

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Tost Blacksmith Shop and Schenk House
3 Prince Street, Town of Halton Hills

May 2025

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1.0 Property Description

3 Prince Street	
Municipality	Glen Williams, Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Region of Halton
Legal Description	PT LT 21, CON 10 ESQ, AS IN 814228; LT 66, PL 49; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING
Construction Date	Blacksmith Shop c.1871; Residence c.1934
Original Use	Blacksmith Shop & Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	Blacksmith Shop: William Tost Residence: William Schenk
Architectural Style	Blacksmith Shop: 19th-century Industrial Vernacular; Residence: Vernacular with Edwardian influences
Additions/Alterations	Blacksmith Shop: Wood-frame side addition, exterior alterations through adaptive re-use Residence: Infilled front porch
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Laura Loney
Report Date	May 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 3 Prince Street in Glen Williams, Halton Hills, Ontario (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

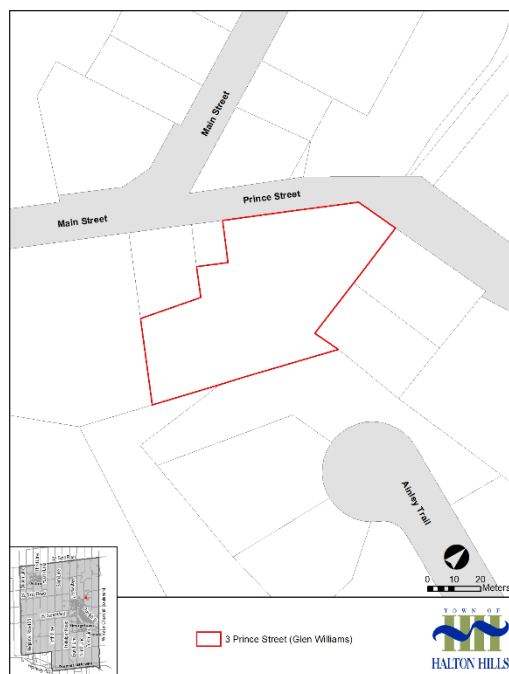


Figure 1: Location Map – 3 Prince Street



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 3 Prince Street

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 archeological 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 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 the spirit of reconciliation, the government of Canada agreed to compensate the Mississaugas of the New Credit in 2010 by paying \$145 million for their land. In 2013, remains of 13 different Huron-Wendat First Nations archeological excavations were reinterred at the Kleinberg ossuary by the University of Toronto on lands owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Early European Settlement History

The son of a Loyalist family, John Butler Muirhead (1800-1824) received a location ticket for Lot 21, Concession 10 Esquesing in 1818; he completed his settlement duties on his 200 acres on June 13, 1823. He married Ann Doestader in May 1824. On September 25, 1824, the Crown patent was issued to Muirhead. John Butler Muirhead died suddenly on November 29, 1824, and was buried at St. Mark’s Church, Niagara.

¹ *Cultural Heritage Strategy*, Town of Halton Hills, 2023. 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.



Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1819 Patent Plan

Benajah Williams (1765-1851) was a clothier in Gainsborough Township, Niagara. His third wife was Elizabeth Kennedy (1788-1842), and as most of her family had left Niagara for Esquesing Township, they decided to relocate to the area. On October 12, 1824, Benajah listed both his mill property and Grimsby township property for sale in the *Niagara Gleaner*. Benajah purchased Lot 21, Concession 10, Esquesing Township from the heirs of John Butler Muirhead on November 9, 1825. Benajah, then 60, reportedly had the saw mill up and running that same year; the area soon became known as Williamsburg, later known as Glen Williams in 1852.

Benajah's oldest son Joel Williams began farming Lot 21, Con. 11 which he had purchased from The Canada Company in 1838. Benajah divided his property between his second and third sons. Charles Williams (1811-1889) received the south-easterly 106 acres on 4 February 1842, and Jacob Williams (1816-1853) received the north-westerly 94 acres on 24 July 1843. Jacob Williams' land included the woollen mill he had established in 1839. Following the division of the property, the brothers had a Village Plan drawn up in 1854, creating Lots 65 and 66 where the subject property is located.



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

Tost Family

In March 1870, William Tost (1830-1910) attended the organization meeting to build the Glen Williams Town Hall at the home of Charles Williams; Tost would remain a Town Hall Trustee until 1899. On February 2, 1871, Tost purchased Lots 65 and 66 (now 3 & 3A Prince Street) from Charles Williams, the same year he purchased Lot 51 (the property now known as 7 Prince Street) from Edward and Sarah Lawson. Tost soon proceeded to build the two-storey red brick blacksmith and manufacturing building at 3A Prince Street. Tost advertised as a general blacksmith, edge tool, and mill iron manufacturer in an 1869-1870 Hamilton-based directory. The 1871 Census also noted Tost owned 3 village lots, 2 houses, 1 shop and 2 barns.

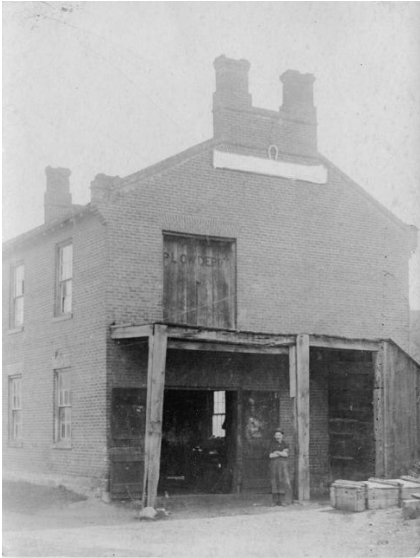


Figure 5: Blacksmith shop on Prince Street built by William Tost, c.1871 (EHS 01026)



Figure 6: The blacksmith in his apron and others stand with wagons at the Plow Depot on Prince Street, c.1910 (EHS 20865)



Figure 7: Three men pose for the camera in this interior view of the Plow Depot and blacksmith shop on Prince Street, c.1910 (EHS 20866)

The 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton* (the *Atlas*) included the following about Tost: "Mr. W. Tost attends to the wants of the horses and has built a very fine brick blacksmith shop and carriage shops. He has been in business in the Glen a long time, and does an extensive trade. He is also the

manufacturer and patentee of Tost's celebrated iron beam harrow, which are becoming so deservedly popular." The *Atlas* gives his birthplace as England and year of settlement as 1846.

An 1882 directory lists Tost simply as a blacksmith. The 1884 Esquesing Assessment Rolls listed William Tost as a 45-year-old blacksmith owning a one-and-a-half storey building valued at \$800. News items indicate that Tost provided services to the Township as well as to local community members.

William Tost's wife, Helen Tost (née Burwell), died on May 29, 1886, and is buried at the Glen Williams Cemetery. Their daughter, Letitia, became Mrs. Jacob Worden, daughter Minnie became Mrs. R.S. McCrea while daughter Maggie remained at home to care for her father. The 1891 Census identifies William Tost, then 60, living with Margaret and Letitia. William Tost died at age 79 on 21 January 1910.

On July 9, 1906, William Tost sold the blacksmith shop on Prince Street to shopkeeper Andrew Wheeler (second Postmaster of Glen Williams between 1887 and 1922). His executors sold the half-acre Lot 51 to Maggie Tost and Letitia Worden on March 26, 1910, for \$1. In 1915, the property was transferred to Maggie Tost's sole ownership after her sister's death.

Maggie Tost died on August 13, 1931; the *Georgetown Herald* eulogized her by writing the following: "Margaret Tost, with religion as the keynote of her life, will be best remembered for her devoted and consistent work in connection with the Methodist Church of which she was a lifelong adherent."

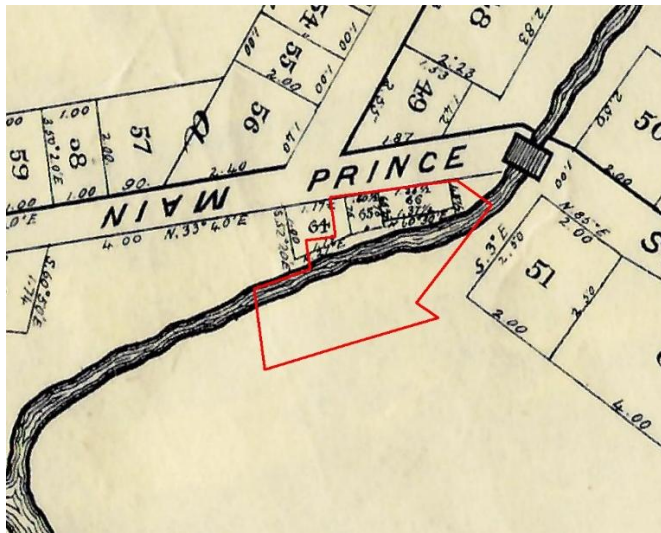


Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton*

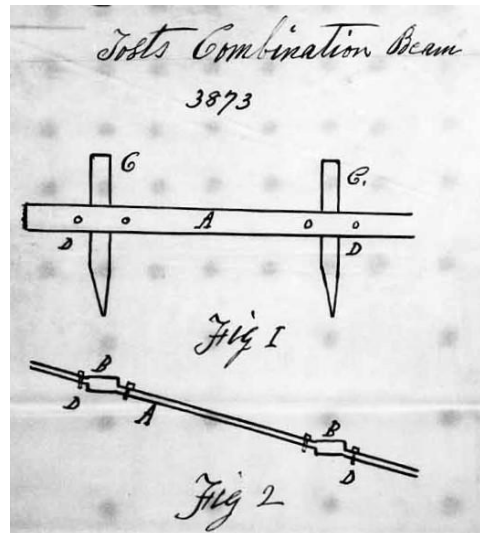


Figure 9: Illustrated Detail of Tost's Combinations Beam (Patent Number 3873, Granted 1874-09-30)



Figure 10: Man in horse and buggy outside Blacksmith Shop on Prince Street, n.d. (EHS 00961)



Figure 11: Wheeler Children on Prince Street; Blacksmith Shop on right, c.1910 (EHS 00977)

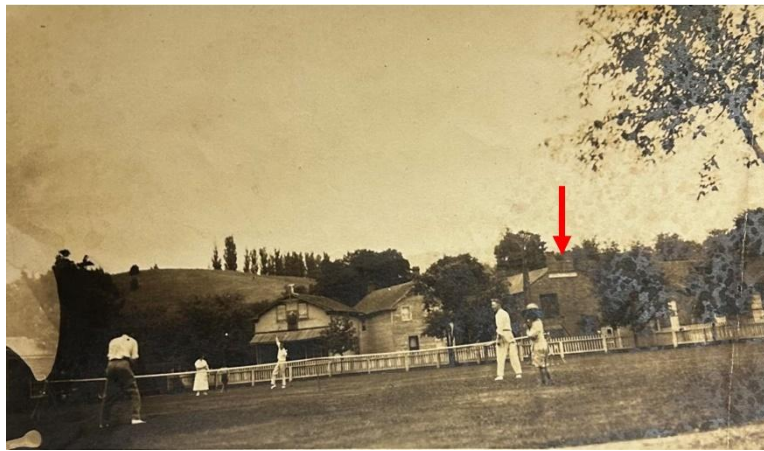


Figure 12: Tost Blacksmith Shop identified in the background of a lawn tennis foursome on the Beaumont property, c.1920 (EHS 20418)

Schenk Family

Andrew Wheeler, who had leased the Tost Blacksmith Shop to a blacksmith (and later a motor car mechanic), sold the property (3A Prince Street) on June 15, 1925, to William and Evelyn Schenk.

William Schenk (1890-1976) was born in New York, however by 1915 he was living in Glen Williams where he married wife Evelyn (née Hepburn) (1895-1977). William and Evelyn had ten children, including Marjorie, Eleanor, Kenneth, Donald, Marion, Bartha, Wiliam, Harold, Carl, and James. Schenk was identified as an Officer of the Glen Athletic Club in May 1922.

In 1922, Schenk began the Credit Valley Bottling Company in Glen Williams in the former blacksmith shop. In 1926, Schenk was appointed Postmaster following John Wheeler's resignation.

In 1925, the *Georgetown Herald* reported that Schenk was making the famous "Orange, Lemon and Lime Crush", and had purchased a new truck to deliver these drinks. In 1930, it was reported that they were manufacturing a new drink called "Orange De-Oro" that was becoming extremely popular.



Figure 13: Glen Williams Ball Club in 1914; William (Bill) Schenk identified in red (EHS 07126)

In 1931, Schenk purchased the house at 7 Prince Street (now known as Hawkins House) from Maggie Tost's estate, likely leasing out the home. In 1934, William and Evelyn built a new house on Lot 65 next to the bottling plant.



Figure 14: A young man perches on the brick veranda wall of 3 Prince Street. Notice the milk bottle bracket mounted to the brick pillar. The house was built in 1934 by William Schenk (EHS 20134).



Figure 15: A man stands in the snow in front yard of 519 Main Street, across from the Schenk house, which was built in 1934 (EHS 20207)

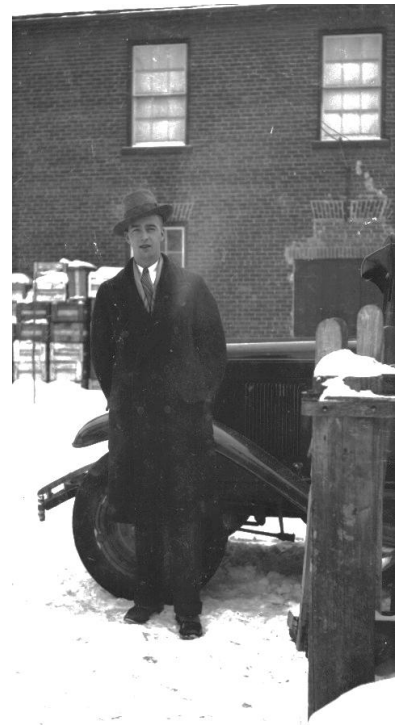


Figure 16: A man stands in the snow in front of the car parked on Prince Street, across from the bottling factory (EHS 20199)

Schenk was a well-known figure and active community member in Glen Williams and the surrounding area. By 1947, William Schenk had begun construction on a new building for the Credit Valley Bottling Works along Eighth Line. In 1944, Harold Wheeler purchased the Glen Williams general store formerly operated by Schenk. William Schenk was first elected as a local Councillor in 1952 and also served many years on the North Halton High School District Board. Schenk was also a member of the Credit Lodge A.F. & A.M., No. 219 G.R.C.



Figure 17: Harold Schenk at the Credit Valley Bottling Works on Mountainview Road, c.1961 (EHS 05089)



Figure 18: Ken Schenk at the Credit Valley Bottling Works on Mountainview Road, c.1961 (EHS 05090)

In 1952, the former blacksmith shop became home to the Glen Knitting Mills, which operated here until 1965. In 1959, the Glen Knitting Company was employing about seven people. In 1965, the firm built a new location for the Glen Knitting Mills on Armstrong Avenue in Georgetown; by 1975, the firm was producing 25 different lines of socks. The following year, the former blacksmith building was converted to apartments.



Figure 19: Job Advertisement for Glen Knitting Mills (*Georgetown Herald*, December 13, 1962, p.16)



Figure 20: Article regarding the Glen Knitting Firm (*Georgetown Herald*, September 9, 1965, p.1)

In 1960, the Credit Valley Bottling Works was given an award from The Charles E. Hires Co. for its consistent, quality production over the year. At that time, Harold was the production manager, the brothers were responsible for sales; and William Schenk Sr. was retired.

In 1965, Schenk took out a \$16,000 permit for a knitting mill on Armstrong Avenue.

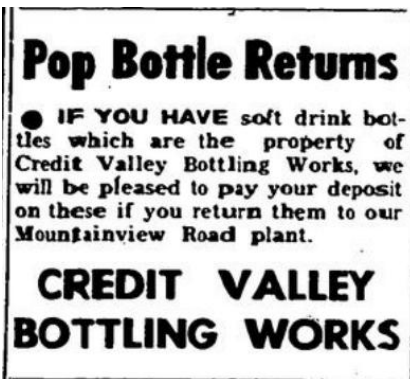


Figure 21: Notice from Credit Valley Bottling Works, c.1957 (*Georgetown Herald*, September 4, 1957, p.8).



Figure 22: Advertisement for J.C. (*Georgetown Herald*, October 15, 1958, p.15)



Figure 23: Crush Advertisement (*Georgetown Herald*, May 27, 1959, p.12)

The Schenk's owned the subject property until 1972 when it was sold to Edward Merry and Hilda May Green. The property changed hands several times until its purchase by its current owners in 2018.



Figure 24: 50th Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William Schenk Sr. (EHS 008514)



Figure 25: Former blacksmith and carriage shop of William Tost, on Prince Street, c.1995 (EHS 12525)

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is located along the southeast side of Prince Street in the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills at the corner of the intersection of Main Street and Prince Street at the core of Glen Williams. The property is an irregularly shaped parcel that extends to the rear of the adjacent properties (Glen Williams Town Hall at 1 Prince Street, Williams-Wheeler General Store at 517 Main Street) and the side lot line of the Williams Mill property at 515 Main Street. A paved driveway is located adjacent to the one-and-a-half storey former brick blacksmith shop with wooden addition. The former blacksmith shop is connected to the existing one-a-half-storey brick residential building along the southwest side. The property features significant mature trees and natural landscaping along the side and rear lot lines.



Figure 26: Looking northeast along Prince Street towards the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 27: Looking southwest along Prince Street towards the subject property (Google Streetview 2023)



Figure 28: Looking southeast towards the subject property from Prince Street, showing the existing residential building and former blacksmith shop (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 29: Partially obscured front (northwest) elevation of the residential form building at the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

c.1871 Blacksmith Shop

The former blacksmith shop is a one-and-a-half storey red brick industrial-form building with gable roof that has been adaptively reused for residential purposes. The primary elevation faces Prince Street, featuring three symmetrically placed window openings at the first and second storeys. Evidence of infilled and modified openings is extant along the elevation, in particular at the first storey of the north-

west corner and at the first storey of southwest corner. The original northeast elevation is obscured by a two-storey frame addition. The foundation is not visible beneath the brick exterior.



Figure 30: Front (northwest) elevation of the former blacksmith shop at the subject property, showing the side addition (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 31: Detail of the front (northwest) elevation of the former blacksmith shop at the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

The southwest elevation of the original blacksmith shop features a large single window opening at the upper storey with stone sill, and a smaller square window opening within an infilled portion of the elevation at the first storey. A one-storey addition connects this building with the adjacent residential building.



Figure 32: Partial southwest elevation of the former blacksmith shop at the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 33: Two-storey addition at the northeast elevation of the former blacksmith shop (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

c.1934 Residence

Adjacent to the original blacksmith shop is the one-and-a-half-storey brick residential building constructed by former owners William Schenk and Evelyn Schenk. The building features a hipped roof featuring a brick chimney and projecting eaves and is dominated by a one-storey hipped-roof porch with brick columns that has been partially enclosed with wood-frame windows. Above the front porch are symmetrically placed paired window openings above concrete sills.



Figure 34: Front (northwest) elevation of the residential form building at the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 35: Looking towards the northwest elevation of the residential form building at the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 36: Detail of the connection between the two buildings at the subject property, showing the partial northeast elevation of the residential building (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

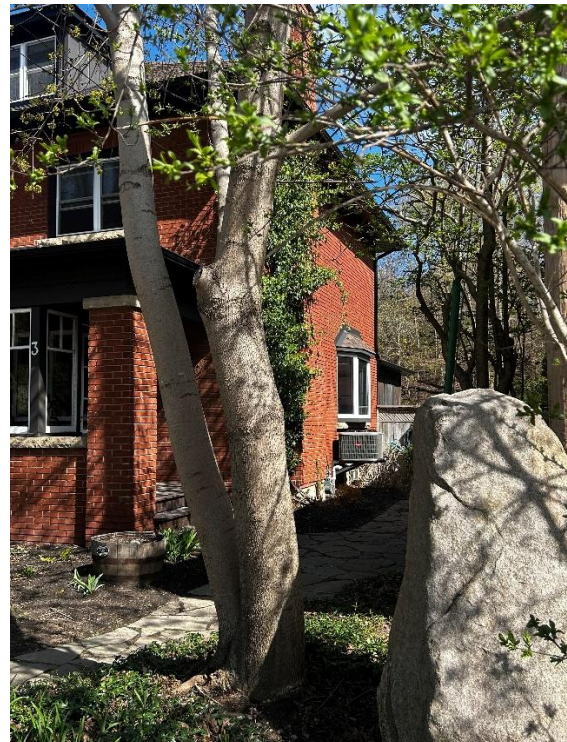


Figure 37: Partial side (southwest) elevation of the existing residential building at the subject property (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

2.3 Architectural Style & Analysis

c.1871 Blacksmith Shop



Figure 38: Blacksmith shop on Prince Street built by William Tost, c.1871 (EHS 01026)



Figure 39: The blacksmith in his apron and others stand with wagons at the Plow Depot on Prince Street, c.1910 (EHS 20865)

The c.1871 Tost Blacksmith Shop has retained much of its integrity since its construction, and despite its adaptive re-use into a bottling shop, and later residential building. Key features that are no longer extant on the building, based on photographic evidence, include the building's original roofline and parapet on either gable end, with paired chimneys. The buildings eaves appear to have been bracketed, and these are no longer extant. Evidence of some window and door openings being infilled can be found on the primary and secondary building façades. However, the new and modified openings are legible, and sensitively made; given that the building has had several uses since its construction, evidence of its original state today is remarkable. The primary elevation, facing Prince Street, reflects the symmetry of the original, although one window opening has been modified into an entrance. Despite these alterations, the building is still legible as a former mid-to-late nineteenth century vernacular industrial building within the community of Glen Williams.

c.1934 Residence

The c.1934 residential building constructed by William Shenk on the subject property can best be described as a vernacular, early-twentieth century residential building with Edwardian influences. Early photographs show the original open porch with brick columns, which is today enclosed with wooden windows. Early photographs also show a connection between the c.1934 home and the blacksmith shop, however this connection appears to have been altered with a large window opening.

In *Ontario Architecture*, Shannon Kyles notes that Edwardian Classicism style buildings typically feature modest and balanced façades, and featured details such as, but not limited to:

- Gabled or hipped roof shapes;
- Dormers included on the front and/or side elevations;

- Large painted wooden porches or large porticos;
- Multiple window openings with flatheaded openings; and,
- Smooth brick façades and tall brick chimneys.

The Schenk House within the subject property has retained its original hipped roof, central dormer on the front elevation, multiple flatheaded window openings, tall brick chimney, and smooth brick façades. The brick porch has been infilled; however, the brick columns, walls, and form of the original porch are extant.

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 3 Prince Street has physical and design value as it contains a representative example of a mid-nineteenth century vernacular industrial building, as well as an early-twentieth century example of a vernacular residential building with Edwardian influences.

The former Tost Blacksmith Shop is a one-and-a-half-storey brick building with a gable roof and symmetrically placed, flat-headed window openings with painted sills. While adapted for residential use, the building has retained its scale, form, and massing, with evidence of original openings throughout the structure.

The Schenk House, built c.1934, is a representative example of an early-twentieth-century vernacular building with Edwardian influences in the community of Glen Williams. The existing one-and-a-half storey brick building features a symmetrical façade, with one-storey porch with brick columns extending along the first storey of the front elevation, and two symmetrically placed flatheaded window openings at the upper storey with stone sills. The hipped roof features a central dormer on the front elevation, and the front and side elevations of the building feature smooth red brick in a running bond.

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	X

The property at 3 Prince Street has historical and associative value due to its associations with blacksmith and manufacturer William Tost and his family. Tost, a Town Hall Trustee, was a prominent blacksmith, edge tool and mill iron manufacturer in the community, and patented the Iron Beam Harrow of his own design.

The property is also associated with the family of William and Evelyn Schenk, who established the Credit Valley Bottling Company in Glen Williams in the former blacksmith shop. Schenk, a local business and property owner, and Postmaster in the Village following John Wheeler, also purchased the adjacent property at 7 Prince Street. Schenk was a local Councillor, long-term board member for the North Halton High School District Board, and member of the Credit Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 219 G.R.C. In 1952, Schenk's son opened the Glen Knitting Mills in the former blacksmith shop and bottling plant, operating at this location until the mid-1960s.

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	X

The property at 3 Prince Street has contextual value as the former blacksmith shop and adjacent residential building are important in defining and maintaining the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century character of the surrounding area. The property is directly adjacent to several landmark properties in the community of Glen Williams, and retains significant historical, physical, functional, and visual links to its surroundings. The Tost Blacksmith Shop with adjacent Schenk House has been identified as a landmark at the foot of Prince Street, directly adjacent to the Glen Williams Town Hall within the centre of the community.

4.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that the property at 3 Prince Street has physical and design, historical and associative, and contextual value and therefore meets Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 3 Prince Street that contribute to its physical and design value include:

- The Tost Blacksmith Shop, including:
 - o The setback, location, and orientation of the one-and-a-half storey brick industrial-form building along Prince Street in the community of Glen Williams;
 - o The scale, form, and massing of the existing building, including its side open-gable roof;
 - o The materials, including red brick exterior and stone sills throughout;
- The Schenk House, including:
 - o The setback, location, and orientation of the one-and-a-half storey brick residential building adjacent to the Tost Blacksmith Shop;
 - o The scale, form, and massing of the existing building, including its hipped roof with central dormer;
- The materials, including red brick exterior in running bond and concrete sills;

- The hipped roof porch with brick columns and walls at the first storey of the front elevation;
- The symmetrically placed, flatheaded window openings at the second storey of the front elevation; and,
- On the southwest elevation, the tall brick chimney extending above the eaves.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 3 Prince Street that contribute to its historical and associative value include:

- The legibility of the c.1871 former blacksmith shop and c.1934 vernacular residential building with Edwardian influences within the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 3 Prince Street that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the c.1871 former blacksmith shop and c.1934 vernacular residential building with Edwardian influences within the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills;
 - o For the c.1871 blacksmith shop:
 - The setback, location, and orientation of the one-and-a-half storey brick industrial-form building along Prince Street in the community of Glen Williams;
 - The scale, form, and massing of the existing building, including its side open-gable roof;
 - o For the c.1934 vernacular residential building with Edwardian influences:
 - The setback, location, and orientation of the one-and-a-half storey brick residential building adjacent to the Tost Blacksmith Shop; and,
 - The scale, form, and massing of the existing building, including its hipped roof with central dormer.

The one-storey connection between the two buildings, the interiors and rear elevation of the Tost Blacksmith Shop, and the interiors and rear/northeast elevations of the Schenk House, have not been identified as heritage attributes of the property.

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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