

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Menzies-Early Farm
9476 Tenth Line

April 2025

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1.0 Property Description

9476 Tenth Line, Esquesing	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	PART LOT 8, CONCESSION 10 (ESQUESING), BEING PARTS 1, 2, AND 3 PLAN 20R22256 SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PART 3 ON 20R22256 AS IN 830692 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1881
Original Use	Residential/Farm
Current Use	Residential/Farm
Architect/Building/Designer	Thomas Early
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival
Additions/Alterations	N/A
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town’s Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Laura Loney with Austin Foster
Report Date	April 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 9476 Tenth Line in Halton Hills, Ontario. The report includes an evaluation of the property’s cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

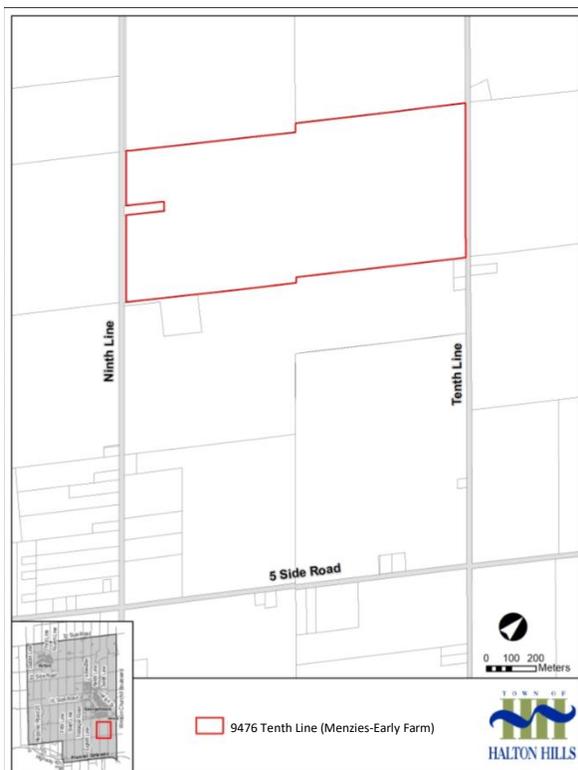


Figure 1: Location Map – 9476 Tenth Line



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 9476 Tenth Line

2.1 Historical Background

Indigenous History Background

The enduring history of First Nation Peoples in Halton Hills can be traced back through time immemorial before contact with Europeans in the 1600s. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Credit River was central to Indigenous ways of life, supporting settlements, fisheries, horticulture, transportation, and trade. Iroquoian-speaking peoples, ancestors of 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.¹

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.

Early European Settlement

The subject property at Lot 8, Concession 10, is located approximately two kilometers south of Norval. Norval was settled in the early 1820s when James McNab, a United Empire Loyalist and veteran of the War of 1812, established his family in the area. McNab, who served as a lieutenant in the York Volunteers, was granted 5,000 acres of land along the Credit River by the colonial government. He capitalized on the region's resources by establishing a series of mills, including the area's first gristmill.

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.

These mills served as a cornerstone of local development, attracting tradesmen and farmers eager to settle in a region rich with opportunities. The settlement was originally referred to as McNabville (also McNab's Mill) before adopting the name Norval. Throughout the early nineteenth century, the area became a significant hub for Scottish and Irish settlers. Among these early Scottish was John Menzies.

The Menzies Family

John Menzies (1779–1859) was born in Perthshire, Scotland, to Presbyterian farmers Donald and Isa McKercher Menzies. In July 1806, John married Isabel Robertson (1787–1881), and the couple initially lived with John's parents in Dull, Perthshire, before settling in Aberfeldy. In 1817, John and Isabel immigrated to Montreal from Perthshire with their three eldest children: James (1809–1894), Isabella (1811–1906), and Duncan (1816–1872).

After spending a year in La Prairie, Quebec, where he petitioned for land in Upper Canada, James Menzies was granted Lot 8, Concession 10, in 1818. The Menzies family moved to York before settling in Esquesing in 1820. With the help of his eldest sons, John Menzies constructed a log cabin and cleared the land for agricultural use. By May 1838, he completed his settlement duties and was officially granted the Crown Patent for the east half of Lot 8, Concession 10. While living in Esquesing, John and his wife had three more children: John (1821–1897), Alexander (1823–1910), and Catharine Wright (1827–1921).

Their eldest son, James Menzies, purchased an adjacent 100-acre parcel at Lot 7, Concession 11, from Alexander Stewart in 1833. Two years later, in 1835, he married Anne Ferguson (1810–1887), and together they had ten children. James made gradual improvements to his own property while living with his parents. James first constructed a single storey frame dwelling. Some of his siblings, including his younger brother Duncan, lived with him for a time, assisting both James and their father on their neighboring farms. As his farm grew, James expanded the residence with a two-storey brick addition. He later built a distinctive octagonal-shaped brick extension, which remains extant at 9343 Tenth Line.

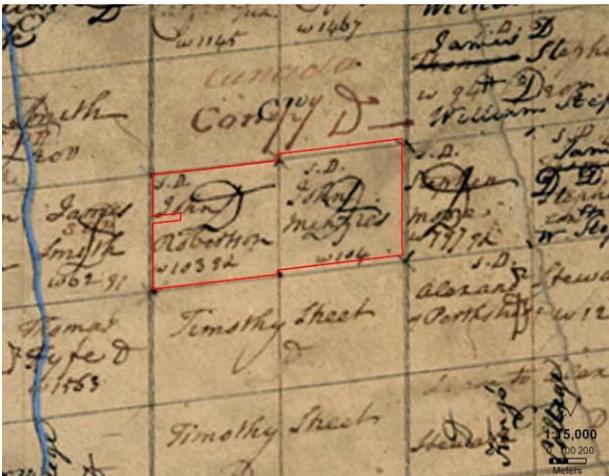


Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1819 Patent Plan



Figure 4: The James Menzies House on Lot 7, Concession 11 (Heritage Resources Centre 2008)

Before immigrating to Canada, John Menzies had devoted himself to rigorous biblical study and had converted to Scottish Baptism. Upon his arrival in Esquesing Township, he became instrumental in establishing a local Scottish Baptist congregation, which initially met in members' homes. John and Isabella were the first to place their names at the top of the 1820 membership roll of the new

congregation, with John assuming the role of pastor. John Menzies, along with William Trout and James Mitchell, were the first church elders.

Around 1836, a friend from Ohio sent Menzies copies of *The Millennial Harbinger*, a publication by Alexander Campbell, a key figure in the Baptist Restoration Movement in the United States. Influenced by these writings, Menzies gradually embraced the teachings of the Disciples of Christ, an emerging Baptist reform movement.

In 1838, William Trout arrived as pastor of the Norval Disciples of Christ congregation. A few years later, with the assistance of his brother-in-law John Robertson, Menzies constructed a simple log meeting house on the northeast corner of his farm on the subject property. Present-day members of the Disciples of Christ credit Menzies with helping to spread Restorationist principles from this small log church in Esquesing to congregations across Ontario. In June 1843, the first meeting of the Ontario Disciples was held in the log church on the subject property.

Menzies continued to farm the subject property while actively promoting the Disciples of Christ movement for the remainder of his life. Prior to his death in 1859, he deeded an acre of land on the north side of his property where the meeting house stood to his son Alexander for continued church use. Following a prolonged illness, John Menzies died on December 2, 1859, and ownership of the subject property was equally divided among his widow and children through his will.

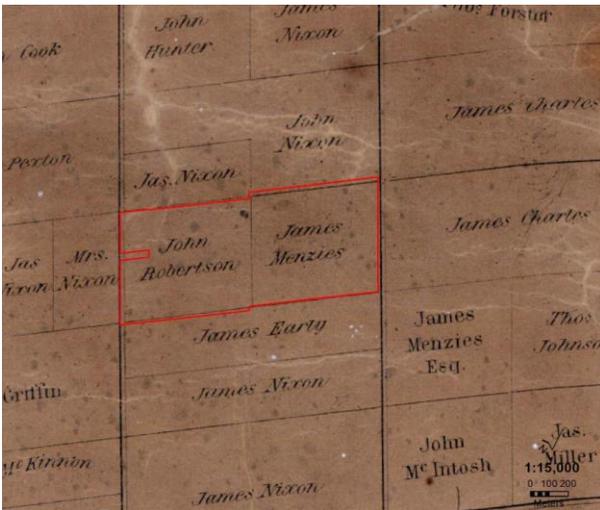


Figure 5: Subject property identified on Tremaine's Map of the County of Halton, Canada West



Figure 6: A 1995 photograph of the second Esquesing Disciples of Christ Church originally on Lot 8, Concession 10 (EHS 16863)

John's eldest son, James Menzies (1809–1894), took over farming operations on the property after his father's death and became the Minister of the Disciples of Christ Church. Between 1859 and 1868, he gradually bought his siblings shares of the subject property until he was the sole owner of the east half of Lot 8, Concession 10. He made significant upgrades to the original meeting house and expanded it during this period. In 1870, he sold the subject property to his son-in-law, James Early, who lived on and farmed the adjoining parcel to the south (Lot 7, Concession 10) and relocated his ministry to Toronto, where he remained until his death in 1894.

James Menzies' departure marked a significant decline in the Norval congregation. In 1880, when Alexander Menzies and his family moved to Caledon, the acre of land upon which the meeting house stood was also sold to the Early family. The original log church was subsequently relocated to the property of Robert Noble at Lot 10, Concession 11.

The Early Family

James Early (1826-1909) was born in 1826 in Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland, to Irish farmers Thomas Early and Rebecca Nixon Early. Following his father's death in 1841, the family planned to emigrate to Canada to join James' sister, Eleanor, and her husband, John Holmes, who had settled in Peel County. Their decision was encouraged by several letters from James' uncles, William Early and Alexander Nixon, who had already joined the couple in Canada a few years earlier. In July 1842, James, along with his mother Rebecca, brothers William and Thomas, and sisters Rachel, Rebecca, and Fannie, arrived in Quebec. Following their relocation to Upper Canada, the Early family leased a farm in Chinguacousy Township, where they remained for almost a decade.

On September 20, 1850, James married his first cousin, Jane Early (1832–1866). The couple initially lived in Chinguacousy before purchasing the north half of Lot 7, Concession 10, from Robert Buchanan in August 1860. They relocated to a modest one-and-a-half storey frame house on the northwestern side of the property, which James gradually expanded into a two-storey brick house with multiple additions between the 1860s and the 1880s. This residence, known as the Buchanan-Early House, remains extant at 9356 Tenth Line.



Figure 7: A c.1940 aerial photograph of the Early farm at Lot 7, Concession 10 (*The Early Connection*)

Between 1853 and 1860, James and Jane had five children: Thomas (1853–1935), William (1857–1908), James (1858–1934), Albert Edwin (1862–1904), and Elizabeth (1860–1897). Two children, an unnamed baby and 3-month-old George (1866-1866) died in infancy. Jane died in November 1866, two weeks after George's birth. The following year, in October 1867, James married Catherine Menzies (1846–1924), the daughter of James Menzies, in the log church on the subject property. Between 1869 and

1877, James and Catherine had three children: Philip (1869–1951), Erastus (1873–1873), and Frederick Abner (1877–1932).

Following their marriage in 1867, James and Catherine purchased the southeast half of Lot 6, Concession 10, followed by the northwestern quarter of Lot 5, Concession 10, and the eastern half of Lot 8, Concession 10, bringing James' total land holdings to 300 acres by 1875. In February 1870, James Early purchased the subject property from his father-in-law, James Menzies, and farmed it alongside his sons while continuing to reside on Lot 7, Concession 10. In 1900, James and Catherine retired and moved to Queen Street in Brampton where James died on March 20, 1909.

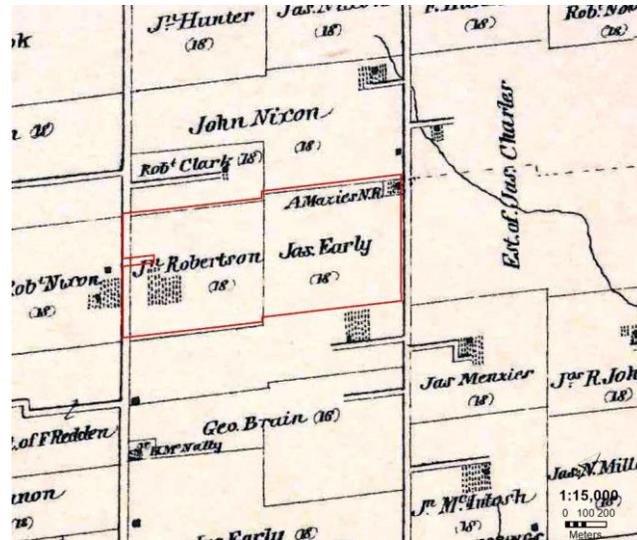


Figure 8: Subject property identified in the 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton*

In 1885, Thomas Early (1853–1935) purchased the subject property from his father for \$2,000; Thomas had lived on Lot 7, Concession 10 his entire life. Thomas was engaged to Margaret “Maggie” Wilson (1861–1894) in 1881 and constructed the extant two-story red-brick Gothic Revival house on the subject property. The following year, he married Maggie and the couple settled in the newly completed residence where they would raise three children: Spencer Abner (1888–1962), Myrtle May (1891–1892), and Harold Wilson (1893–1976).

In 1891, Thomas and Maggie lived in the dwelling on the subject property with their son, Spencer Abner, and employed two live-in domestic servants and farmhands, Fred Truman and Nellie Grant. Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, Thomas made several improvements to his farm and began focusing on livestock. He planted a large orchard and constructed a modest barn at the rear of the existing dwelling. In 1899, Thomas constructed a large bank barn on the property and had amassed a substantial beef cattle herd.

Following Maggie’s death in 1894, Thomas remarried Acton native Elizabeth Jane Storey (1866–1937) in 1897. They had five children: Ada Myrl (1898–1945), Mabel May (1899–1951), Hazel Gladys (1902–1970), Sarah Jane (1904–1967), and Chester Thomas (1906–1992). In the early 1900s, the couple adopted a foster child from England, Elizabeth Cross, whom they had originally retained as a domestic worker.



Figure 9: A c.1910s photograph of the Thomas and Jane Early Family. Back Row (L to R): Hazel, Chester, Sarah, Spencer, Myril, Harold, and Mabel; Front Row: Thomas and Elizabeth Jane Early (The Early Connection)

In 1914, Thomas further expanded his holdings by purchasing the western half of Lot 8, Concession 10, from John F. Brown, which he later sold to his son, Harold Wilson Early. Thomas Early died on the subject property in April 1935, and ownership of the eastern half of Lot 8, Concession 10 subsequently transferred to his youngest son, Chester Early through probate of will.



Figure 10: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographical Survey

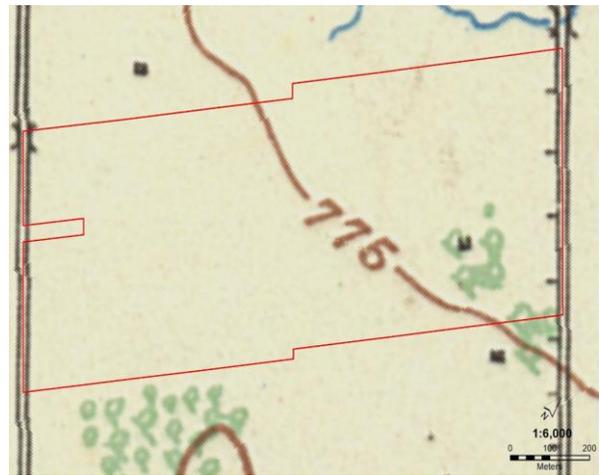


Figure 11: Subject property identified on the 1938 National Topographical Survey

Chester Early was born on the subject property on July 1, 1906. After finishing eight years at Pinegrove Public School, he attended Georgetown High School, commuting via the Guelph Electric Train from the Norval station. An active member of the community, he participated in the Norval Community Choir and was a dedicated member of the Norval Presbyterian Church. Chester was a lifelong farmer, and by 1934,

he and his half-brother Harold maintained the largest flock of sheep in Norval, along with a large beef cattle herd.

Harold Early (1893–1976) was born on February 9, 1893, on Lot 8, Concession 10 in Esquesing. By the 1930s, Harold was raising beef cattle and sheep alongside his half-brother Chester. Harold owned the western hundred acres of Lot 8, while Chester owned the eastern hundred. The brothers lived together in the existing house on the subject property.

Harold served as secretary-treasurer of SS #4 from 1931 to 1956 and again from 1961 until the school's closure in 1963. When SS #4 Pinegrove closed, Chester and Harold were among the retiring trustees and became two of the thirteen shareholders in the newly purchased Pinegrove Community Centre, where they continued to be active members of the local farming and community networks.

The western half of the subject property was transferred to Chester Early following Harold's death in 1976. Chester continued to farm until retiring at the age of 84. In 1990, he moved to Chelsea Park Retirement Home, where he passed away in June 1992. His estate, including the subject property, was sold in 1994.



Figure 12: Chester Early identified in 1971 photograph of Norval Farm Forum (*Acton Free Press*, April 27, 1971)

9476 Tenth Line | PART LOT 8, CONCESSION 10 (ESQUESING), BEING PARTS 1, 2, AND 3 PLAN 20R22256 SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PART 3 ON 20R22256 AS IN 830692 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

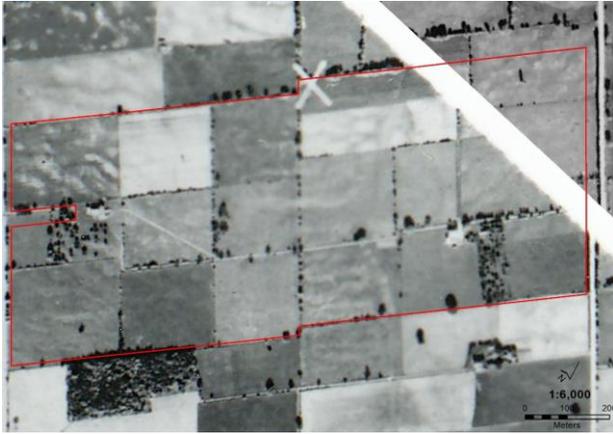


Figure 13: Subject property identified in 1953 aerial photography

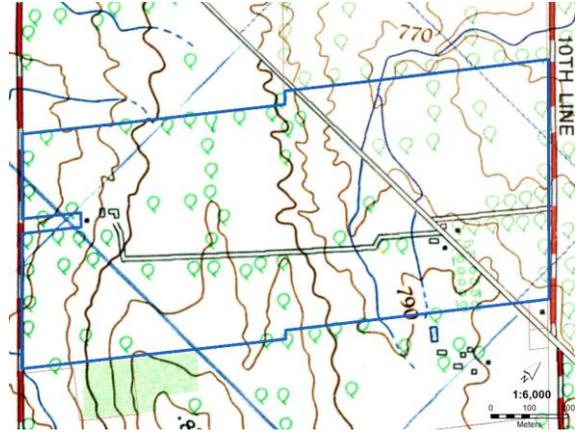


Figure 14: Subject property identified on the 1973 National Topographical Survey



Figure 15: Subject Property identified in 1999 satellite imagery



Figure 16: Subject Property identified in 2023 satellite imagery

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is an irregularly shaped 207-acre parcel situated along the southwest side of Tenth Line North between the historic settlements of the Norval and Hornby in the Town of Halton Hills. It is accessible via an unpaved driveway from Tenth Line. The property lies in an agricultural area and features a residential building setback approximately 240 metres from Tenth Line, accompanied by multiple associated outbuildings. The house is bordered by agricultural fields, with several mature trees nearby. The property is legally described as “PART LOT 8, CONCESSION 10 (ESQUESING), BEING PARTS 1, 2, AND 3 PLAN 20R22256 SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PART 3 ON 20R22256 AS IN 830692 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS”.



Figure 17: Subject Property identified in 2023 aerial photography



Figure 18: Front (northeast) elevation of the existing residential building at 9476 Tenth Line (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The existing residential structure at 9476 Tenth Line is a two-storey, Gothic Revival farmhouse constructed on an L-shaped plan with a steeply pitched cross-gable roof and stone foundation. The residence is constructed with red brick laid in a common bond pattern and is framed with buff-brick quoins accentuating its corners.

The front (northeast) elevation showcases two prominent gables; one centrally positioned on the recessed section of the façade and the other crowning the projecting portion. Both gable ends are adorned with decorative wooden bargeboard. The front elevation is divided into two sections: the recessed portion and the projecting portion. The projecting section is framed by buff-brick quoining and features a centrally located, single-storey, three-sided projecting bay at the first storey. This bay contains three segmentally arched window openings with buff-brick voussoirs and limestone sills. The bay is capped with a hipped roof supported by a bracketed cornice. Above the bay, on the second storey, a segmentally arched window opening sits flush within the wall, framed with a buff-brick voussoir and hood mould, and footed by a limestone sill.

The recessed portion of the front elevation is framed with buff-brick quoining and contains a segmentally arched window opening at grade, capped with a buff-brick voussoir and footed by a limestone sill. The entrance, situated close to the projecting wall of this elevation, is boarded up and obscured. A veranda featuring ornate wooden spindle work and a shallow hipped roof extends along the stepped-back portion of the first storey. On the second storey, a single lancet arched window opening with a buff-brick voussoir, hood mould, and limestone sill is positioned beneath the central gable peak.



Figure 19: 9476 Tenth Line side (northwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 20: Partially obscured view of 9476 Tenth Line side (northwest) elevation (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The side (northwest) elevation is constructed of red brick laid in a common bond pattern and framed by tan brick quoining. This elevation is crowned with a gable end featuring decorative wooden bargeboard. The southeast elevation contains four segmentally arched window openings with tan brick voussoirs, hood moulds, and limestone sills; two at grade and two on the second storey. A dichromatic diamond pattern of inset tan brick is situated beneath the gable peak. The side (southeast) and rear (southwest) elevations are obscured from the public right-of-way.

9476 Tenth Line | PART LOT 8, CONCESSION 10 (ESQUESING), BEING PARTS 1, 2, AND 3 PLAN 20R22256 SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PART 3 ON 20R22256 AS IN 830692 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS



Figure 21: Tenth Line looking southeast from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 22: Roadway looking northwest from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 23: Agricultural fields looking northeast from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 24: 9476 Tenth Line setback from the public right of way (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

9476 Tenth Line | PART LOT 8, CONCESSION 10 (ESQUESING), BEING PARTS 1, 2, AND 3 PLAN 20R22256 SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PART 3 ON 20R22256 AS IN 830692 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS



Figure 25: A view of the c. 1899 barn and silo on the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 26: Agricultural fields looking southeast from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 27: Agricultural fields looking west from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

2.3 Farmstead Analysis

The farmstead analysis provides an overview of the existing structures on the property typical to historic Ontario Farmsteads. The evaluation below helps identify the existing structures on the subject property, determine their date of construction, and confirm landscaping features. The farmstead analysis for the subject property can be found in the tables below.

Historic Ontario Farmstead Feature	Existing (Y/N)	Comments
Farmhouse	Y	The existing c.1880s farmhouse is extant within the subject property.
Barn	Y	There is a large wooden barn constructed around 1899 located northwest of the existing c.1880s residence
Outbuildings	Y	There are several related agricultural outbuildings located within the subject property.
Silo	Y	A contemporary silo is located northwest of the c.1880s residence fronting the northwest elevation of the barn.
Entrance Driveway Framed by Vegetation	N	The mature trees along the entrance driveway have since been removed.
Front-yard Mature Trees	N	The mature trees have since been removed from the subject property.
Rear Fields	Y	The subject property features agricultural fields surrounding the original c.1880s residence.
Drive Lines	Somewhat	There are a series of drivelines around the property that provide access to tenth line, ninth line, and several agricultural buildings around the property.
Woodlot	N	There is no woodlot located at the rear of the property.
Wind Rows along Property Edge	Somewhat	The property features a single windrow along the interior property line.

Orchard	N	The orchard on the subject property featured on historical mapping is no longer extant.
Additional Criteria for Consideration	(Y/N)	Comments
Early Settlement/Pre-1867	Somewhat	The subject property was originally settled by John and James Menzies in 1844. The existing residence, however, was not constructed until the 1880s.
Structures of Individual Architectural Significance	Somewhat	The existing farmhouse retains many features associated with the Gothic Revival architectural style.
Intact Collection of Typological Features	Y	The c.1880s farmhouse, c.1899 barn, contemporary silo, and agricultural fields are components of a greater nineteenth and early twentieth century farm complex that remains active in 2025.
Within a Rural Area/Adjacent to other In-tact Farmsteads	Y	The subject property remains within a primarily rural and agricultural area on Tenth Line.
Site Development Pressure	N	The subject property is zoned Agriculture and features a stream running through the middle of the lot.

Overtime, the property has been altered, with the removal of the mature trees spanning the front driveway, along with the construction of a contemporary silo. While the associated agricultural outbuildings remain on the property, none are considered rare, unique, or representative examples of late-nineteenth or early-twentieth-century barns within the modified farmscape. Some typical features of a historic farmstead are extant; however, the farmstead is not fully intact, and the property does not qualify as a significant farmscape or cultural heritage landscape.

2.4 Architectural Style and Comparative Analysis

The Gothic Revival architectural style, popular in Ontario from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, is characterized by its emphasis on verticality, intricate detailing, and references to medieval Gothic architecture. The Gothic Revival style was particularly used for ecclesiastical and residential buildings, where it conveyed a sense of grandeur and historical continuity. Several Gothic Revival farmhouses were built in Ontario around this time, reflecting the style's widespread appeal among rural and residential architecture.

According to John Blumenson's *Guide to Ontario Architecture* and A.J. Downing's *Victorian Cottage Residences*, the typical features characteristic of the Gothic Revival style, especially in farmhouse architecture, include:

- Steeply pitched gable roofs with decorative bargeboards featuring Gothic motifs such as trefoils and quatrefoils, as well as curvilinear vergeboards and intricate bargeboards;
- Pointed arch windows and doorways, often framed with intricate tracery, brick voussoirs, or hood moulds. Noteworthy examples include pointed hood moulds and depressed-arch hood moulds;
- Limestone or brick construction with contrasting stone or brick details, such as quoins, castellated cornices, or dichromatic brick patterns;
- Symmetrical façades or asymmetrical layouts with projecting gables, sometimes with finials, pinnacles, or a central gable above the main door, as seen in many Gothic Revival dwellings;
- Chimneys with decorative detailing, often located symmetrically on the roofline and close to gable ends;
- Projecting bay windows; and,
- Finials placed on gable peaks.

The property at 9476 Tenth Line is an excellent example of a late-Victorian Gothic Revival-style farmhouse, exhibiting many of the key characteristics typical of the style. Notable features include the steeply pitched cross-gable roof, the use of red brick laid in a common bond pattern with contrasting buff-brick quoins, dichromatic brickwork, and the decorative wooden bargeboards with Gothic Revival motifs on the gables.

The existing house on the subject property represents a largely faithful adaptation of blueprints published for the Gothic Revival style in publications such as *The Canada Farmer*, which similar residences in the region were based on.



Figure 28: Plans for an L-Shaped Gothic Revival Farmhouse published in *The Canada Farmer* Vol. 1, no. 9 (May 16, 1864) p. 133.

Comparatively, there are other Gothic Revival farmhouses within Halton Hills that share similarities in form, scale, and detailing both in a town and agricultural setting with examples such as 4 Queen Street

(Georgetown), 76 Young Street (Acton), 8708 Tenth Line (Norval), and 10284 Trafalgar Road (Esquesing). While there are other nineteenth-century farmhouses along Fifth Line, the Fisher House at 9709 Fifth Line is among the only Gothic Revival Residences visible from the public right-of-way within the area.



Figure 29: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in a town setting in Halton Hills at 4 Queen Street, Georgetown (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 30: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in a town setting in Halton Hills at 67 Young Street, Acton (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 31: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in an agricultural setting in Halton Hills at 8708 Tenth Line, Norval (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 32: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in an agricultural setting in Halton Hills at 10284 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2023)

These properties feature similar steep pitched cross-gable roofs, brick construction with contrasting stone details, elaborate wooden barge boards, L-shaped footprint, projecting bays, segmentally arched window openings, hood moulds or brick voussoirs, and sills. However, the property at 9476 Tenth Line is unique in its specific combination of features, particularly the intricate details on the wooden bargeboards, quoining, voussoirs, hood moulds, dichromatic brickwork, veranda, and the three-sided bay window with finely dressed limestone sills.

Despite minor alterations, the overall integrity of the property has been retained, making the building a representative example of 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 9476 Tenth Line has physical and design value as a representative example of a late-nineteenth-century agricultural residence in the Gothic Revival style. The two-storey brick residential building exhibits features typical of this style, including the gable roof, dichromatic brickwork, projecting bay, decorative wooden bargeboard, segmentally arched windows, dichromatic brickwork, stone sills, and buff-brick quoining. 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. While the associated agricultural outbuildings remain on the property, none are considered rare, unique, or representative examples of late-nineteenth or early-twentieth-century barns within the modified farmscape.

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 at 9476 Tenth Line holds significant historical and associative value due to its long-standing connection with the Disciples of Christ, and the Menzies and Early Families, among the earliest settlers and influential families in Esquesing. Originally granted to John Menzies in 1819, the subject property remained in the Menzies family until 1870. John and James Menzies were significant figures in early Canadian settlement and religious history. John Menzies, a Scottish immigrant, played a crucial role in establishing the Disciples of Christ movement in Esquesing Township, Ontario, building a log meeting house on the subject property that became a hub for the movement's teachings. His son, James Menzies, expanded the family's agricultural holdings and contributed to the growth of the local Disciples of Christ Church, eventually becoming its minister. Through their leadership, the Menzies family helped shape both the religious and agricultural landscape of the region.

The subject property remained under the Early family's ownership for 124 years. The Early family played a significant role in the agricultural and social development of Esquesing Township. James Early purchased the subject property in 1870, farming it alongside his sons while residing on Lot 7, Concession

10. His son, Thomas Early, acquired the subject property in 1885, constructing the existing Gothic Revival brick house and expanding farming operations with a focus on livestock.

Thomas' youngest son, Chester Early, inherited the eastern half of the subject property in 1935 and continued the family's farming legacy, maintaining one of the largest sheep flocks in Norval alongside his half-brother, Harold Early. Harold owned the western half of the subject property, and the two brothers lived and worked together until Harold's death in 1976, after which Chester took full ownership. Both men were deeply involved in the local community, contributing to the Pinegrove School and later the Pinegrove Community Centre. Chester farmed the subject property until his retirement in 1990, and following his passing in 1992, the estate was sold in 1994.

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 9476 Tenth Line holds significant contextual value, being physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. As a late nineteenth-century Gothic Revival farmhouse that has remained in its original location for over 140 years, it represents a prominent architectural style that defined rural Ontario during this period. The farmhouse is directly related to the nearby Buchanan-Early House at 9356 Tenth Line, and the octagonal James Menzies House at 9343 Tenth Line. Other properties in the vicinity, such as the Switzer Farm at 8708 Tenth Line, 9529 Ninth Line, and 8519 Ninth Line, also feature nineteenth century Gothic Revival farmhouses that continue to function as agricultural residences. Collectively, these properties continue to maintain the surrounding rural landscape.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 9476 Tenth Line 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 9476 Tenth Line are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building along Tenth Line;
- The deciduous windrows along Tenth Line, and the existing partially tree-lined drive extending to the existing residential building from Tenth Line;
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing c.1880s, two-storey L-shaped Gothic Revival residential building with cross-gable roof and stone foundation;
- The materials, including stone, red brick, buff brick, wooden bargeboard and detailing throughout;
- The front (northeast) elevation, including:
 - The one-storey projecting bay with a bracketed cornice and hipped roof, as well as three segmentally arched window openings with buff-brick voussoirs, hood moulds, and limestone sills;
 - Segmentally arched window opening with brick voussoirs and limestone sills;
 - Lancet-arched window opening with brick voussoirs and hood mould;
 - Decorative wooden bargeboard on gable peaks;

9476 Tenth Line | PART LOT 8, CONCESSION 10 (ESQUESING), BEING PARTS 1, 2, AND 3 PLAN 20R22256 SUBJECT TO AN EASEMENT OVER PART 3 ON 20R22256 AS IN 830692 TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

- Buff brick quoining;
- Wooden spindle work on the veranda;
- The side (northwest) elevation, including:
 - Segmentally arched window openings with limestone sills, buff-brick voussoirs, and hood moulds;
 - Decorative buff brick inset pattern beneath the gable end;
 - Gable end with decorative wooden bargeboard; and,
 - Buff brick quoining.

The rear (southwest) elevation, side (southeast) elevation, accessory structures, and interiors have not been identified as heritage attributes 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.

5.0 Sources

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