

# Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills n.d.)

## **Beaumont Duplex**

526 Main Street, Glen Williams, Town of Halton Hills

September 2024

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## 1.0 Property Description

526 Main Street, Glen Williams	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Regional Municipality of Halton
Legal Description	LT 47, RCP 1556; HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1904-1906
Original Use	Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	Built for the Beaumont Family
Architectural Style	Vernacular with Gothic Revival influences
Additions/Alterations	N/A
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Laura Loney with Mark Rowe
Report Date	September 2024

## 2.0 Background



Figure 1: Location Map - 526 Main Street



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph - 526 Main Street

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 526 Main Street in Glen Williams, 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*.

## 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<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

Early Settlement History



Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1819 Patent Plan

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 established 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.



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



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



Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1909 *National Topographic Map*

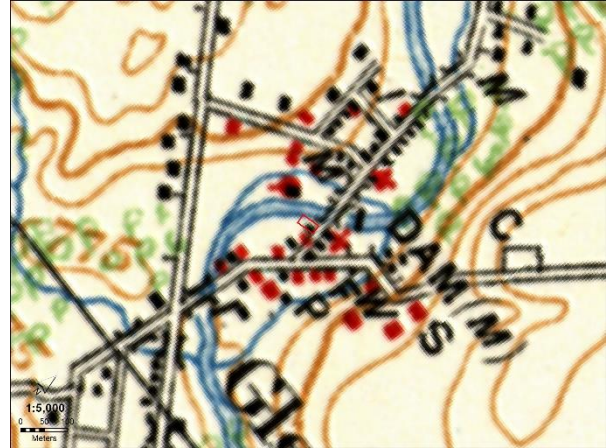


Figure 7: Subject property identified on the 1922 *National Topographic Map*

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 for Esquesing, they decided to move there as well. On October 12, 1824, he listed his mill property and Grimsby township property for sale in the Niagara Gleaner, and purchased Lot 21, Concession 10, Esquesing Township from the heirs of John Butler Muirhead on November 9, 1825. Benajah Williams is generally recognized as the founder of the Glen Williams community.

In 1849, the subject property was sold by Charles Williams to James Hillis, who then sold the property to Elizabeth McClure (née Smith) (1817-1091), wife of William McClure (1810-1887) in 1852. A blacksmith shop is shown on the subject property in 1854.



Figure 8: Subject property identified with blacksmith shop on the 1854 *Plan of Part of the Village of Georgetown*



McClure sold the property in 1872 to Richard Prout (1839-1914) and his wife Margaret (née Chalmers) (1848-1922), who sold to Joseph Williams in 1877. In 1887, Charles Williams and John Forster and his wife sold to James Cook, who sold the property a few years later to Elizabeth Campbell in 1891.

In 1904, the subject property was purchased by Joseph Beaumont, then owner of the Beaumont Knitting Mills.

#### *Beaumont Family*

Joseph Beaumont was the son of Samuel and Emma Beaumont. Samuel Beaumont (1840-1906) and Emma Beaumont (née Harpin) (1840-1926) emigrated with their family to Canada from Yorkshire, England in 1870, first living in Galt, Dundas, and Ancaster before moving to Norval. Beaumont had been raised in a woollen manufacturing district in Yorkshire, England, and was trained at an early age in the industry. Beaumont operated his mill in Norval until it was destroyed by a fire. In 1878, Beaumont left Norval for Glen Williams.

The Beaumont Knitting Mills were founded by Samuel Beaumont in 1878, however in 1882 the building was destroyed by fire. Following the fire, Samuel Beaumont built the existing building known as the Beaumont Knitting Mill. Beaumont ran the business until 1900 when son Joseph took over the business. Joseph also purchased the Dominion Glove Works in 1906. He made improvements to the mill, including a two-week shutdown in 1938 to install new machinery, and ran the mill until 1943.

Like their father, Samuel's sons Joseph Beaumont (1862-1943), Fred Beaumont (1868-1932), Lindley Beaumont (1872-1955), George Herbert Beaumont (1876-1946), and Matthew H. Beaumont (1884-1951) all worked at the mill and were significantly involved in the local community, and beyond. Fred Beaumont worked with the Richelieu Navigation Co., served overseas in WWI, and later worked with the Canadian Merchant Marine. Lindley Beaumont apprenticed as a machinist at R. W. King and Co., and later worked as a carder at the Beaumont Textile Mill. Lindley was a lifetime member of St. Alban's Anglican Church, served as church organist and Sunday School teacher, and was the leader of the Glen Williams Band for 20 years. George Herbert worked as a stationary engineer with the William Davies Company in Toronto. Matthew H. Beaumont was a local sportsman, and member of the Glen Band, and like his brothers William and Lindley was a life-long employee of the Beaumont Mill. Additionally, Samuel's wife Emma Beaumont was the president of the auxiliary of St. George's Church in Georgetown and later taught at St. Alban's Church in Glen Williams.

Joseph Beaumont and his brothers jointly owned the Beaumont Knitting Mills until Arthur, who had been running the business since 1943, purchased all of their shares. Arthur was a WWI veteran and was a member of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board during WWII, representing the hosiery section of the Canadian Woollen and Knit Goods. Arthur was a Warden of St. Alban's Church for many years, as well as a member and past president of the Georgetown Lions Club. Arthur ran the business until 1957, at which time the property was purchased by Sam Penrice, Gordon Graham (Arthur Beaumont's brother-in-law), and Frank Grew. The business operated under the Beaumont name until 1982 when it was sold to a Quebec firm and purchased by its current owner, Malcolm Black in 1988.

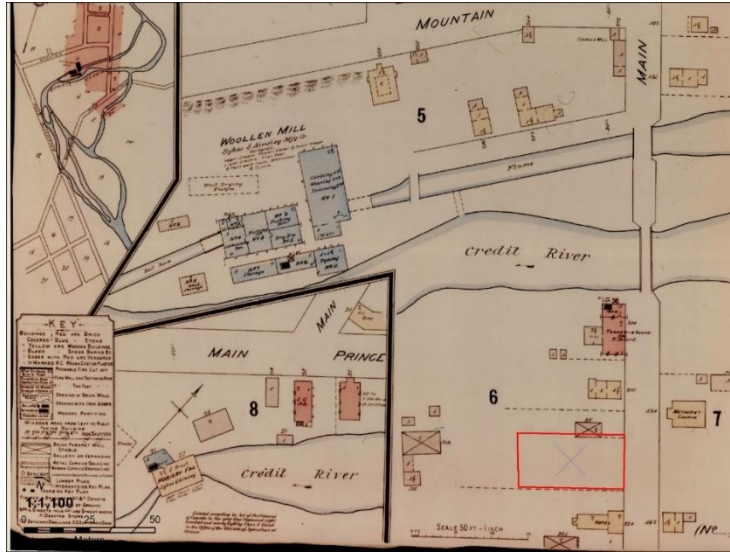


Figure 9: Subject property identified on the 1898 Fire Insurance Plan; the existing building has not yet been constructed.



Figure 10: Beaumont Woollen Mills and home of Samuel Beaumont, looking west, c.1908 (EHS 11536)



Figure 11: Sketch of the Beaumont Knitting Company Ltd. (EHS 02782)



Figure 12: Glen Williams Citizens Band, c.1920. The Beaumont brothers are circled and identified from left to right: Lindley, Matthew, William, and George (EHS 00035)

### *Joseph Beaumont & Family*

Samuel and Emma's son Joseph Beaumont (1862-1943) lived in Glen Williams for 65 years. He served on the executive board of the corporation of Trinity College in Toronto, and was significantly involved with the Church of England and the Synod of Niagara for almost 40 years. Joseph was married to Janet Cooper (1870-1933) and together they had six children between 1890 and 1903, including Winnifred (1890-1964), Harold Frederick (1892-1960), Cedric (1894-1898), Joseph Arthur ("Arthur") (1896-1974), Harpin (1900-1993), and Edith Eleanor (1903-1986).

In 1935, Joseph's son Arthur Beaumont married Doris Marie Graham ("Marie") (1908-1999), and they moved into the Manor House within Lot 50 (now 514 Main Street, Glen Williams) to live with Arthur's recently widowed father, Joseph Beaumont. Marie Beaumont kept the house for her father-in-law until his death in 1943. Arthur was a member of the Georgetown Lions Club and was involved in the Anglican Church. In 1962, Marie and Arthur began their own antiques business, which Marie was still running in 1984. Arthur and Marie had one child.



Figure 13: Joseph Beaumont House, c.1913 (EHS 00076)



Figure 14: Art Beaumont and family, c.1910. At the far right stands Joseph Beaumont with his wife Janet who stands behind Eleanor (EHS 20411)



Figure 15: Subject property identified in 1960 aerial photography



Figure 16: Interior of the barn housing Marie Beaumont Antiques, c.1962 (EHS 05696)



Figure 17: Subject property identified in 1977 aerial photography

*Delmar and Ethel Beaumont*

In 1951, the property was transferred to Delmar and Ethel Beaumont from J.A. Beaumont and Marie Beaumont. Delmar “Del” Beaumont (1923-2001) was the son of Matthew Beaumont and nephew of Joseph Beaumont. The 1931 Census identifies Matthew Beaumont as a Spinner, living in Glen Williams with his wife May and sons Clarence, Delmar, and Melvin. Del served in the Navy aboard the Corvette Trentonian for much of WWII and was part of the D-Day landings on June 6, 1944. Del had returned to Georgetown following WWII and led several different teams, was a member of the Georgetown minor hockey executive for 15 years, and spent time on the Little NHL began by Gordon Alcott in 1935. Del worked for Domtar, and later Twin-Cee Limited, and also received the 10<sup>th</sup> Hockey Heritage title in 1987 by the Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council.



Figure 18: Judges looking for the Most Valuable Player at the Bantam International Hockey Tournament are (LtoR) Blake Inglis, Gerry Inglis, Del Beaumont and Bungy Ward, c.1965 (EHS 24532)



Figure 19: Georgetown Minor Hockey Support president Del Beaumont presents the consolation championship trophy to Chinguacousy captain Mark McCauley, c.1971 (EHS 03821)

The *Georgetown Herald* reported in July 1951 that Mr. and Mrs. Eddie McDermott were new residents in half of the home owned by Del Beaumont (July 18, 1961, p.10), while in 1957, Del Beaumont was identified on Voter’s lists for Georgetown as a foreman living with Ethel at 53 Shelley Street.

The property was purchased in 1978 by Elaine M. Griffin (later Elaine M. Kenshead), who sold the property in 1989 to Brian Cornwall and Louise Nye. In 1989, Cornwall and Nye sold the property to Donald Ablett and Carol-Ann Michaelson. In 1996, the property was sold to Deborah MacDonald, who sold the following year to its current owner.



Figure 20: 526 Main Street, c.1990 (EHS 10806)



Figure 21: Subject property c.1990 (EHS 00933)



Figure 22: Subject property identified in 2002 aerial photography

## 2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is a rectangular parcel located at 526 Main Street in the community of Glen Williams in Halton Hills and contains a single family dwelling constructed c.1904. The property is legally known as LT 47, RCP 1556; HALTON HILLS.

The existing one-and-a-half storey building with steeply-pitched gable roof fronts onto Main Street in Glen Williams and is set back from the right of way. Initially, the dwelling was a multi-unit dwelling, however, has since been converted into a single-family dwelling. Staff photos have been supplemented with photos provided by the Owner and through historic street view images due to obstruction by foliage at the time of staff's site visits.



Figure 23: Subject property identified in 2023 aerial photography



Figure 24: Looking south along Main Street; subject property shown to the right (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 25: Looking northwest from Main Street towards the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

The front elevation of the existing building reflects its duplex configuration, with two gable peaks above each entrance. Elaborately carved wooden porches are extant over each flatheaded entrance which are slightly off centre from the gable peaks above. Flatheaded window openings with wood sills and surrounds are extant on either side of each entrance, and a lancet arched window is extant beneath each gable peak. The foundation is visible below the contemporary siding on the front elevation and appears to be a parged stone foundation.



Figure 26: Partial front (east) elevation of the existing duplex at the subject property (Property Owner 2024)



Figure 27: Partial front (east) elevation of the existing duplex at the subject property (Property Owner 2024)

Due to the building's setback from Main Street, adjacent buildings, and existing vegetation, the side (north and south) elevations are not highly visible from the right of way. The south and north elevations feature a single flatheaded opening at the first storey and symmetrically placed flatheaded window openings centered beneath the side gable at the second storey.



Figure 28: Front (east) elevation of the existing building at the subject property (File Photo n.d.)



Figure 29: Looking toward the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



## 2.3 Architectural Style & Comparative Analysis

The modest frame duplex at 526 Main Street in Glen Williams can best be described as a vernacular, late-Victorian building with Gothic Revival influences.

Shannon Kyles of *Ontario Architecture* identifies Victorian-style buildings as any building that does not fit into the categories of Italianate, Period or Colonial Revivals, Romanesque, Renaissance, Gothic and Classical Revivals, Second Empire, Beaux Arts, Arts and Crafts, and Queen Anne Revivals that has been constructed between 1840 and 1900, although the style was also used in the years following. Kyles also identifies Victorian residences as the most prominent application of the style in Ontario, with the use of many features to “dress up” a design with frills, swirls, patterns, and detailing, including one of the most commonly used detailing which was wooden trim and bargeboard.

The existing duplex at 526 Main Street in Glen Williams features many of the features of a typical Gothic Revival building, although some features have been removed or altered over time. Its rectangular form, steeply pitched roof with central gables over each half of the duplex, decorative wooden porches, lancet arched windows beneath the gable peaks all reference the architectural style. As such, this modest frame duplex can be best described as a late-Victorian vernacular residential duplex with Gothic Revival influences.

## 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.

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

The property at 526 Main Street has physical and design value as a representative example of a late-Victorian residential duplex with Gothic Revival influences. The modest, frame duplex exhibits a rectangular form, steeply pitched roof with central gables over each half of the duplex, decorative wooden porches, lancet arched windows beneath the gable peaks all reference the architectural style. The existing one-storey wooden porches at each entrance exhibit elaborate wooden carvings which reflect the Victorian tendency to dress up their buildings in different ways, however the simplicity of the duplex with minimal other detailing reflects it was likely intended to be used as a rental property, however, has since been converted into a single-family dwelling.

<b>Historical or Associative Value</b>	
Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community	<b>X</b>
Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	<b>N/A</b>

<b>Historical or Associative Value</b>	
Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community	<b>X</b>

The property at 526 Main Street has historical and associative value due to its associations with the Beaumont family and the late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century development of the community alongside the prosperity of local industry. The existing building was constructed for Joseph Beaumont, a member of the prominent Beaumont family of Glen Williams established with the arrival of Joseph's father, Samuel Beaumont. The Beaumont Knitting Mills were established by Samuel Beaumont in 1878 and was owned by the Beaumont family until the mid-twentieth century, employing family members and many others in the community. The property was owned between the 1950s and late 1970s by Delmar and Ethel Beaumont, prominent locals in the community and relatives of Joseph Beaumont.

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

The property at 526 Main Street has contextual value as it serves to support and maintain the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century character of the commercial and residential area on Main Street in the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills. Built on the former site of a blacksmith shop, the existing building has remained in its location since construction for over 120 years. This modest, frame building is similar in scale to surrounding buildings and has not been identified as a landmark.

#### **4.0 Summary**

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 526 Main 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 526 Main Street are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing residential duplex along Main Street in the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-and-a-half storey frame building with stone foundation and gable roof;
- The materials, including stone foundation and wooden porch detailing;
- The front (east) elevation, including:
  - o At the first storey, single flatheaded entrances beneath elaborately carved wooden porches, and single flatheaded window openings on either side;
  - o At the second storey, lancet arched window openings beneath the central gables along the roofline; and,
- The side (north and south) elevations, including the single flat-headed window openings at the first storeys and paired, symmetrically placed, flatheaded window openings at the second storey beneath the gable peak.

526 Main Street | LT 47, RCP 1556; HALTON HILLS

The rear elevation and interiors have not been identified as heritage attributes as part of this report.

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