

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2024)

Bowman-Lane House
6 Queen Street, Georgetown, Town of Halton Hills

January 2025

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1.0 Property Description

6 Queen Street, Georgetown	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	PT LT 3, PL 37, SE OF QUEEN ST, AS IN 713997; HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1900s
Original Use	Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	William Bowman
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	January 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 6 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*.

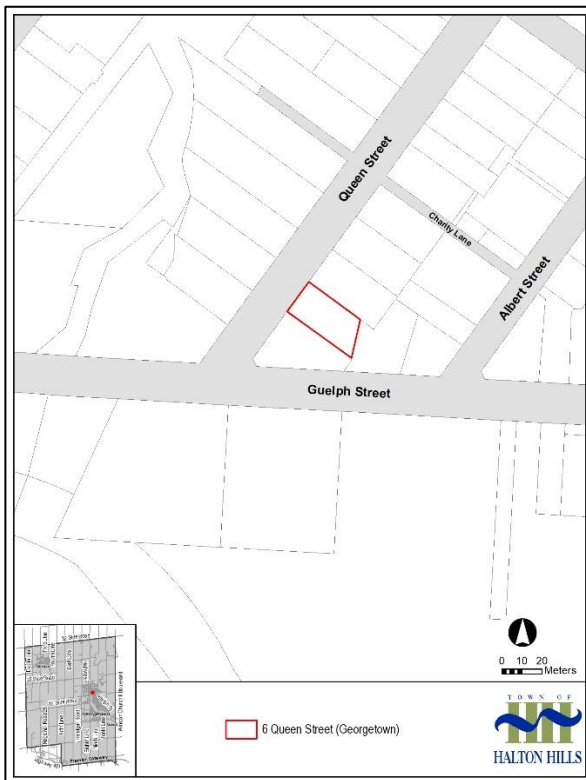


Figure 1: Location Map – 6 Queen Street



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 6 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

Bowman Family

The subject property was once owned by John Moore, who was granted Lot 18, Concession 9 of Esquesing township by the Crown in 1819. In 1823, Moore sold the land to George Kennedy, who eventually surveyed the land into separate plots, eventually selling the lots at an auction in 1852.

The subject property was purchased by Mary Gordon McColl (1854-1889) and John McColl (1822-1883) in 1883. The McColls then sold the property to Allan (1841-1903) and Jane (nee Crawford) (1839-

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.

1912) Holmes during the same year in 1883, who then severed the property into two lots; 4 and 6 Queen Street. In 1903, Allan passed away, and Jane eventually sold the property to William Bowman (1856-1943) for \$740 in 1906. Three years later, in 1909, the property was sold to William (1854-1916) and Annie Lane (nee. Willcott) (1880-1941) for \$2,000, indicating that the existing residential building was constructed on the lands between 1906 and 1909.



Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1819 Patent Plan



Figure 4: Subject property identified on the 1855 Tremaine Map

Bowman was originally born in Lancashire, England, and later immigrated to Esquesing Township where, according to the 1901 Census, he worked as a farmer. Before moving to Queen Street, Bowman lived in Esquesing with his wife, Annie (1867-1941), and three children, William (1889-1970), Richard (1893-1898), and Charles (1892-1969).

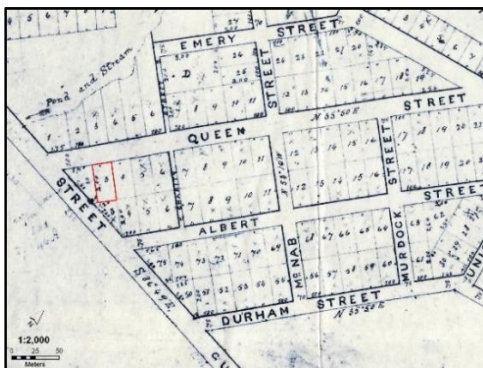


Figure 5: Subject property identified on the 1859 Plan of Town Lots, Georgetown

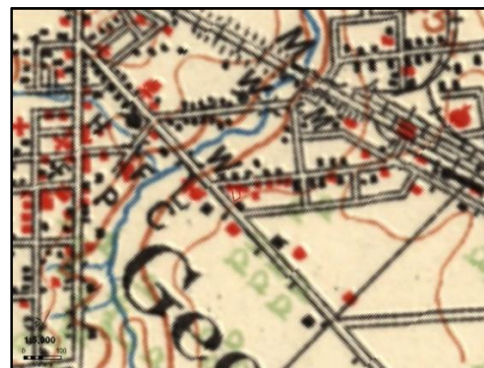


Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1859 Plan of Town Lots, Georgetown



Figure 7: Panorama looking northeast towards Queen Street c. 1910 (EHS 21543)

While on the farm, Richard Bowman was struck by an apple and died a few days later. The Bowman family moved to Queen Street shortly after this event. After selling the property in 1909 to the Lane family, the Bowman family later moved to Guelph, where William began retirement.

Lane Family

According to the 1901 Census, William Lane was a farmer, and lived in Esquesing Township with his wife, Annie, and son, Charles (1884-1904). Following Charles' death, the Lanes moved to Queen Street shortly after they purchased the subject property in 1909. After William's passing in 1916, Annie continued to live in the house until her death in 1941.



Figure 8: Looking northeast towards Queen Street c. 1938, 6 and 8 Queen Street are located to the right out of sight (EHS 26084)



Figure 9: Auction sale announcement (*Georgetown Herald*, December 3, 1941, p. 4)

Throughout the years, Annie tried to sell the house, but was unsuccessful. After Annie's death, the household items and real estate were advertised for auction in the *Georgetown Herald* (Figure 9).

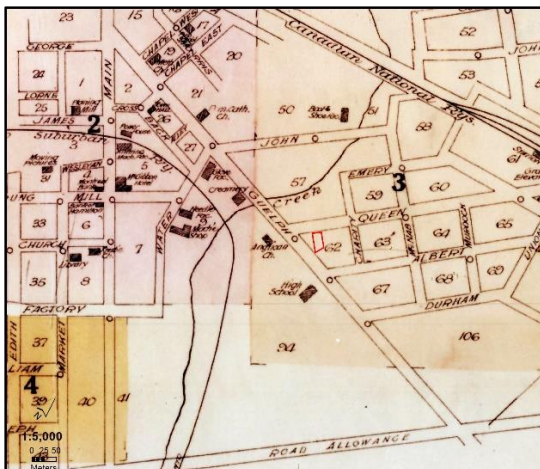


Figure 10: Subject property identified on the 1934 Fire Insurance Plan

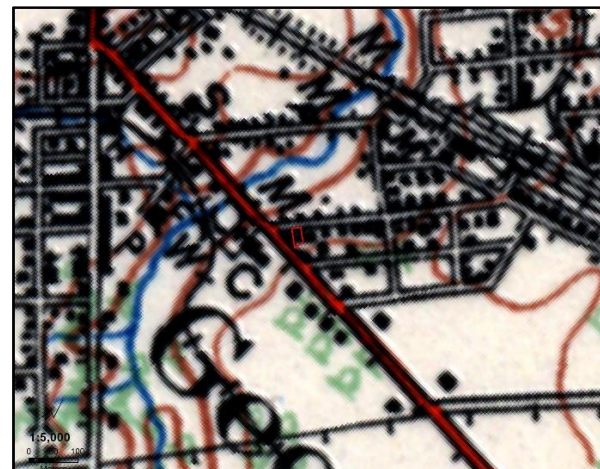


Figure 11: Subject property identified on the 1933 National Topographic Survey

Following the auction, the house was purchased by Charlotte “Lyla” Francis (1901-1972) in 1942. Francis operated her own business, “The Mayfair Studio,” located along Mill Street in the Gregory Theatre Block, until 1945. Francis eventually married Harry Savings (1900-1978) in 1945, who worked as an electrician in the electric railway industry, as indicated by the 1931 Census. Harry Savings was an active member of the community, being a member of the Georgetown Fire Department, Georgetown Legion, as well as volunteering for the Georgetown Cemetery Board as a treasurer.



Figure 12: Advertisement for The Mayfair Studio (*Georgetown Herald*, March 30, 1938, p. 4)

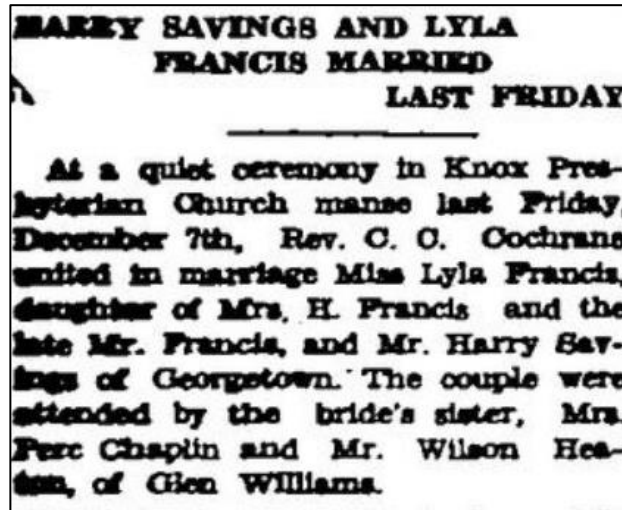


Figure 13: Wedding announcement for Harry and Charlotte Francis (*Georgetown Herald*, December 12, 1945, p. 4)

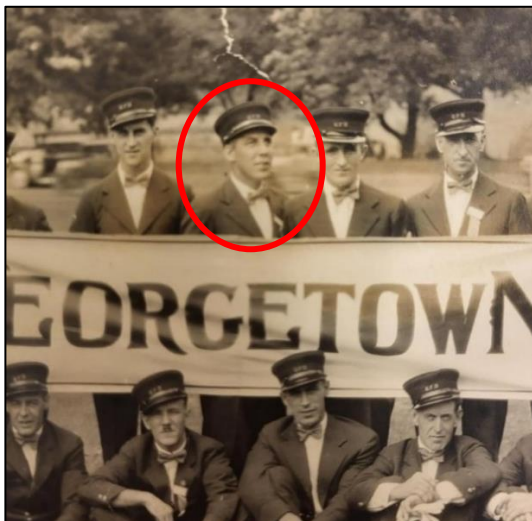


Figure 14: Harry Savings with the Members of the Georgetown Fire Department c. 1931, (EHSP373LF)

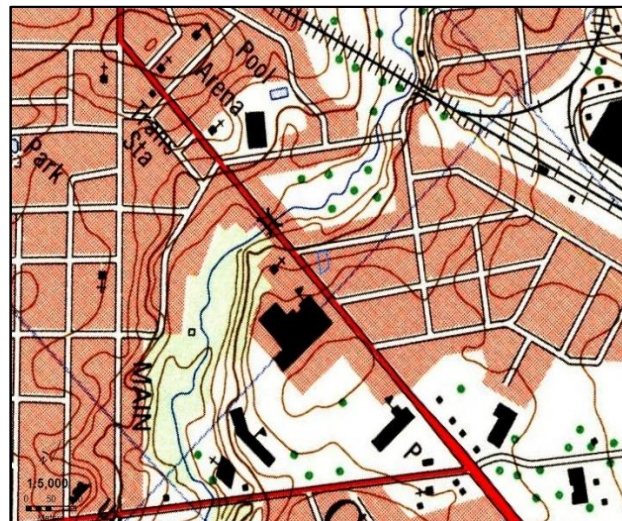


Figure 15: Subject property identified in the 1974 National Topographic Survey Map

In 1972, the property was purchased by John and Deborah Cook. Following the Cook family, Madeline Allerton purchased the property in 1987, owning it for two years until she sold the property to Gregory and Lori Bruce in 1989. The property was then purchased by Tony and Monique Bartolomeo in 2004 and was sold to its present owners in 2022.



Figure 16. Subject property identified in 1990 aerial photography



Figure 17: Subject property identified in 2005 aerial photography

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is located along Queen Street in the community of Georgetown within the Town of Halton Hills. The property consists of a rectangular-shaped lot and features a two-storey dwelling with rusticated stone cladding, gable roof, staggered stone corner quoins, and a rear addition. The property can be accessed by an asphalt driveway fronting onto Queen Street.



Figure 18: Subject property identified in 2023 aerial photography



Figure 19: Front (northwest) elevation of the existing dwelling (Town of Halton Hills, 2024)



Figure 20: North corner of the existing dwelling (Town of Halton Hills, 2024)

The front (northwest) elevation features a projecting two-storey bay window, with three flat headed window openings on each storey. At the first storey, the bay is clad with stone lintels and sills, while the second storey features aluminum capping.



Figure 21: Looking northeast along Queen Street towards the subject property (Town of Halton Hills, 2024)



Figure 22: Looking southwest towards Queen Street, towards Guelph Street (Google Streetview, 2020).

The remaining façade is setback and features a covered sunroom porch with a hipped roof, and a flat headed window opening beneath the gable peak with a stone lintel, sill and staggered quoins surrounding.



Figure 23: Stone quoining surrounding the existing window openings (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 24: Staggered stone quoining along the front (northwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

Along the side (southwest) elevation is a cinderblock chimney extending beyond the roofline, and two flat headed window openings with stone lintel, sills and staggered quoins surrounding. Towards the other side (northeast) elevation are a one-storey contemporary bay window, and a flat headed window opening. On the second storey are two flat headed window openings, each located underneath two gable peaks.



Figure 25: Side (northwest) elevation of the existing dwelling (Google Streetview 2020)



Figure 26: Side (southwest) elevation of the existing dwelling (Google Streetview 2020)



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



Figure 28: Side (southwest) elevation of the existing dwelling (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

Towards the rear (southeast) elevation is a contemporary one-storey addition which covers the entire façade and features horizontal vinyl siding.



Figure 29: Rear (southeast) elevation featuring the contemporary addition (HouseSigma, 2022)

2.3 Architectural Style

The residential building is representative of the Gothic Revival architectural style, which was prevalent in Ontario between 1830 and 1900. Typically, 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;
- Stone or brick construction;
- Bay window along the front elevation;
- Central door flanked by transoms and sidelights; and,
- Dichromatic or polychromatic brick patterns.

The Gothic Revival architecture details that are extant in the existing dwelling include the steeply pitched roof, front and cross-gables, stone cladding, corner quoins pattern, and bay window. The existing dwelling has been modified over time, with the construction of a sunroom along the front façade, as well as an addition on the rear elevation. However, the scale, form, and massing of the original building, and the stone exterior, including window and door openings, have been maintained throughout. Opportunities to re-introduce decorative bargeboard remain for the existing building.

The dwelling has maintained much of its original form and openings, however, has been modified over time with the construction of a rear addition. Nonetheless, the dwelling has retained enough integrity to remain 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	N/A
Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	N/A

The property at 6 Queen Street has design and physical value, as it is a representative example of a Gothic Revival residential building in the community of Georgetown, within the Town of Halton Hills. The extant dwelling features architectural detailing that is typical to a Gothic Revival style building, including a two-storey massing, stone exterior, steeply pitched roof with front and cross gables, a front bay, quoin patterns, stone sills and lintels surrounding the window openings, and corner stone quoin patterns. The original window and door openings have been maintained throughout the dwelling.

Historical or Associative Value	
Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community.	X

Historical or Associative Value	
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 6 Queen Street has historical and associative value, as the property has associations with the Savings family. Harry Savings was an active member of the community, who worked as an electrician for the electric railway, and was a member of the Georgetown Fire Department. Later into his life, Harry was a member of the Georgetown Legion and volunteered on the Georgetown Cemetery Board as a treasurer. Harry's wife, Lyla, ran a local business, "The Mayfair Studio," located along Mill Street in the Gregory Theatre Block, until 1945.

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 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 6 Queen Street has contextual value, as it serves to define and maintain the late-nineteenth century character and development 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 property 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 6 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 6 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.1880s, two-storey Gothic Revival residential building with cross-gable roof and stone foundation;
- The materials, including stone cladding, sills, and lintels, throughout;
- Front (northwest) elevation:
 - o Two-storey bay (currently overclad on the second storey) window with three flat-headed window openings and stone banding on the first storey exclusively;
 - o The offset gable peak, along with the flat-headed window opening with stone sill, lintel, and quoining;
- Side (northeast) elevation:
 - o Two gable roof peaks;

- Two flat-headed window openings at the second storey beneath each gable peak, with stone lintels, sills and staggered quoins surrounding;
- Flat-headed window at the first storey with a stone lintel, sill, and quoins; and,
- Side (southwest) elevation:
 - Flat-headed windows with stone lintels, sills, and quoining at the first and second storeys.

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

5.0 Sources

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