;
- The side (northwest) elevation, including:
 - Segmentally arched window openings with brick voussoirs;
- The rear (southeast) elevation, including:
 - Decorative wooden bargeboard; and,
 - Segmentally arched window openings with brick voussoirs

The rear addition, rear accessory structure, and interiors have not been identified as heritage attributes as part of this report.

5.0 Sources

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