

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Miller-McLaughlin House
9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard

April 2025

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1.0 Property Description

9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard, Esquesing	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	PT LTS 6 & 7, CON 11 ESQ, PTS 1 & 2, 20R3191, EXCEPT PT 6, 20R13485 & PTS 1,2 & 3, 20R14600; HALTON HILLS
Construction Date	c.1862
Original Use	Residential/Farm
Current Use	Residential/Agricultural/Institutional/Recreational
Architect/Building/Designer	Thomas Ruddell
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival
Additions/Alterations	c.1890s addition to rear; c.1981 addition to rear
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Austin Foster; Laura Loney
Report Date	April 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard in Halton Hills, Ontario. The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

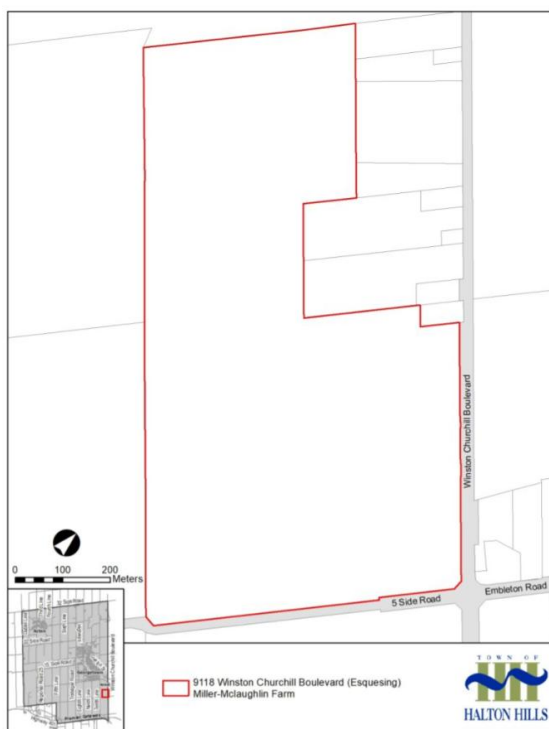


Figure 1: Location Map – 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard

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 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.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 6, Concession 11 is located approximately three kilometers southeast of Norval and six kilometers north of Hornby. Norval was settled by Europeans 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

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.

collection of mills, including the area's first gristmill. 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 McNabsville (also McNab's Mill) before adopting the name Norval.

Meanwhile, Hornby developed concurrently in the 1830s, becoming a significant hub for English, Irish and Scottish settlers. Several parcels of land between the two settlements were originally granted by the Crown to King's College of Upper Canada before being sold to early settlers from the British Isles. The subject property was one such parcel.

King's College of Upper Canada

King's College (now incorporated into the University of Toronto) was established through a Royal Charter issued by King George IV on March 15, 1827. The college was operated by the Church of England with John Strachan, the Archdeacon of York, appointed as its 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 between 1827 to 1848 several parcels were divided and sold to settlers across upper Canada. Among these holdings was the subject property.

The patent for Lot 6, Concession 11 was officially granted to the College on January 3, 1828, and remained under its ownership for over a decade. In 1844, the land was divided and sold, with the west half purchased by John McIntosh in November and the east half by John Miller in June.



Figure 3: A c.1840s portrait of John Strachan, the Archdeacon of York and first president of King's College (University of Toronto Archives 2000-20-11MS)



Figure 4: Subject property identified on 1822 Esqueving Patent Plan

The Miller Family

John Miller (1793–1879) was born in Midcalder, Scotland, and emigrated with his family to the Niagara region in the early 1810s. Around 1816, Miller married Janet Chisholm (1796–1881) before settling in Peel County. Between 1818 and 1844, they had seven children. Their eldest son, James Miller (1818–1881), assisted his father with farming while living at the family home in Peel.

In June 1844, John Miller purchased the east half of Lot 6, Concession 11, in Esquesing Township and sent James to clear the land and fulfill their settlement duties. The following year, he divided the property, selling the northern 50 acres to James while retaining the southern 50 acres for himself. Although John maintained his residence in Peel, James constructed a cabin on the newly cleared land.

Around 1845, James Miller married Harriet Ann MacNab (1828–1905) and began farming the northern half of the subject property. In 1853, he purchased the southern portion from his father, consolidating ownership of the entire east half of Lot 6, Concession 11. Between 1849 and 1865, James and Harriet had eleven children.

In 1862, James commissioned local builder Thomas Ruddell to construct the existing house on the subject property. He continued farming alongside his sons for the next two decades until his death in 1881. Later that year, his two surviving sons, William Chisholm Miller (1862–1940) and John Harvey Miller (1852–1922), inherited ownership of the property through probate of will.

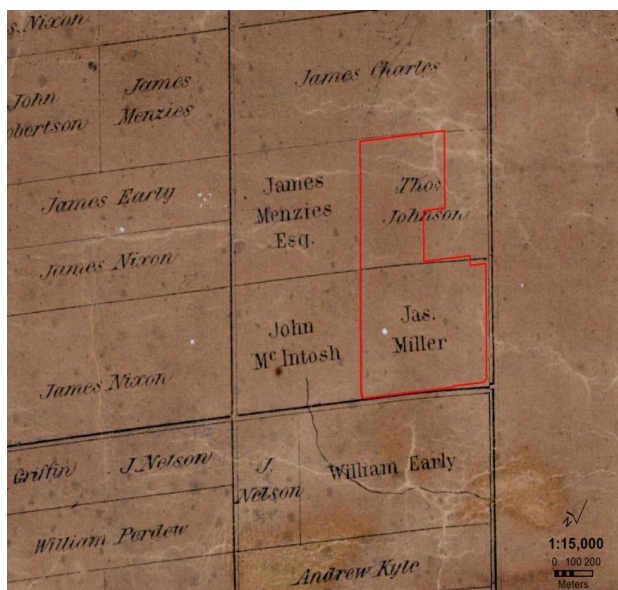


Figure 5: Subject property identified on Tremaine's 1858 Map of the County of Halton, Canada West

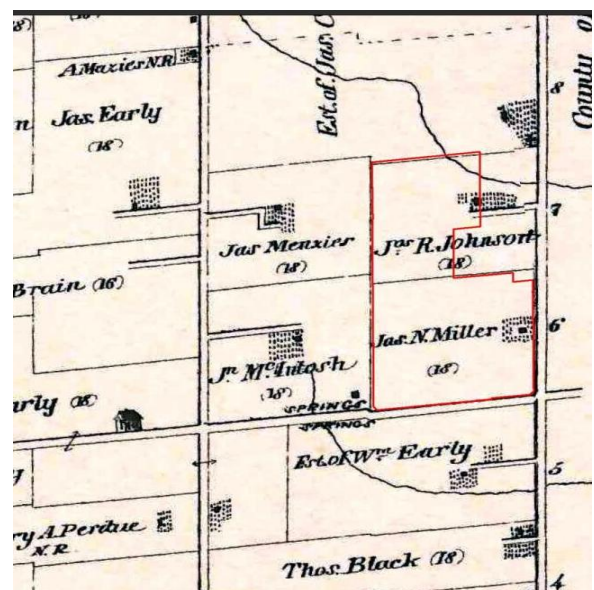


Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton

William Chisholm Miller was born on the subject property in 1862 and spent much of his early life aiding his father and brothers with daily farming operations. In the late 1870s, he expressed a desire to explore the Canadian northwest for spiritual reasons, a venture his father encouraged. On September 12, 1881, he embarked on his first journey with Joseph Leslie and John Cunningham, traveling by foot, train, and portage to Manitoba. Miller joined his cousin, Alexander Fraser, at Oak River to establish a homestead in the Beulah district of Manitoba. Upon learning of his father's illness, he traveled back to Upper Canada in 1882, only to find that James had died weeks before his arrival. After returning to Manitoba to fulfill

his homestead obligations with Fraser, William moved back to the family property in Esquesing in 1885 for two years. During this time, he married Mabel Percy Travis (1876-1903) in Norval before ultimately settling in Elkhorn, Manitoba, where he assisted his wife's cousin, James Broadley, in the lumber business.

In 1887, John Harvey Miller purchased William's share of the subject property and continued farming until 1889, when he sold the lands to the McLaughlin brothers. He remained in the family home for a few years before joining William in Elkhorn where he dealt in agricultural implements. In 1913, he was elected Mayor of Elkhorn and later appointed Returning Officer for the Virden constituency during the 1914 provincial general election.

The McLaughlin Family

The McLaughlin family were among the earliest settlers in Peel County. Born in the Scottish Highlands in 1782, Claudius Stewart McLaughlin relocated to Ireland around 1812 due to unrest in Scotland. While in Plumbridge, County Tyrone, he married Ann Dunbar, and the couple had four of their six children before emigrating to Canada in the 1820s, eventually settling in Peel County. Following Claudius' involvement in the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837, the family fled to the United States but returned to Canada in 1847. They resettled in Chinguacousy Township on Lot 13, Concession 11, near Norval.

Claudius' son, Joseph McLaughlin (1821–1906), married Isabella Hamilton (1829–1904) in 1849 and established a farm on Lot 14, Concession 5 in Chinguacousy, where they raised thirteen children. Their children included Claudius (1850–1910), William Edwin (1851–1894), Alexander (1853–1940), Robert Hamilton (1856–1934), Joseph Charles "Charlie" (1857–1945), Nancy "Annie" Elizabeth (1859–1920), Richard (1859–1925), David "Alfred" (1861–1933), John Thomas Holmes (1863–1890), Hamilton (1868–1894), Henry "Harry" (1869–1945), Jane (1871–1871), and Frederick Herbert (1874–1959).

In 1881, Joseph McLaughlin's sons purchased their first property as joint owners. Robert Hamilton, William Edwin, and Joseph Charles borrowed money from their father to acquire the east half of Lot 9, Concession 11 (the future site of McLaughlin House at 9690 Winston Churchill Boulevard, built c.1896). Despite this acquisition, the brothers continued to live at the family home on Lot 14, Concession 5 while managing both properties. Over the next two decades, the family continued this practice, with various McLaughlin brothers pooling their resources to acquire additional properties in the area.

In 1889, six of the McLaughlin brothers: Robert, Claudius II, David, Frederick, William, Joseph, and Richard, purchased the subject property for \$1,700. For the next four years, they farmed the land while continuing to live at the family home in Chinguacousy and various other McLaughlin properties in the area.

In 1893, David and Robert sold their shares of the property to William, Joseph, and Claudius. The following year, William was killed while sawing a tree with his brothers Claudius and Joseph. As he was unmarried, his share of the property was transferred to Joseph. In 1896, Claudius purchased Joseph's share and moved into the house on the subject property. Around this time, a two-storey addition, including a summer kitchen and additional living space, was constructed at the rear of the house.

While Claudius lived on and farmed the subject property, Frederick remained at the family home with Joseph and Isabella. Richard relocated to Toronto, where he established a dental practice. In 1907, Claudius became ill, prompting Frederick to move to the property with his wife, Alice Emma Clarke

(1879–1953), whom he had married earlier that year, to assist with farming and care for Claudius. Following Claudius' death in 1910, Frederick and Alice remained on the farm, where they raised two sons, Claudius William McLaughlin (1911–2004) and Richard Herbert McLaughlin (1912–1976).

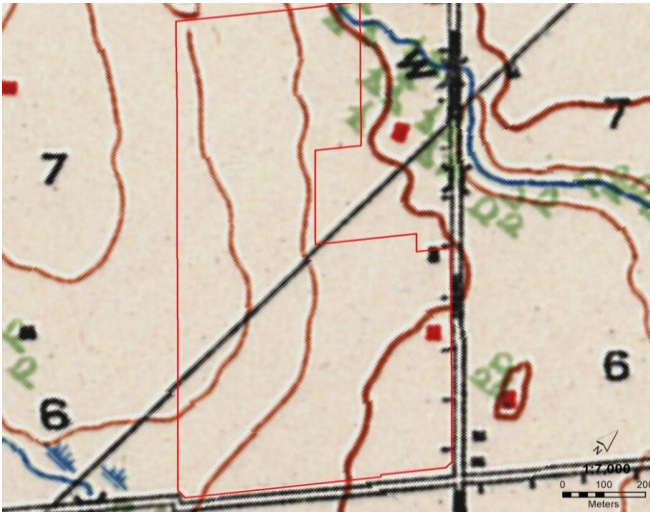


Figure 7: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographical Survey

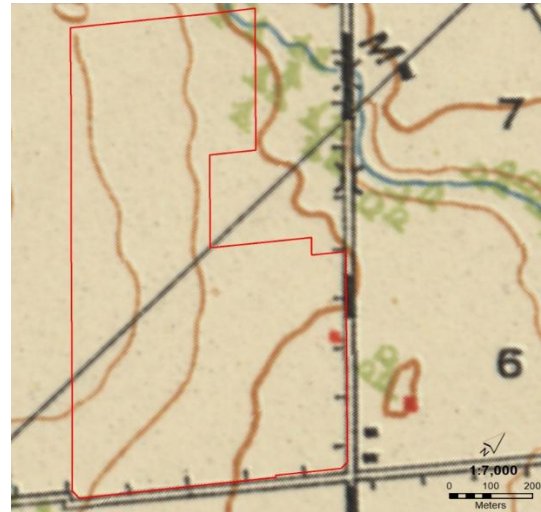


Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1918 National Topographical Survey

In 1920, Frederick purchased Richard's share of the property, becoming the sole McLaughlin brother with an ownership interest in the land. Frederick and his sons Claude and Richard continued farming the property throughout the first half of the twentieth century.

Claude and Richard were actively involved in the Norval and local agricultural communities. In 1937, Claude was appointed Treasurer of Norval Presbyterian Church, and in 1938, he became President of the Rural Young People's Association. The brothers also hosted meetings of the Norval Farmers' Institute at their home. Richard played a key role in the local farming community, serving as head secretary of the local Farm Forum throughout the 1940s and later as Halton County's chief representative on the Rural Learning Association.

Following Frederick's death in 1959, ownership of the subject property transferred to Claude and Richard McLaughlin. Neither brother married, and they continued to live and work on the land until Richard's death in 1976. After Richard's death, Claude sold the property to the organizing committee and trustees of a proposed Croatian Social and Cultural Centre in 1977.

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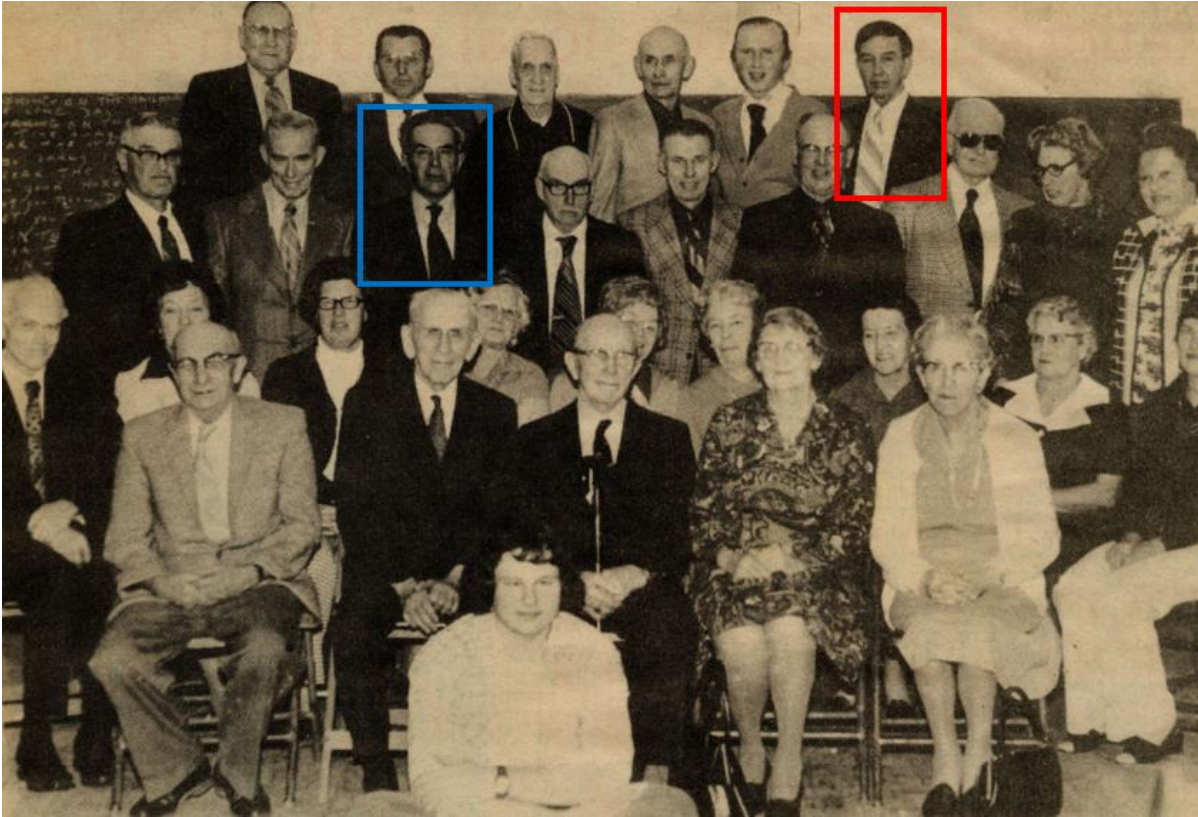


Figure 9: A 1971 photograph of Norval Farm Forum. Claude McLaughlin identified in blue; Richard McLaughlin identified in red (*Acton Free Press*, April 27, 1971)



Figure 10: Subject property identified in 1954 aerial photography

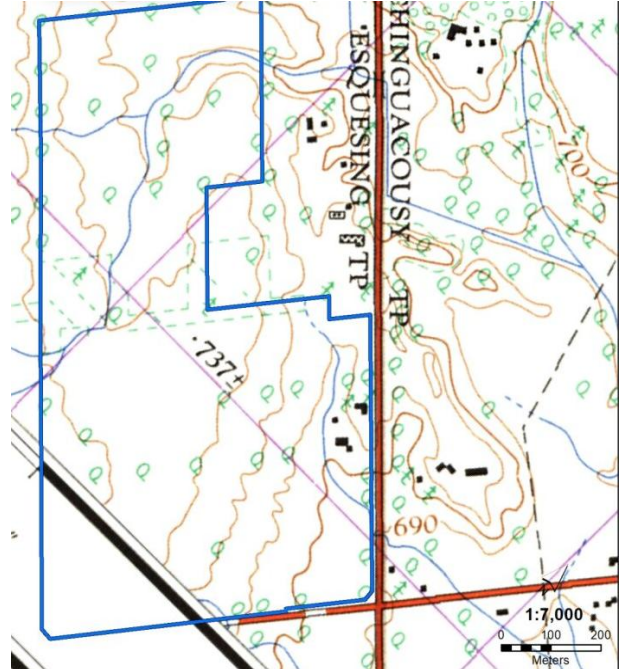


Figure 11: Subject property identified on the 1963 National Topographical Survey

The Norval Croatian Cultural Centre

From 1967 to 1971, the “Croatian Spring” triggered mass emigration from the Socialist Republic of Croatia, with tens of thousands of Croatians settling in Canada. The largest Croatian expat communities emerged in Toronto, Hamilton, and Mississauga.

In 1976, a group of Croatian community and religious leaders gathered to discuss the creation of a Croatian cultural centre to preserve and perpetuate Croatian traditions while serving as a social and cultural hub for Croatians in Southern Ontario. That winter, the organizers began scouting locations and approached Claude McLaughlin about purchasing the subject property. In May 1977, the organizing committee and trustees of the proposed Croatian Social and Cultural Centre purchased the land from McLaughlin.

By 1978, plans were submitted to the Town for a \$5 million cultural and sports complex featuring a theatre, library, sports fields, swimming pool, tennis and volleyball courts, a cemetery, a chapel, a church, and a Franciscan study centre. That same year, the house on the property became the residence of Franciscan priest Reverend Leon Galic, a tradition that continues with community leaders today. The cultural centre continued to expand throughout the late-twentieth century, acquiring an additional 60 acres from the west half of Lot 6, Concession 11 during the 1980s.

Significant milestones included the completion of an outdoor swimming pool in 1979, an assembly hall for New Year's Eve celebrations in 1981, and the paving of the parking lot and main road in 1983. A nine-acre plot for a Croatian cemetery was sanctioned in 1982, and in 1987, a nearby house and additional land from Lot 7, Concession 11 were purchased to accommodate the arrival of Franciscan Sisters. By 1981, five Franciscan priests lived in the existing c.1861 residence on the subject property, and in 1982,

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a two-storey addition was constructed at the rear of the dwelling to accommodate their growing numbers and provide living space for visiting dignitaries.

In 1988, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton officially recognized the establishment of the "Queen of Peace Croatian Franciscan Centre of Norval." Further developments included the completion of an outdoor pavilion in 1989 and the creation of a children's playground in 1994.

One of the most significant events in the history of the centre was the visit of Dr. Franjo Tuđman, President of the Republic of Croatia, in 1990. By 1999, the final payment on the Croatian Centre's outstanding debt was made. The process for constructing a church began in 1997, and in 2000, the Town of Halton Hills approved an official plan and zoning bylaw amendment to permit construction. The site plan received final approval from the Region of Halton and the Town of Halton Hills in 2001, and the official groundbreaking ceremony took place on November 15, 2003. Construction was carried out under the guidance of Fr. Stjepan Pandzic, who was pastor at the time. The subject property continues to serve the Croatian community in 2025.

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Figure 12: Subject property identified in 1999 aerial photography

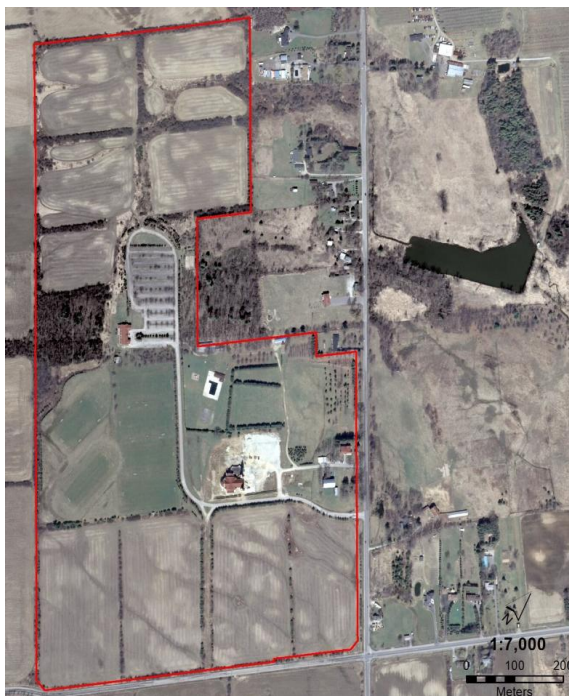


Figure 13: Subject property identified in 2007 aerial photography



Figure 14: Subject property identified in 2015 aerial photography



Figure 15: Subject property identified in 2023 aerial photography

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is an approximately 159-acre parcel situated along the southwest side of Winston Churchill Boulevard between the historic settlements of the Norval and Hornby communities in the Town of Halton Hills. It is accessible via a paved driveway from Winston Churchill Boulevard. The property is situated within a predominantly agricultural area and contains a c.1861 residential building fronting Winston Churchill Boulevard (setback approximately 25 metres), a large church, assembly hall and several recreational facilities. The subject property contains and is bordered by agricultural fields. The property is legally described as PT LTS 6 & 7, CON 11 ESQ, PTS 1 & 2, 20R3191, EXCEPT PT 6, 20R13485 & PTS 1,2 & 3, 20R14600; HALTON HILLS.



Figure 16: Subject Property identified in 2023 aerial photography



Figure 17: Front (northeast) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 18: Front (northeast) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard (Town of Halton Hills 2009)

Built c.1862, the existing residential structure at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is a two-storey, Gothic Revival farmhouse built on an L-shaped plan with a steeply-pitched, cross-gable roof and a stone foundation. It is constructed of red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern. A two-storey rear addition, built in 1982, mimics the original Gothic Revival style but features contemporary brickwork, as well as concrete sills and lintels.

Front (Northeast) Elevation

The front (northeast) elevation is divided into two sections: a recessed portion and a projecting portion, each featuring a prominent gable. The recessed portion of the façade features a small central gable, while the projecting portion is topped with a gable with boxed eaves.

The projecting portion of the front (northeast) elevation includes a single-storey rectangular bay with two flatheaded window openings, each supported by an extended limestone sill and capped by an extended limestone lintel. Above the bay, a bracketed cornice supports a wooden balcony, likely a modern replacement of the original hipped roof. The balcony is accessed via a covered door on the second storey. Beneath the gable peak, small twin semi-circular window openings are positioned above the modern window awning, resting on an extended limestone sill. A smooth wooden frieze runs beneath the gable and continues around the entirety of the structure below the eaves line.

The recessed portion of the front elevation features a single entrance on the first storey, topped by a transom window and sidelights, located on the southeasternmost side of the wall closest to the projecting portion. Two flatheaded window openings with limestone sills and lintels are positioned beside the entrance. The first storey is sheltered by a modern single-storey porch, although the joining board from the residence's original veranda remains extant above the porch's roofline.

The second storey of the recessed portion contains three equally spaced flatheaded window openings, each fitted with limestone sills and lintels. A small semi-circular window with a limestone sill is located beneath the gable peak. A red-brick chimney extends above the roofline, positioned behind the central gable peak.



Figure 19: Side (southeast) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard (Google Street View 2017)

Side (Southeast) Elevation

The southeast elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is divided into two distinct sections: the original c.1861 northeastern section and the modern c.1982 addition on the southwestern portion. The original section is a symmetrical three-bay design constructed of red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern. The first storey contains two flatheaded window openings capped with limestone lintels and footed by limestone sills, flanking a central entrance also topped with a limestone lintel. The entrance is sheltered by a modern covered porch, likely a replacement for a nineteenth-century veranda. The second storey features three equally spaced window openings, each featuring limestone sills and lintels. A wooden frieze runs continuously beneath the eaves of the steeply pitched gable roof.



Figure 20: Side (northwest) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Side (Northwest) Elevation

The side (northwest) elevation of the existing residence at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is divided into three sections: the original c.1861 northeastern section, the late nineteenth-century summer kitchen in the centre, and the c.1982 modern addition on the southwestern portion. The c.1861 building elevation features a symmetrical three-bay design constructed of red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern beneath a gable peak. This section contains six flatheaded window openings with limestone sills and lintels, with three on the first storey and three on the second storey. Situated beneath the gable peak are two small twin semi-circular window openings with limestone sills. A wooden frieze follows the pitch of the gable beneath the overhanging eaves. The nineteenth-century summer kitchen features a small flatheaded window opening with a limestone lintel positioned beside a side entrance to the residence. The second storey of this section includes a small, centrally-positioned flatheaded window opening with a stone sill.

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Figure 21: Context photo looking northwest up Winston Churchill Boulevard from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 22: Context photo looking southeast down Winston Churchill Boulevard from subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



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



Figure 24: Agricultural fields northwest of subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 25: A view of the existing twentieth-century barn and silo on the subject property from the laneway (Town of Halton Hills (2025))



Figure 26: A view of the existing agricultural accessory structures on the subject property from the public right of way (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.1860s farmhouse is extant within the subject property.
Barn	Y	An early twentieth century barn is located south of the existing residence on the subject property.
Outbuildings	Y	There are several farm-related outbuildings southeast of the residence on the subject property including two wooden barns with stone foundations.
Silo	Y	An early twentieth century silo stands south of the existing residence on the subject property.
Entrance Driveway Framed by Vegetation	Y	The existing driveway is framed by mature deciduous trees.
Front-yard Mature Trees	Y	There are several mature coniferous and deciduous trees bordering the existing residence on the subject property. The northeastern property line along Winston

		Churchill Boulevard is lined with mature trees.
Rear Fields	Y	The subject property features agricultural fields surrounding the original c.1870s residence.
Drive Lines	Y	There are several nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century drivelines throughout the subject property.
Woodlot	Y	There is a large woodlot located southwest of the c.1860s residence on the subject property.
Wind Rows along Property Edge	Y	The property features several windrows along the property lines and within the subject property.
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	Y	The existing residence on the subject property was commissioned by James Miller and built by Thomas Ruddell in 1862.
Structures of Individual Architectural Significance	Y	The existing Gothic Revival farmhouse remains a significant feature of the subject property. An early twentieth century wooden barn and associated out-building remains extant to the south and southeast of the residence.
Intact Collection of Typological Features	Y	The c.1862 Gothic Revival farmhouse, mature trees along the property line and driveway, two late nineteenth or early twentieth century agricultural buildings, silo, drivelines, and windrows of the former farmstead remain intact and are extant from the public right of way.
Within a Rural Area/Adjacent to other In-tact Farmsteads	Y	The subject property remains within a rural area on Winston Churchill Boulevard and is surrounded by active farms.

Site Development Pressure	Potential	<p>The property is currently zoned Agricultural and Environmental Protection One with a natural heritage feature governed by Credit Valley Conservation.</p> <p>The property is located within lands subject to the Future Strategic Employment overlay in the former <i>Halton Region Official Plan</i> and <i>Town of Halton Hills' Official Plan</i>.</p> <p>A portion of the property that includes the existing residential building is located within the Highway 413 Focused Analysis Area.</p>
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Based on the farmstead analysis, few features of the original farmstead remain extant, including the mature trees, the early twentieth-century outbuildings, and the c.1860s farmhouse. 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. Over time, the farmscape has undergone significant alterations, including the c.1982 addition to the farmhouse, and the construction of the Queen of Peace Church in 1997. As a result of these changes, the remaining farmstead 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 farmhouse designs were used 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;
- Limestone or brick construction with contrasting stone or brick details, such as quoins, castellated cornices, stone sills and lintels, or dichromatic brick patterns;
- Symmetrical façades or asymmetrical layouts with projecting gables, sometimes with finials, pinnacles, or a central gable;
- Chimneys with decorative detailing; and,
- Projecting bay windows.

The property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is an excellent example of a mid-nineteenth century Gothic Revival-style farmhouse, exhibiting many of the key characteristics typical of the style. Notable features include the steeply pitched cross-gable roof, red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern, limestone sills and lintels, segmentally arched window openings, and the projecting bay and bay window.

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, 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 Winston Churchill Boulevard, the Miller-McLaughlin House at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is among one of the only Gothic Revival style buildings visible from the public right-of-way within the general area.



Figure 27: 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 28: 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 29: 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 30: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in an agricultural setting in Halton Hills at 10284 Trafalgar Road (Town of Halton Hills 2023)



Figure 31: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in a town setting in Halton Hills at 14 Queen Street, Georgetown (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 32: Example of an L-shaped Gothic Revival residence in an agricultural setting in Halton Hills at 9476 Tenth Line (Town of Halton Hills 2008)

These properties feature similar steep pitched cross-gable roofs, brick construction with contrasting stone details, L-shaped footprint, projecting bays, segmentally arched window openings, hood moulds or brick voussoirs, and stone lintels and sills. However, the property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard is unique, as it features a specific combination of Gothic Revival features and motifs.

It is likely that the residence on the subject property originally featured decorative wooden bargeboard at the gable ends and an ornate wooden veranda on the northeast and/or the southeast elevations similar to the examples above. However, these details have since been removed from the existing dwelling. Despite these alterations, and the contemporary additions to the sides and rear, the building remains 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	N/A
Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	N/A

The property at 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard has physical and design value as a representative example of a mid-nineteenth-century agricultural residence in the Gothic Revival style. The two-storey brick residential building exhibits features typical of this style, such as the gable roof, Flemish-bond brickwork, projecting bay, segmentally arched window, transom window, sidelights, as well as the stone sills and lintels. While the associated agricultural buildings remain extant, they are not rare, unique or representative examples of late-nineteenth-century/early-twentieth-century barns within the modified agricultural landscape.

The existing building can be accessed by a mature tree-lined drive and is surrounded by a coniferous window immediately to the northeast, as well as mature trees towards the rear (southwest) elevation. Along Winston Churchill Boulevard, a mature deciduous windrow extends in front of the existing house and barn.

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 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard holds significant historical and associative value due to its long-standing connection to early settlers and influential families in Halton Hills. It is closely associated with the prominent pioneering Miller family, including John Miller, who settled the property in 1844. His son, James Miller, completed the settlement duties on the property, constructing a cabin before commissioning local builder Thomas Ruddell to construct the existing Gothic Revival house in 1862. James Miller's two surviving sons, William Chisholm Miller and John Harvey Miller, became prominent settlers in Manitoba. William entered the lumber business, while John became a dealer in agricultural equipment and later served as the town's mayor.

The property is also associated with the McLaughlin family who were active in the early settlement and agricultural development of Peel and Halton Counties. Claudius Stewart McLaughlin, a Scottish Highlander, settled in Peel County in the 1820s after emigrating from Ireland with his family. His son, Joseph McLaughlin, raised thirteen children in Chinguacousy Township, and in 1889, six of his sons—Robert, Claudius II, David, Frederick, William, Joseph, and Richard—purchased the subject property, with Claudius II becoming the sole proprietor in 1896. After Claudius' death in 1910, his brother Frederick took over the farm, raising his two sons, Claude and Richard, on the property. The McLaughlin brothers were deeply engaged in local agricultural and community affairs, with Claude serving as Treasurer of Norval Presbyterian Church and Richard holding leadership roles in regional farming organizations. Following Frederick's death in 1959, Claude and Richard inherited the land, continuing to operate the farm until Richard's death in 1976. In 1977, Claude sold the subject property to the trustees of a proposed Croatian Social and Cultural Centre, marking the end of McLaughlin family ownership.

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 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard holds significant contextual value, being physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. The farmhouse is related to the c.1890s McLaughlin House at 9690 Winston Churchill Boulevard. Other properties in the vicinity, such as the Menzies-Early farm at 9476 Tenth Line and the J. W. L. Forster House at 9948 Winston Churchill Boulevard, also feature Gothic Revival farmhouses that continue to function as agricultural residences.

As a late nineteenth-century Gothic Revival farmhouse that has remained in its original location for over 160 years, it represents a prominent architectural style that defined rural Ontario during this period. Additionally, the existing tree-lined drive and tree windrows reflect the agricultural history of the property in the community of Esquesing. Due to the mature vegetation partially concealing the house, 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 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard 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 9118 Winston Churchill Boulevard are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building along Winston Churchill Boulevard;
- The tree-lined drive extending to the residential building from Winston Churchill Boulevard, the mature deciduous windrow along Winston Churchill Boulevard, the coniferous windrow located immediately northwest of the residential building, and the mature trees towards the rear (southwest) of the residential building;
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing c.1860s, two-storey L-shaped Gothic Revival residential building with gable roof and stone foundation;
- The materials, including brick, limestone, and detailing throughout;
- The front (northeast) elevation, including:
 - The one-storey projecting bay with a bracketed cornice, as well two flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels;
 - Three semi-circular window openings with stone sills and radiating brick voussoirs;
 - Flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels;
 - Flatheaded entryway with stone lintel, sidelights, and transom window;
 - Brick chimney extending above the gable peak;
- The side (southeast) elevation, including:
 - Flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels;
 - Flatheaded entryway with stone lintel;
- The side (northwest) elevation, including:
 - Flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels;
 - Two semi-circular window openings with stone sills and radiating brick voussoirs; and,
 - The late-nineteenth century summer kitchen.

The rear addition, 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.

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