

# Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2025)

## **Hornby School**

13029 Steeles Avenue, Town of Halton Hills

April 2025

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## 1.0 Property Description

13029 Steeles Avenue, Hornby	
<b>Municipality</b>	Town of Halton Hills
<b>County or Region</b>	Regional Municipality of Halton
<b>Legal Description</b>	PT LT 1, CON 8 ESQ, AS IN 234043; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING
<b>Construction Date</b>	c.1871
<b>Original Use</b>	Institutional
<b>Current Use</b>	Commercial
<b>Architect/Building/Designer</b>	Trustees of the Common School Union Section No. AE; Thomas Marsted and John Hunter
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Ontario Rural One-room Schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival Style
<b>Additions/Alterations</b>	Modern addition to rear elevation; modern vestibule on front elevation
<b>Heritage Status</b>	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
<b>Recorder(s)</b>	Austin Foster, Caylee MacPherson, and Laura Loney
<b>Report Date</b>	April 2025

## 2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 13029 Steeles Avenue, 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*.

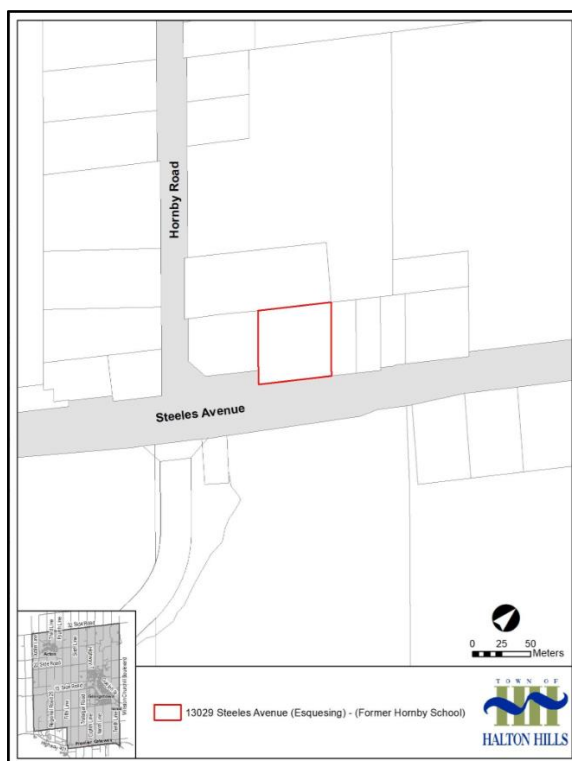


Figure 1: Location Map – 13029 Steeles Ave.



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 13029 Steeles Ave.

## 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>

### *The Village of Hornby*

The Village of Hornby spans two townships: Trafalgar New Survey, which welcomed settlers in 1818, and Esquesing, which opened the following year. Situated at the intersection of Highway 7 (Trafalgar Road) and Steeles Avenue (Base Line), Hornby served as the gateway to Esquesing Township during the early-nineteenth-century settlement period. Initially, the area attracted settlers from the northwest of England, and the village was named after Hornby Castle in Hornby, Lancashire County. Between the

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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.

1830s and 1850s, Hornby experienced a wave of Irish and Scottish settlers. Several hotels and taverns were established to accommodate the steady flow of farmers transporting their goods to Oakville, where they were sold and shipped by boat to Toronto. The village also became a stagecoach stop for the Milton to Georgetown route.

Although the Guelph to York Road was established around 1834, it remained little more than a cleared path, making travel difficult. Most traffic from Esquesing, Erin, and Garafraxa Townships traveled south to Oakville for lake access, following the Seventh Line (now Hornby Road). As the road curved eastward at Base Line (Steeles Avenue), traffic continued south along Trafalgar Road.

In the 1850s, the road from Oakville to Stewartstown was improved with planking through the efforts of a joint-stock company that established toll booths at key points, including Hornby. Despite these improvements, the village's status as a transportation hub began to decline with the arrival of the railway.

When the United Counties of Halton-Wentworth announced plans to split into two separate counties, Hornby residents campaigned for the new county seat to be established in their village. However, in 1853, Milton was chosen instead. The Grand Trunk Railway's Toronto to Guelph line, opened in 1856, further reduced Hornby's importance as a trade hub by diverting grain shipments eastward through Acton and Georgetown.

Milton eventually established its own rail connection in 1877 with the opening of the Hamilton and North-Western Railway, which ran through Milton and Georgetown. By this time, Hornby had largely reverted to being an agricultural center.

#### *King's College of Upper Canada & Early European Settlement*

King's College, now part of the University of Toronto, was established through a Royal Charter issued by King George IV on March 15, 1827. Operated by the Church of England, Archdeacon of York John Strachan was appointed as the College's first president. In 1828, King's College was granted 226,000 acres of Crown land in Upper Canada to generate revenue through sales and leases to fund the university's operations. Under Strachan's leadership from 1827 to 1848, several parcels were divided and sold to settlers across Upper Canada, including the subject property.

The patent for Lot 1, Concession 8 was officially granted to the College on July 3, 1828. In 1832, the land was divided and sold. The east half of Lot 1 was purchased by Irish settler William McKindsey in September of that year.

William McKindsey (1804–1844) and his wife, Jane McKindsey (née Crawford) (1806–1893), established a farm on the east half of Lot 1, Concession 8, where they raised three children: George Crawford (1829–1901), William George (1839–1884), and John (1840–1876). Following William McKindsey's sudden death in 1844, his will named Jane's cousin, James Crawford (1824–1899), as executor and trustee of his estate. On November 1, 1853, James Crawford purchased 60 acres of the west half of Lot 1, Concession 8 from the University of Toronto (the successor to King's College) on behalf of William's sons. The following year, ownership of the east half of Lot 1, Concession 8 and the 60-acre portion of the west half was divided among the McKindsey brothers.



In March 1867, William George McKindsey and his wife, Jane Miller McKindsey (b. 1837), purchased his siblings' shares of the western 60 acres of Lot 1, Concession 8 and on December 24, 1869, they sold one acre of the property to The Trustees of the Common School Union Section No. AE.

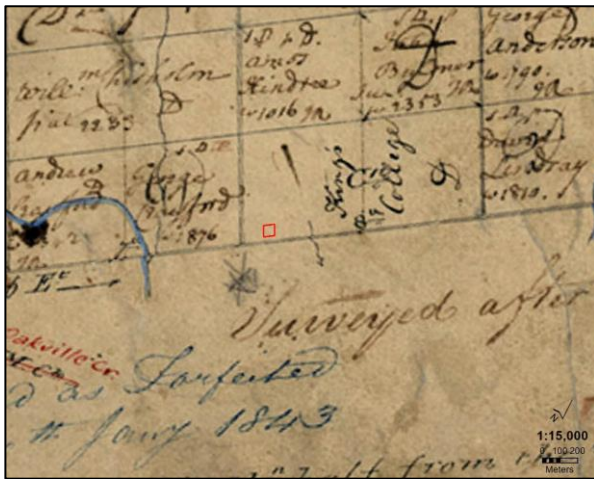


Figure 3: Subject property identified on 1822 Patent Plan



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

#### *Trustees of School Section No. AE*

The first school building in Hornby was a modest log cabin constructed in 1826. The log-cabin school served the rural population around Hornby for several decades and is noted in the 1842 Census.

In the early nineteenth century, the rural school system in Upper Canada was informal and poorly organized. Most schools were small, one-room log structures that were built and maintained by local communities. Education was neither compulsory nor standardized, and the quality of instruction varied greatly depending on the abilities of individual teachers, who were often under-trained and inadequately paid. Funding primarily came from local subscriptions, donations, and modest government grants. The curriculum focused on basic literacy, arithmetic, and religious instruction.

The *Common School Act* of 1846 was instrumental in organizing school systems across Ontario and enhancing the quality of education available to early settlers. The Act established school sections, generally ranging from 5 to 8 square kilometers, and regulated aspects such as the election of trustees, school rates, school construction, teacher examination and licensing, curriculum, and government grants.

Shortly before the implementation of the *Common School Act*, the Gore District Council divided Esquesing Township into 15 school districts in 1842. However, the Hornby school was overlooked and combined into School Section No. 3. Two competing petitions were submitted to the Council in February 1843 addressing this arrangement. The first petition, signed by William McKindsey, called for the formation of a separate school district in Hornby; the second petition, signed by James Skirrow, opposed the establishment of a new district entirely. The Council ultimately recognized Hornby as its own school section, designated as Section "A" in October 1846 following the implementation of the *Common School Act*.



Situated on the town line between Peel and Trafalgar townships, Hornby School operated as a “union” school, serving students from both regions. The school sections were officially known as Union School Section No. 2 Chinguacousy and School Section No. A Esquesing. In 1848, a joint Esquesing-Trafalgar school section was established, with a lettering code system adopted to avoid renumbering all the sections. Hornby was assigned the code “AE,” while Whaley’s Corners, another three-township school, was designated “BC.”

The school’s locally-elected trustees were responsible for various administrative duties, including collecting fees, hiring teachers, and maintaining the school building. Meetings were held semi-regularly at local homes, the post office, the schoolhouse, and various shops. School fees were paid by parents at a fixed rate per enrolled pupil, and during this period, the student population consisted almost entirely of children from surrounding farms.

In September 1846, the Trustees of the Union School purchased 1 ¼ acres of land on Lot 1, Concession 7, from George Crawford and began planning the construction of a new log schoolhouse. In November 1847, the School District of Trafalgar and Esquesing was levied an assessment of £45 to fund the project. Although the new school district boundaries took effect in January 1848, the first teacher, James Bernard Kingston, was not hired until February. Due to delays in the schoolhouse’s completion, he did not begin teaching until March 7, 1848.

As settlement around Hornby increased throughout the early- to mid-nineteenth century, the student population at the school grew steadily. By the 1860s, the log schoolhouse was inadequate to accommodate the rising number of students. During the late nineteenth century, under the tenure of head teacher Charles McLennan, the student population surpassed 100.

Recognizing the need for a larger schoolhouse, a special meeting of the Trustees of the Common School Union Section No. AE was held in autumn of 1869. The board voted to construct a new schoolhouse and subsequently purchased one acre of Lot 1, Concession 8, from the McKindsey family on December 24, 1869.

The trustees met again on January 24, 1870 and agreed to hire a professional architect to design a 50x30-foot schoolhouse. By February 14, 1870, a design had been agreed on, and advertisements were placed in the *Georgetown Herald* and *Milton Champion*, inviting sealed tenders for the project.

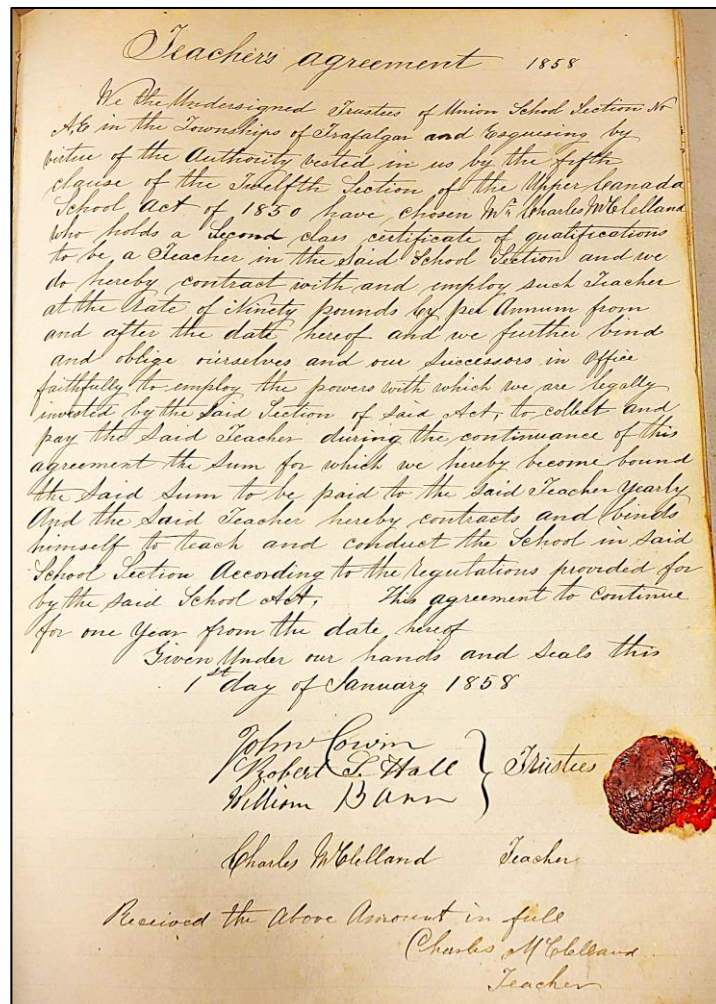


Figure 5: A Teachers Employment Agreement between the trustees of Union School No. AE and Charles McLennan signed in January 1858 (MG4 A18)

Seven tenders were submitted, ranging from \$575 to \$2100. On February 25, 1870, the tenders of Thomas Marsted and John Hunter were accepted to complete the schoolhouse for a total of \$1800. Construction began in the spring of 1870, financed by an \$1800 loan from the municipal council of the Township of Esquesing, to be repaid over five years. Payment was collected through an increase in school rates charged to attending families.

Upon completion of the schoolhouse, several improvements were made to the property. A white-washed picket fence was erected around three sides of the schoolyard, and a cedar-plank walkway, four feet wide, was built leading to the gate. In autumn of 1871, William Armstrong was paid \$10.52 for constructing the central walkway, steps, and drainage culverts. That same year, Charles McLennan was appointed the first head teacher at the new school, and his annual salary was raised to \$193.44.

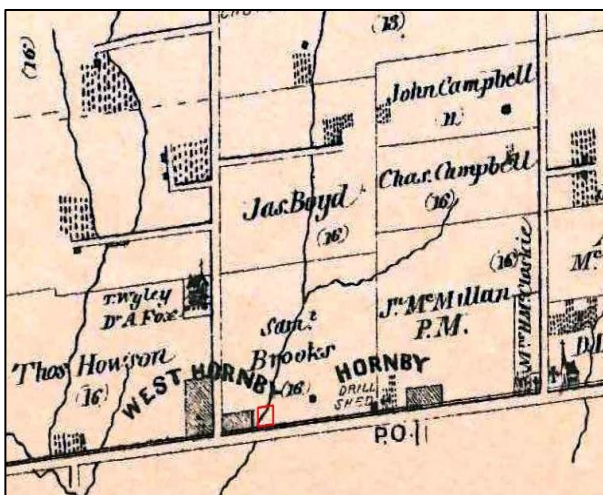


Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton*



Figure 7: Hornby Schoolhouse, c.1890s (MHS 5522)

The Hornby Schoolhouse was heated by a wood box stove. Students were paid 5 to 10 cents each morning to light the stove and warm the building. Pupils were also expected to bring their own school materials, such as slates, pencils, and other supplies. Fresh water was accessible from a well dug within the schoolyard.

Around the time the Hornby Schoolhouse was constructed, many schoolhouses experienced growth in student populations due to the introduction of the *Ontario School Act* in 1871. Championed by Egerton Ryerson, the Act aimed to make education more accessible by promoting the idea of tax-supported schools. It abolished fees for public schools and made attendance compulsory for children aged 7 to 12, requiring them to attend school for a minimum of four months each year.

The Act's reach expanded over time. In 1891, penalties were introduced for parents or guardians who failed to send children between the ages of 8 and 14 to school, and in 1919, the compulsory age was extended to 16. In addition to these attendance requirements, the Act assigned county superintendents to oversee school systems, established public ownership of schools, and introduced a structured curriculum.

By 1883, the Hornby School employed two teachers and enrolled 84 students, prompting the division of the school into two sections to better accommodate the growing student population. During this period, one of the school's most famous alumni, Dr. Frank Oliver Gilbert (1874–1969), attended Hornby School. Born into extreme poverty, Gilbert supported his family by working on several nearby farms while pursuing his education. He often ran errands for Dr. Anthony Fox's medical practice, developing a deep admiration for the physician. Inspired by Dr. Fox's dedication, particularly after his death in 1888, Gilbert resolved to pursue a career in medicine.

After graduating from the University of Toronto in the early 1890s, Dr. Gilbert briefly established a medical practice in Hornby before dedicating himself to serving impoverished rural communities across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. In the 1940s, he settled in British Columbia and established a traveling medical practice on a houseboat. From this floating practice, Dr. Gilbert provided essential medical care to isolated rural and Indigenous communities and transported sick and injured individuals to urban hospitals via river and waterways. Dr. Gilbert returned to Hornby for the Hornby School reunion



in 1953, where he shared stories of his childhood in the school and community, and spoke to students on the merits of education, compassion, and hard work.



Figure 8: A c.1910 photograph of the Hornby School House (EHS 12519)



Figure 9: Students of Miss Foster's class gather for a photograph outside Hornby School c.1913 (MHS 5530)



Figure 10: Students of Miss Marie Lindsay's class gather for a photograph outside Hornby School c.1921 (MHS 4862)



Figure 11: Damage to the Hornby Schoolhouse following a Tornado in 1923 (MHS 5518)

In 1923, the Hornby Schoolhouse was substantially damaged by a tornado, which tore off its roof, destroyed its bell tower, and damaged the school grounds. The community quickly rallied together to repair the school, and by 1924, the building had been restored. However, the bell tower was never fully rebuilt.

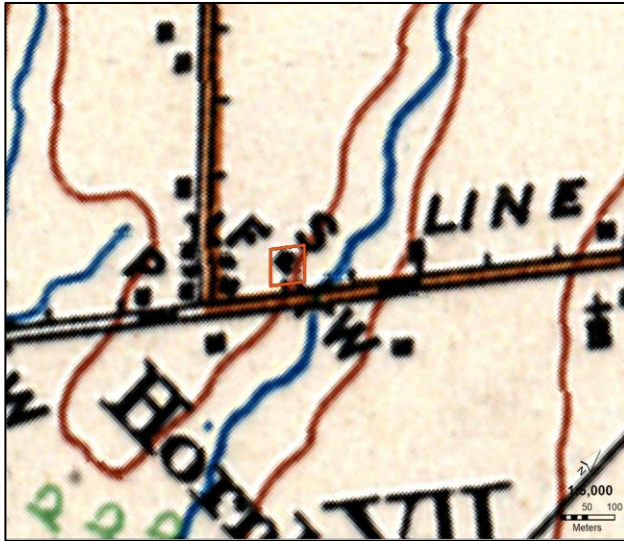


Figure 12: Subject property identified on 1931 National Topographical Map

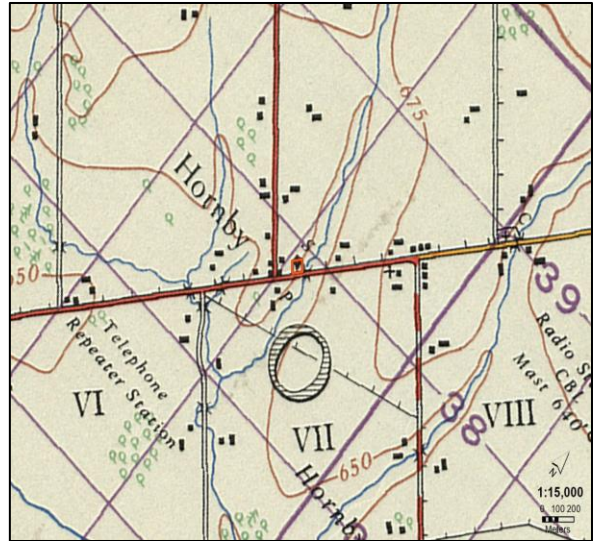


Figure 13: Subject property identified on 1942 National Topographical Map

The Hornby Schoolhouse continued to serve the community throughout the early twentieth century. However, the region's growing population and increasing educational standards following the Second World War created a need for a more modern school building.



Figure 14: Six students pose for a photograph outside Hornby Schoolhouse c. 1920s (EHS 189)



Figure 15: Students of Miss Nellie Jardine's class gather for a photograph outside Hornby School c.1938 (TTHS TTOIIMS0102)

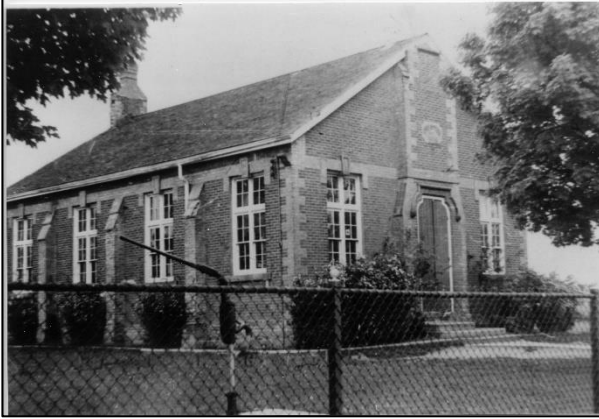


Figure 16: A c.1944 photograph of Hornby Schoolhouse (EHS 11524)

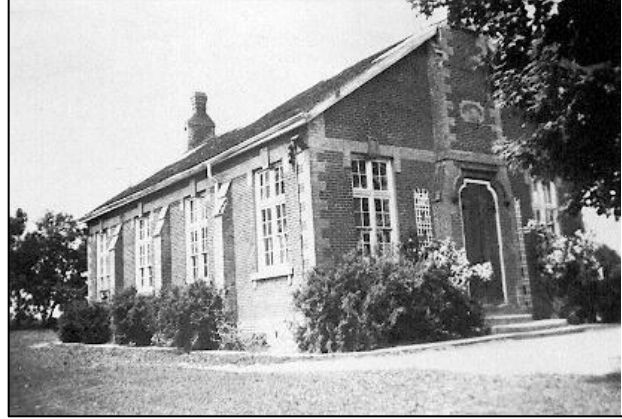


Figure 17: A c.1951 photograph of Hornby Schoolhouse (EHS 11555)

Plans for constructing a new school began in the late 1950s, and by November 1962, tenders were accepted for the construction of the new Pineview Public School on Fifth Side Road. Construction began in the spring of 1963, and the school was formally dedicated in February 1964. The final school year at the Hornby Schoolhouse began in September 1962. Once Pineview School was completed, students from Hornby were bussed to the new facility. The Hornby Schoolhouse officially closed in 1963 and remained vacant for several years before being sold to the “North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded” in September of 1967.



Figure 18: The last group of staff and students to use the Hornby School house gather outside for a photograph in 1962 (EHS 11566)



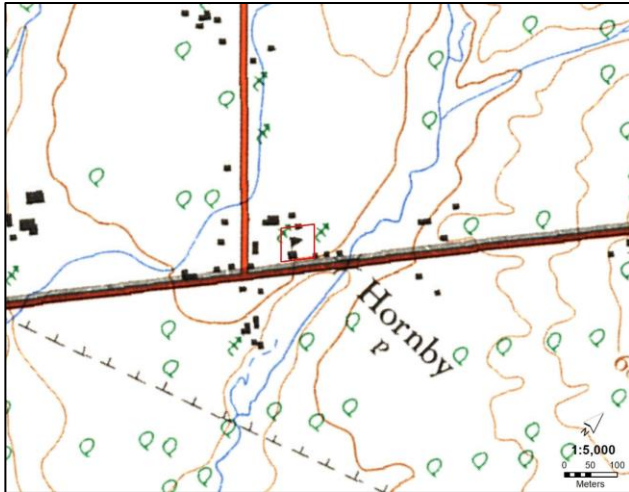


Figure 19: Subject property identified on 1963 National Topographical Map

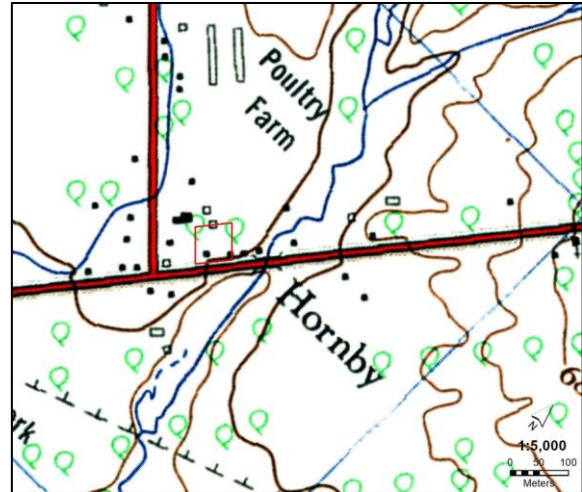


Figure 20: Subject property identified on 1973 National Topographical Map

### *Community Living North Halton*

On January 1, 1969, the “North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded” (NHAMR) relocated their Halton Opportunities Enterprise (HOPE) Workshop to the vacant Hornby Schoolhouse, establishing the Adult Rehabilitation Centre (ARC) to provide work opportunities and support for individuals with intellectual disabilities. During this time, trainees at the ARC were involved in various work programs, including re-webbing chairs, producing packing materials, learning woodworking, and participating in community service initiatives such as litter collection for the Region and collaborating with the Department of Land and Forests. They were also responsible for maintaining the grounds around the old schoolhouse.

In the 1970s, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services assumed formal responsibility for individuals with intellectual disabilities, implementing legislation to fund community-based programs and services through local agencies, including the NHAMR. This period also marked a broader provincial and national shift toward “de-institutionalization,” encouraging individuals to reintegrate into their home communities and supporting local services that facilitated this transition.

During the same decade, the North Halton, Oakville, and Burlington Associations operated the Halton Developmental Centre, which served children aged 6 to 18 years with severe developmental disabilities. Progress continued in 1976 with the establishment of Residential Services, highlighted by the construction of the Countryside Residence in Hornby, which provided housing for 16 adults who were intellectually disabled participating in the ARC’s programs. The following year, an Auxiliary Living Program was launched in Milton to promote independent living.

In 1987, the organization’s membership voted to change its name to the North Halton Association for the Developmentally Handicapped, and in May 1997, the organization underwent another rebranding, adopting the name Community Living North Halton. During this period, a large modern addition was constructed at the rear of the ARC building to accommodate the organization's needs, and the red-brick exterior was whitewashed.



Figure 21: Industries in former Hornby School house, c.1987 (EHS 11559)



Figure 22: Former SS# AE, Hornby School, shown here as a sheltered workshop for ARC Industries, c.1995 (EHS 12517)





Figure 23: Subject Property identified in 1999 aerial photography



Figure 24: Subject Property identified in 2007 aerial photography



Figure 25: Subject Property identified in 2015 aerial photography



Figure 26: Subject Property identified in 2023 aerial photography

Shortly after the rebrand, the organization relocated its facilities and services to Milton and sold the subject property to Angus Geosolutions Incorporated on January 29, 1998. The former schoolhouse's brick exterior was restored under their ownership. The property has since been sold to its current owner.

## 2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is located along the northwest side of Steeles Avenue in the community of Hornby within the Town of Halton Hills. The property is a square-shaped lot and features a one-and-a-half storey brick building with dichromatic brickwork, a gable roof, capped brick buttresses, flatheaded window openings with stone sills, brick soldier course lintels, and stone keystones. The property can be accessed from an asphalt driveway via Steeles Avenue.



Figure 27: Subject property identified on 2023 aerial photography



Figure 28: Front (southeast) elevation of the existing building at 13029 Steeles Avenue (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 29: Datestone inscribed "Erected A.D. 1870" on schoolhouse frontispiece (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The southeast (front) elevation of the Hornby Schoolhouse is constructed of red brick laid in a running bond pattern, featuring dichromatic brick detailing with buff-brick quoining framing the building's corners and the slightly projecting former bell tower. A running band of buff brick also extends around the perimeter of the first storey. The central entrance, now obscured by a modern vestibule, is centrally positioned within a slightly projecting wall that once formed the base of the bell tower. This frontispiece



rises to the peak of the gable end and is inset with a date stone inscribed “Erected A.D. 1870.” The entrance is flanked by large, flatheaded rectangular window openings, each featuring a limestone keystone, soldier course lintel, and a projecting limestone sill.



Figure 30: 13029 Steeles Avenue side (southwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 31: 13029 Steeles Avenue side (northeast) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The southwest (side) elevation of the Hornby Schoolhouse is constructed of red brick laid in a running bond, framed by buff-brick quoining. A buff-brick band runs continuously around the perimeter of the first storey, just beneath the gable eaves. This elevation showcases a four-bay design divided by three buff-brick buttresses. Each bay contains a large, flatheaded rectangular window opening, accented by a limestone keystone, soldier course lintel, and a projecting limestone sill.

The southwest (side) elevation of the Hornby Schoolhouse is constructed of red brick laid in a running bond and framed by buff-brick quoining. A continuous buff-brick band runs around the perimeter of the first storey, just beneath the gable eaves. This elevation has been partially obscured or altered by a large, single-storey modern addition, which affects two of the original window openings. However, two buff-brick buttresses and one rectangular window opening featuring a limestone sill, a soldier course buff-brick lintel, and a limestone keystone remain extant. A second window opening has been converted into an entrance; however, the limestone keystone and soldier course lintel have been preserved.



Figure 32: Looking southwest along Steeles Avenue from the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 33: Looking northeast along Steeles Avenue from the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

## 2.3 Architectural Style & Comparative Analysis

The former Hornby Schoolhouse at 13029 Steeles Avenue is a representative example of a late-nineteenth century rural one-room Ontario schoolhouse with Gothic Revival architectural influences. The one-room schoolhouse was intended to accommodate a small rural village or hamlet. Many of these designs were based on publications such as the *“The School House; Its Architecture, External and Internal Arrangements”* published by the Department of Public Instruction for Upper Canada in 1857, or *“Cheap Country School Houses”* published by the *Canadian Farmer* in 1866.

These resources provided architectural plans for grammar, intermediate, and primary schools, along with recommendations for school site layouts and construction methods. Rural schoolhouse designs often featured a gable roof, large flatheaded or semi-circular window openings, a central semi-circular door opening, date stone, as well as a tower, spire, or cupola and bell directly above the gable peak. Materials recommended included brick, frame, and stone.



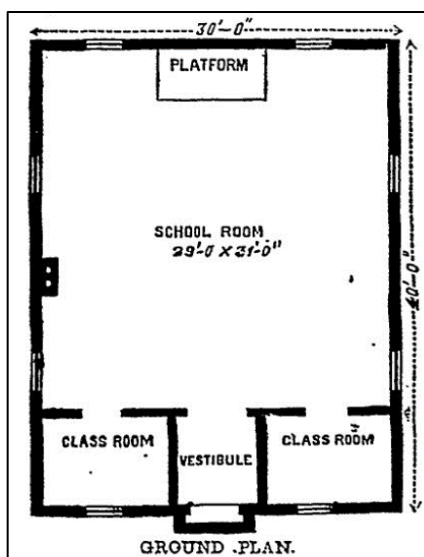


Figure 34: Prospective one-room schoolhouse floorplan (*The Canada Farmer*, Vol. 3, no. 12, p.189)

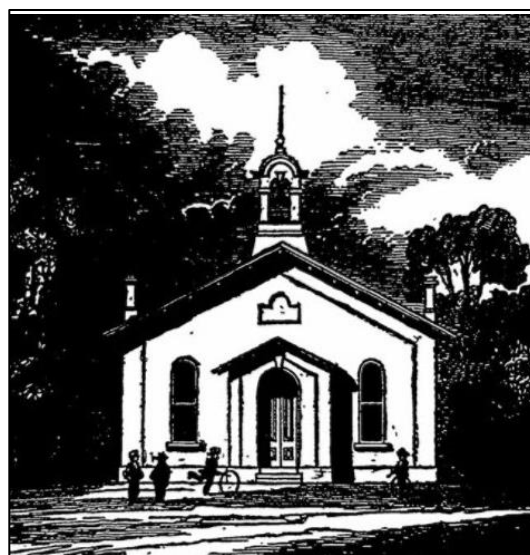


Figure 35: Prospective one-room schoolhouse design (*The School House, Its Architecture, External and Internal Arrangements*, p. 44)

One-room schoolhouses were often first made of logs, but gradually transitioned to materials such as brick, frame and occasionally stone. These schoolhouses were built as needed as the number of students increased in each school district. Typically, the interior consisted of an open room with all desks facing a platform and blackboard, with book closets on either side of the teacher's desk. To provide warmth, a stove was often placed inside, either located at the front or middle of the room.

Based on analysis from Shannon Kyles of *Ontario Architecture*, Ontario one-room rural schoolhouses often feature architectural characteristics, such as, but not limited to:

- One-and-a-half storey massing featuring brick, stone, or frame construction;
- One-room floorplan layout;
- Gable roof with a tower, spire, or cupola and bell;
- Central entrance and internal or external vestibule;
- Two windows along the front elevations, with multiple windows along the side elevations; and,
- Date stone indicating the date of construction.

Additionally, based on John Blumenson's publication, *Ontario Architecture: A Guide to Styles and Building terms, 1784 to the Present*, buildings in the Gothic Revival architectural style often feature elements, including:

- Steeply pitched gable roof;
- One-and-a-half to two-storeys in massing;
- Brick or stone buttresses;
- Central door flanked by transoms and sidelights; and,
- Dichromatic or polychromatic brick patterns.

The existing building features many characteristics typical of the one-room rural schoolhouse, such as having a one-and-a-half storey massing, gable roof, central arched entrance, two windows along the

front elevation with multiple windows along the side elevations, and a date stone inscribed “Erected A.D. 1871”. Additionally, the building design reflects influences from the Gothic Revival architectural style, including the central entrance, use of limestone sills, soldier-course brick lintels, limestone keystones, brick buttresses, dichromatic brick patterns, buff-brick quoining, one-and-a-half storey massing, and a gabled roof.



Figure 36: Lorne Schoolhouse, S.S. No. 12 (Town of Halton Hills)



Figure 37: Blue Mountain School at 13802 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Similar examples are extant throughout Halton Hills, such as the former Lorne Schoolhouse, which is a representative example of an Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival architectural style, featuring dichromatic brickwork, lancet window openings, buff brick drip moulds, a gable roof, and central vestibule entrance. Blue Mountain Schoolhouse also displays similar details such as dichromatic brickwork, buff-brick quoining, flatheaded window openings with soldier-course lintels and limestone sills, and a gable roof. Overtime, Hornby School has been modified, including the destruction of the front bell tower, the construction of the front vestibule, and the alteration to the existing window openings. However, historic documentary evidence provides opportunities to restore the original elements of the schoolhouse.

Despite these alterations, Hornby School remains a rare example of a one-room schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival architectural style and is one of the few remaining examples in the Town of Halton Hills.

### 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	<b>X</b>
Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	<b>X</b>

Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	N/A
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The property at 13029 Steeles Avenue has physical and design value as a rare and representative example of an Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival architectural style, in the community of Hornby, within the Town of Halton Hills. The one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse features design elements such as dichromatic brickwork, a gable roof, central entrance, two windows along the front elevation with multiple windows along the side elevations, brick buttresses, dichromatic brickwork, buff-brick quoins, and a date stone inscribed Erected "A.D. 1870". The building's design features influence from the Gothic Revival architectural style, as well as *The School House; Its Architecture, External and Internal Arrangements* and the *Canadian Farmer*, which published architectural plans and construction methods for grammar, intermediate, and primary schools in Canada.

The use of dichromatic brickwork, such as the buff brick quoins, lintels, and brick patterns on the front elevation, displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit.

<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	X
Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	X
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 13029 Steeles Avenue has historical and associative value due to its associations with the early educational system in the community of Hornby. The student population began to grow with the establishment of *Common School Act* and the *Ontario School Act*, which introduced rates levied to support and construct new schools and later abolished the former fees for public schools and made attendance compulsory for children ages 7 to 12. These legislative changes provided government funds to construct and operate more schools for the growing school populations.

The property has associations with Dr. Frank Oliver Gilbert, who attended Hornby School, and later graduated from the University of Toronto in the early 1890s. Dr. Gilbert briefly established a medical practice in Hornby before dedicating himself to serving impoverished rural communities across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. In the 1940s, Dr. Gilbert established a travelling medical practice on a houseboat, providing essential medical care to isolated and rural Indigenous communities.

The property also has associations with the Halton Opportunities Enterprise (HOPE) Workshop, who established the Adult Rehabilitation Centre to provide work opportunities and support for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This organization helped individuals become involved in various work programs and encouraged them to participate in community service initiatives.

<b>Contextual Value</b>	
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 13029 Steeles Avenue has contextual value as it is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the rural character of the community of Hornby. The former Hornby Schoolhouse is

physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings as an early schoolhouse that serviced School Section No. AE in Hornby until 1962. The property 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 13029 Steeles Avenue 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 13029 Steeles Avenue are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the schoolhouse along Steeles Avenue in the community of Hornby within the Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the c.1870 one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse, running bond brick pattern, buff brick foundation and quoins, gable roof, brick chimney, and dichromatic brick detailing;
- Materials including red and buff brick, and stone;
- Front (southeast) elevation:
  - o Projecting former bell tower with datestone inscribed “Erected A.D. 1870”;
  - o Flatheaded window openings with limestone keystones, soldier course lintels, and projecting limestone sills;
  - o Buff brick banding;
- Side (southwest) elevation:
  - o Flatheaded window openings with limestone keystones, soldier course lintels, and projecting limestone sills;
  - o Four-bay design with three buff brick buttresses;
  - o Buff brick banding;
- Side (northeast) elevation:
  - o Flatheaded window opening with limestone keystone, soldier course lintel, and projecting limestone sill;
  - o Doorway with limestone keystone and soldier course lintel;
  - o Two buff brick buttresses; and,
  - o Buff brick banding.

The rear elevation, interiors, and rear accessory structures were not investigated as part of this report.

Please note, this Research and Evaluation Report reflects the most up to date findings relating to its cultural heritage value as identified by staff. This report may be updated in future to reflect future findings as required.

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