

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Boston Presbyterian Manse
9059 Third Line, Scotch Block, Town of Halton Hills

September 2025

Project Personnel

Report Authors

Caylee MacPherson, CAHP-Intern
Planner – Development Review & Heritage

with

Laura Loney, MPlan, MCIP, CAHP, RPP
Manager of Heritage Planning

Historical Research

Caylee MacPherson

Laura Loney

Field Review

Caylee MacPherson

Laura Loney

Report Preparation

Laura Loney

Mapping Graphics:

Rehan Waheed, MA
Planning Data Analyst

Report Reviewers:

Bronwyn Parker
Director of Planning Policy

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1.0 Property Description

9059 Third Line	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Regional Municipality of Halton
Legal Description	PT LT 6, CON 4 ESQ, PART 1, 4, 20R920; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING
Construction Date	c.1889
Original Use	Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	William Strathy & Son (Contractor); William Stewart (Architect); William Maxted (Brick layer)
Architectural Style	Victorian with Gothic Revival Influences
Additions/Alterations	N/A
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town’s Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Caylee MacPherson with Laura Loney
Report Date	September 2025

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 9059 Third Line, 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*.

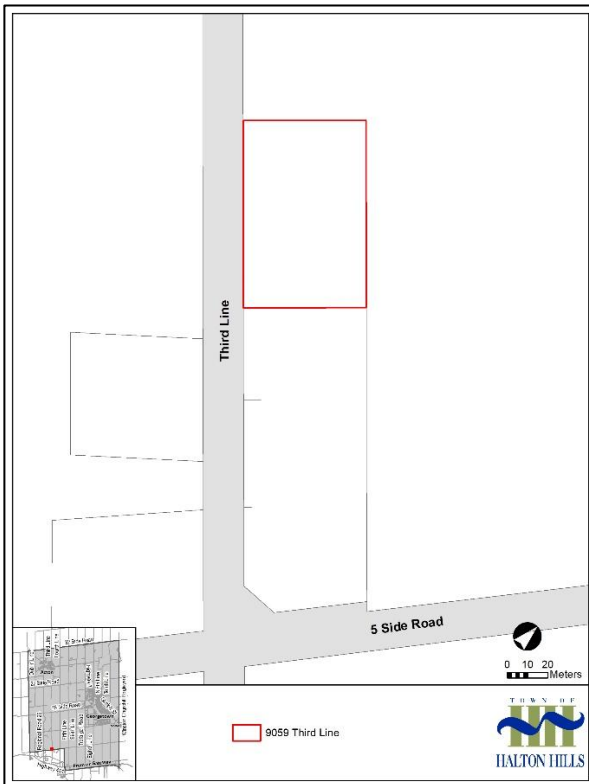


Figure 1: Location Map – 9059 Third Line

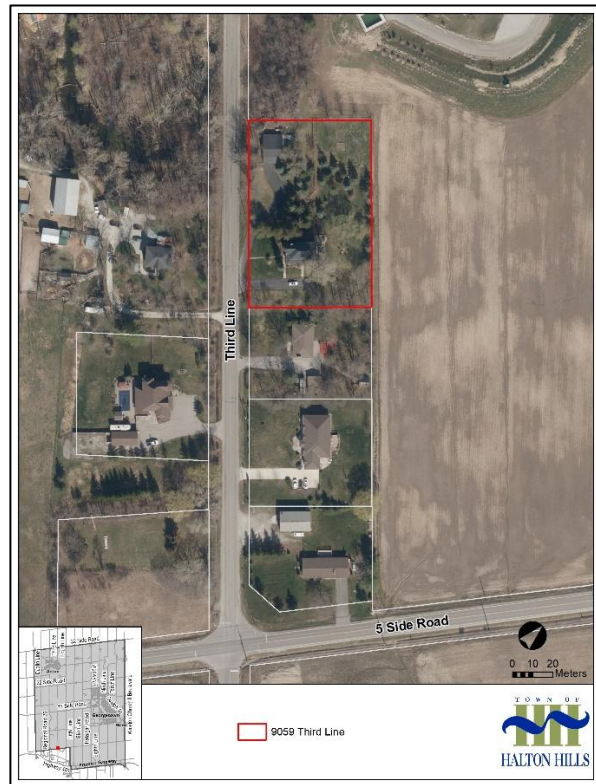


Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 9059 Third Line

2.1 Historical Background

Indigenous History

The enduring history of First Nation Peoples in Halton Hills can be traced back through time immemorial before contact with Europeans in the 1600s. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Credit River was central to Indigenous ways of life, supporting settlements, fisheries, horticulture, transportation, and trade. Iroquoian-speaking peoples, ancestors of the Wendat, occupied the Credit River Valley for hundreds of years until the mid-1600s, establishing semi-permanent villages. There are numerous archaeological sites in Halton Hills dating from this period, ranging from village sites to burial grounds, which reveal a rich cultural heritage.

The Wendat were displaced by the Haudenosaunee around 1649-50 amid the conflicts that arose between European colonial powers and their First Nation allies. The Mississaugas (part of the Anishinaabe Nation) arrived in southern Ontario in the 1690s, settling in two groups along the north shore of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The western group, occupying the area between Toronto and Lake Erie, became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Until the early 19th century, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation followed a seasonal cycle of movement and resource harvesting along the Credit River (Missinnihe, meaning “trusting creek”), and other rivers. In the winter months, extended family groups hunted in the Halton Hills area, travelling south towards the mouth of the river in the spring for the salmon run. The Mississaugas’ fisheries and traditional economies were diminished because of increased Euro-colonial settlement, leading to a state of impoverishment and dramatic population decline.

In 1818, the British Crown negotiated the purchase of 648,000 acres of land from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, including present-day Halton Hills, under the Ajetance Treaty (No. 19), named after Chief Ajetance. This left the Mississaugas with three small reserves on the Lake Ontario shoreline. The legitimacy of early land “surrenders” to the Crown is questionable when considering the Mississaugas’ traditional understanding of property ownership. Unlike the British, the Mississaugas understood land in spiritual terms, and did not share the idea that access to land and resources could be given up permanently

In 1986, the Mississaugas initiated a claim against the Government of Canada over the 1805 Toronto Purchase. On June 8, 2010, the parties involved reached a final compensatory agreement. It resulted in a cash payment of \$145 million to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.¹

Early Scottish Settlement and Boston Presbyterian Church

After the settlement of Esquesing, many Scottish migrants left Scotland and the United States for the area and were granted land in a hamlet later known as “Scotch Block”. In response to the growing Presbyterian population, a service was first held for villagers on Andrew Laidlaw’s farm in June 1820.

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.

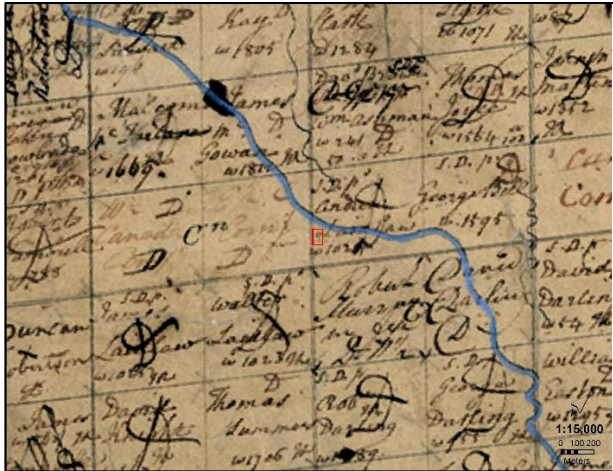


Figure 3: Subject property identified on 1819 Patent Plan



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

A parcel of land was purchased from Andrew Laidlaw in 1824, and work began in 1825 to construct a meeting house. By 1835, the place of worship was complete, and in 1844, the Church was named "Boston Presbyterian" after Thomas Boston, a theologian from Ettrick, Scotland. In 1866, the congregation decided to build a new church, which was completed by 1870. To date, the Boston Presbyterian congregation is still active, and the Church has continued to serve the community for more than 200 years.

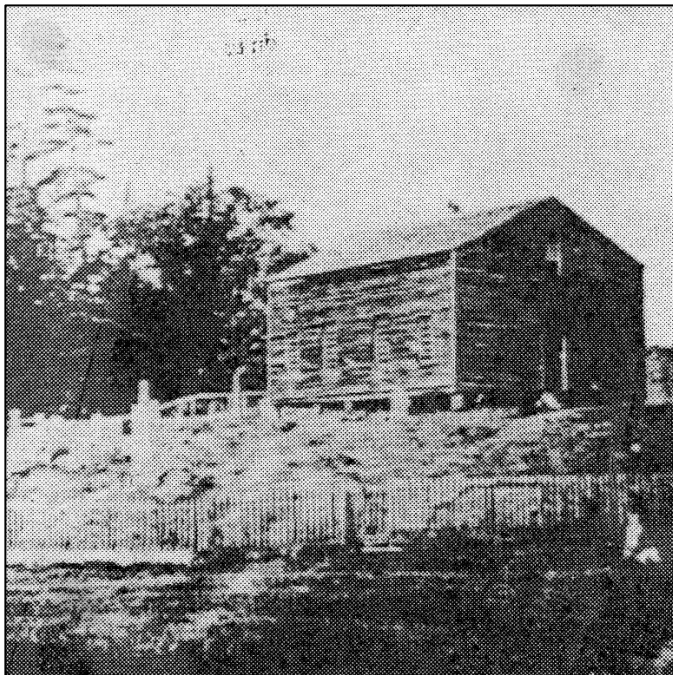


Figure 5: Original frame Presbyterian Church, c.1867 (EHS 12707)

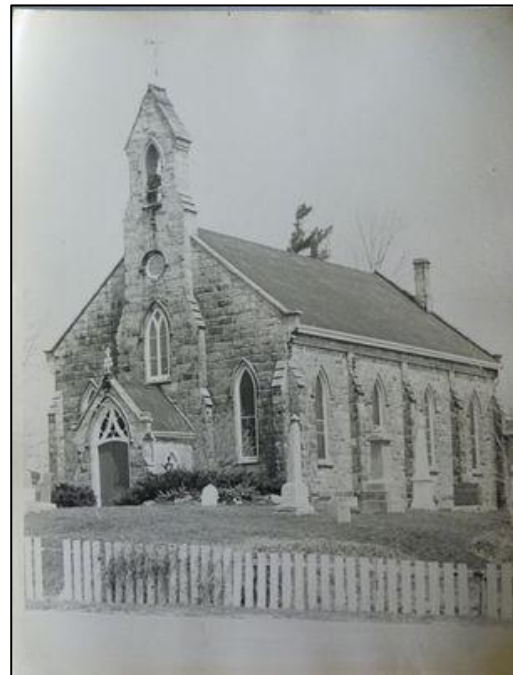


Figure 6: Boston Presbyterian Church, c.1971 (EHS 20745)

Early European Settlement of 9059 Third Line

In 1823, the Crown granted Lot 6, Concession 4 to George Bell. By 1826, Bell sold the property to Robert Murray. The property was owned by Robert Murray until 1889, when it was purchased by Trustees of the nearby Boston Presbyterian Church; John Turner, James Holmes, and John Stewart for \$1.

At the annual congregational meeting on January 5, 1888, the congregation considered the building of a manse for the home of the next pastor. After approving the construction of a new manse, a building committee was appointed on September 21, 1888, consisting of 15 members of the Church, including Archibald McGibbon, Robert Stewart, Thomas Aitken, Alexander Robertson, Abram Stark, John Sproat, James Murray, John. T. Elliot, Peter Campbell, William Hampshire, James Hume, John Stewart, John Michie, and John Hardy. During the same year, the congregation formed a union with the neighbouring United Presbyterian Church.

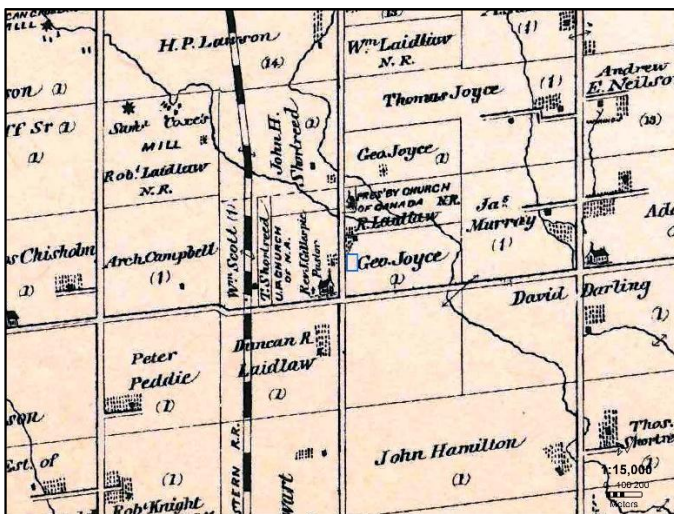


Figure 7: Subject property identified on the 1877 *Illustrated Atlas of the County of Halton*



Figure 8: A group of women standing in front of the Boston Presbyterian Manse, n.d. (Halton's Scotch Block)

On June 20, 1889, William Strathy & Sons from Aberfoyle were retained as contractors to build the extant dwelling. The architect chosen was Mr. William Stewart of Hamilton, who designed several buildings throughout Kentucky, Ohio, Southwestern Ontario, and Toronto. The bricklayer hired was William Maxted of Norval. The manse was constructed down the road from the Boston Presbyterian Church and was directly across from the manse for the United Presbyterian Church (9054 Third Line). The United Church was formerly located down the road at the eastern corner of Third Line and 5 Side Road but was demolished after its closure in 1935.

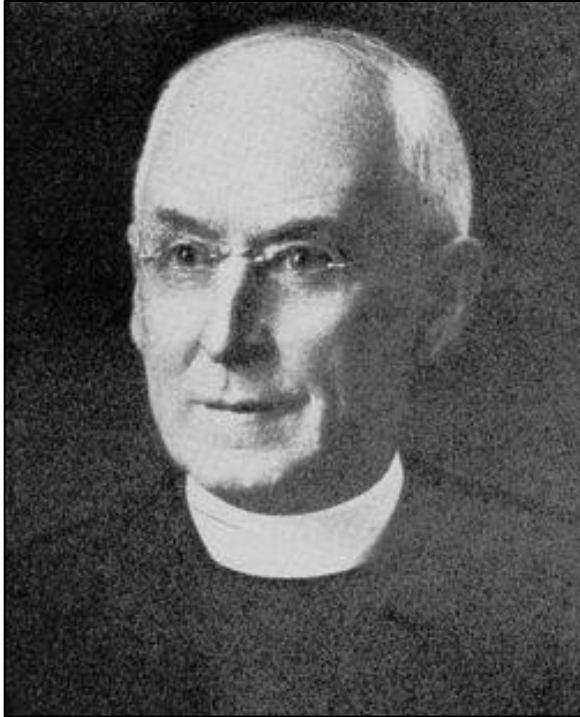


Figure 9: Photograph of Rev. James William Henry Milne, n.d. (Find a Grave Database)



Figure 10: Photograph of Mrs. Alice Milne, n.d. (Find a Grave Database)

The first family to live in the manse was Rev. James William Hendry Milne (1861-1940) and his wife Alice (1863-1952). Before moving to Scotch Block, Rev. Milne had been studying theology at Queen's University in Kingston. Immediately after completing the course, he received a unanimous call to become the pastor of the Boston Church and subsequently moved to the Scotch Block in August 1888.

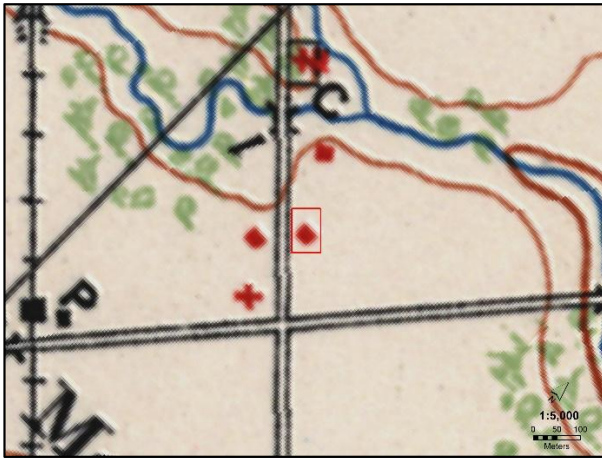


Figure 11: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Survey

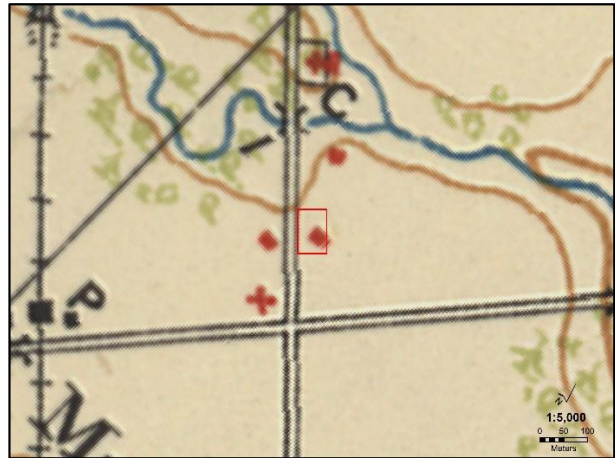


Figure 12: Subject property identified on the 1915 National Topographic Survey

Milne later left the congregation in March 1898 after he received a call to Glebe Presbyterian Church in Ottawa. During his time in Ottawa, he was the President of the Ottawa Ladies' College and later received the honorary degree of D.D. in 1914 from Queen's University.

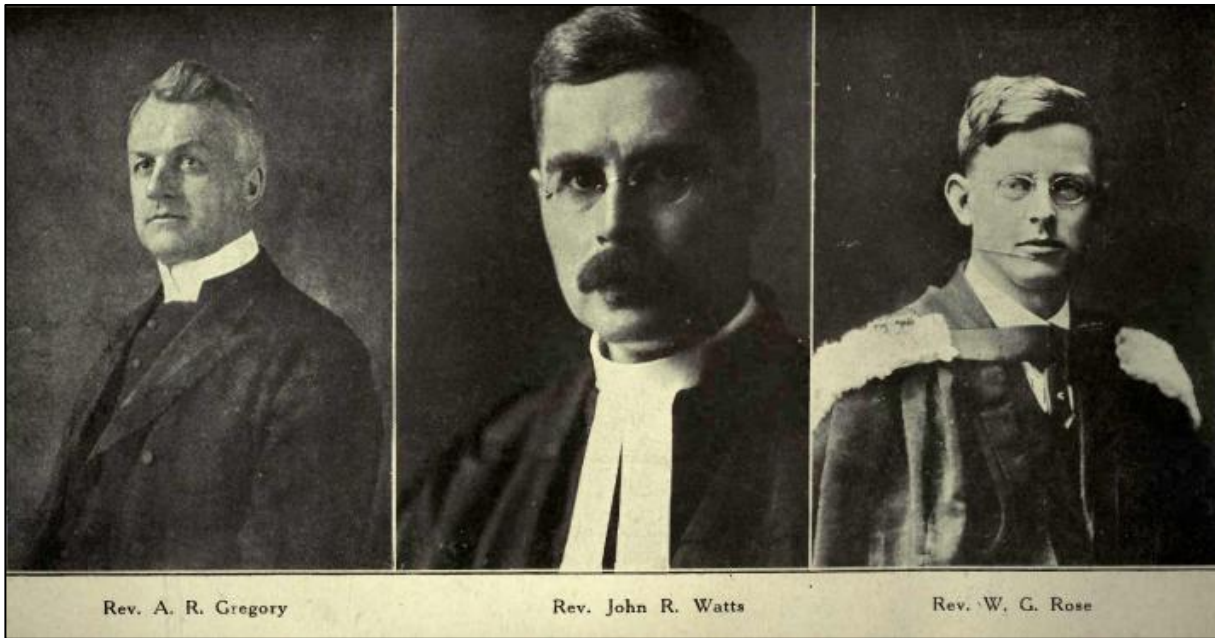


Figure 13: Photographs of Rev. Gregory, Rev. Watts, and Rev. Rose, n.d. (Records and Memories of Boston Church)

The next pastor to lead the Church was Rev. Arthur Ronald Gregory (1863-1911). Gregory, a graduate from both the University of Toronto and Knox College, joined the congregation in September 1898. Bible study was led by Gregory in the extant manse every Monday evening, and he also organized a Young People's Society and conducted weekly prayer meetings on the "mountain" for people who lived remotely. Gregory's wife Mary (née Paterson) (1855-1940) had previously worked as the Principal of the Young Ladies' College in Brantford, however she resigned to get married. During her time in the Church, she led the choir, a large Bible class, and the Women's Missionary Society. Mary and Arthur Gregory lived in the manse with Mary's son, Allison Rolls (1880-1947). In 1904, Gregory resigned from the Church to move back to Toronto, where he took a post-graduate course at Knox College. In later years, both Mary and Arthur became the Principals of Westminster Ladies' College in Toronto.

A few months after Rev. Gregory resigned from his position, Rev. John Watts (1876-1948) became the pastor for Boston Presbyterian Church, moving into the manse with his wife Isabel (née Best) (1874-1960). John Watts attended Shelburne Continuation School and Orangeville Highschool, then Queen's University in 1898 studying Arts and Theology. Due to his poor health, in 1914 Watts decided to resign from his position after serving the Church for nearly 10 years.

On January 29, 1914, a call was given to Rev. William Rose by the Boston Presbyterian Church congregation. Before attending the University of Toronto and Knox College, Rose attended the High and Model Schools of Elora, was employed as a schoolteacher for several years, and worked in a mission field in the Presbytery of Algoma for six months before attending college. After graduating from college, he was an assistant pastor for Rev. McKerroll of Victoria Church in Toronto.

On February 10, 1914, Rose was inducted as minister for the Boston Church congregation and moved into the manse. After 5 years, Rose left the congregation in 1919, and Rev. Robert McDerment was inducted as the pastor on March 18, 1919.



Figure 14: Photograph of Rev. McDermott, n.d. (Records and Memories of Boston Church)



Figure 15: Subject property identified on the 1922 National Topographic Survey

The manse served as the home for the various pastors that oversaw the Boston Presbyterian Church congregation up until 1957, when the property was sold to Robert Irving for \$7,000. The congregation voted to sell the property as a new manse had been purchased in Milton between both the Boston and Omagh Presbyterian congregations. In 1968, Irving sold the property to Elmer French. The property was sold to Bob Thompson in 1990 and was then purchased by the current owners in 1992.

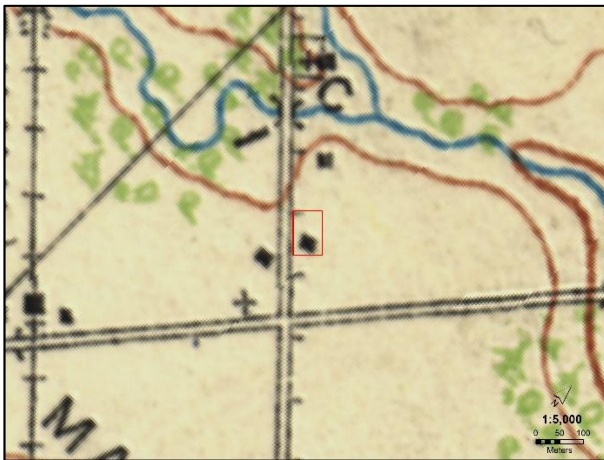


Figure 16: Subject property identified on the 1929 National Topographic Survey

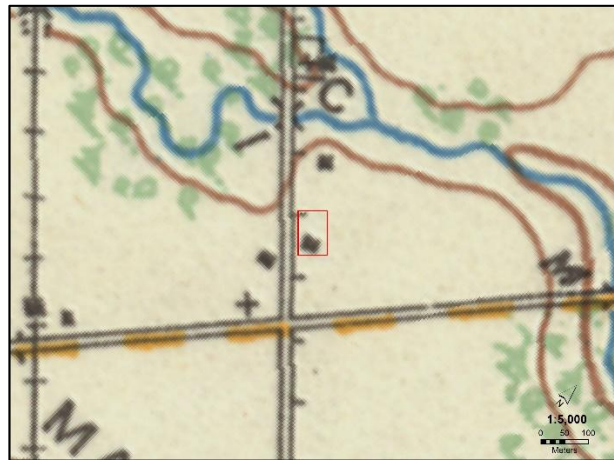


Figure 17: Subject property identified on the 1938 National Topographic Survey



Figure 18: Subject property identified on 1954 aerial photography



Figure 19: Subject property identified on 1999 aerial photography



Figure 20: Subject property identified on 2007 aerial photography

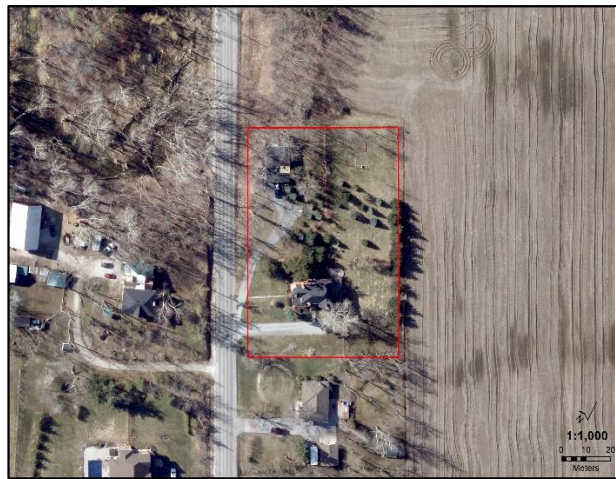


Figure 21: Subject property identified on 2015 aerial photography

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is located on the northeast side of Third Line in the community of Scotch Block within the Town of Halton Hills. The property is a rectangular-shaped lot and features a two-storey brick building with projecting plinth foundation, tall brick chimneys, decorative brick banding beneath the eaves, and a covered front porch. The property can be accessed via a paved driveway from Third Line.

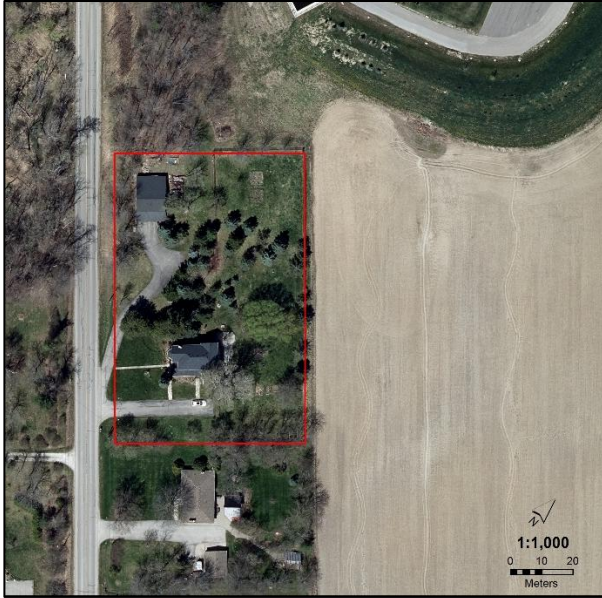


Figure 22: Subject property identified on 2025 aerial photography



Figure 23: Front elevation of the subject dwelling (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The front elevation features a two-storey projecting bay with three flatheaded window openings at the first and second storeys, each featuring a stone sill string course, jack arches, and hood moulds. Between each storey is a thin decorative projecting brick band. The remaining front elevation containing the projecting bay features a gable roof with decorative brick corbels on either end. The front elevation also features a one-storey L-shaped covered porch with a hipped roof, decorative frieze, decorative brackets, plain columns, and wooden railings. Two flatheaded entryways are featured beneath the covered porch, with one featuring a transom. Above the covered porch is a single flatheaded window opening with a stone sill, jack arch, and hood mould.



Figure 24: Front (southwest) elevation of the subject dwelling showcasing the decorative brickwork and wooden porch (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 25: Front porch of the subject dwelling with decorative wooden frieze and brackets (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Towards the side (southeast) elevation is the continuation of the covered porch. Directly above the front porch are two flatheaded window openings with stone sills, jack arches, and hood moulds. The remaining elevation features a projecting façade with a gable roof, brick corbelling, and two flatheaded window openings with stone sills, jack arches, and hood moulds at the first and second storeys. Directly in the centre of the gable peak is a brick chimney.



Figure 26: Partial side (southeast) elevation of the subject dwelling (Google Streetview 2022)



Figure 27: Partial side (northwest) elevation of the subject dwelling (Google Streetview 2022)

On the other side (northwest) elevation is a bay projecting window at the first storey with two flatheaded window openings with stone sills, jack arches, and hood moulds. Two similar window openings can be observed at the second storey above the bay window, with a tall chimney above the roofline. The remaining side elevation features a projecting façade with a gable roof, brick corbelling, and two flatheaded window openings with stone sills, jack arches, and hood moulds at the first and second storeys.



Figure 28: View of the one-storey accessory building on the subject property from Third Line (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 29: View of the one-storey accessory building on the subject property from Third Line (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

Towards the northwest corner of the property is a one-storey accessory building, which features two large entryways and a single flatheaded entryway.

2.3 Architectural Style & Comparative Analysis

During the Victorian era, many architectural styles were commonly used, such as the Italianate, Gothic Revival, Romanesque, Queen Anne, Second Empire, and Art and Crafts styles. Typically, Victorian-era buildings were constructed using brick, stone, or timber. Towards the final decades of the 19th century, the Queen Anne Revival style became a popular architectural style, primarily used by the wealthy upper middle classes to mark their new lives and successes in Canada. Shannon Kyles notes in *Ontario Architecture* that the inspiration of Queen Anne Revival architecture was from medieval principles of neighbourhoods and towns that focused on craftsmanship and community.

The Queen Anne Revival style featured a variety of decorative elements and forms, with complex and variable aesthetics that served to express the success of those who built the homes, often featuring characteristics such as:

- Asymmetrical facades
- Chimney stacks
- Front verandahs with decorative elements
- Steeply pitched and irregular rooflines
- Front-facing gables
- Overhanging eaves
- Towers with turrets in the corners
- Two-storey bays
- Unusual windows
- Detailed textures

The existing building has retained many of its original features since its construction in 1889 and can be described as a representative example of a Victorian-era residential building with Queen Anne Revival influences. The dwelling features many elements typical of the Queen Anne Revival style, including the steeply pitched roof, asymmetrical façade, two-storey bay, front facing gable peak, stacked brick chimneys, decorative brick banding, as well as the verandah with wooden radiating spindles, decorative brackets, architrave, and frieze. The building also features elements that can be generally described as typical of Victorian-era residential architecture and applied to various styles, including the projecting bays, flatheaded window openings with jack arches, projecting plinth foundation, brick corbelling, limestone sills and stringcourse, and tall stacked brick chimneys.

Throughout the Town of Halton Hills, there are very few Victorian-era Queen Anne Revival buildings identified on the Town's Heritage Register, including only 38 Willow Street North (Figure 30) and 39 Willow Street North (Figure 31).



Figure 30: Queen Anne Revival building at 38 Willow Street North, Acton (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 31: Queen Anne Revival building at 39 Willow Street, Acton (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

Both examples of Queen Anne Revival residential buildings feature a similar layout to the Boston Presbyterian Manse, including the wooden verandahs, front facing gables, brick construction, and asymmetrical layout. Additionally, the Knox Presbyterian Manse at 39 Willow Street features a similar two-storey bay, decorative brick banding at the first and second storey, flatheaded window openings with jack arches, and a wraparound verandah. However, the Boston Presbyterian Manse remains one of the only examples of a Victorian-era Queen Anne Revival style building in the community of Scotch Block.

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 Boston Presbyterian Manse at 9059 Third Line is a unique, rare, and representative example of a late-nineteenth-century Victorian-era dwelling with Queen Anne Revival influences within the community of Scotch Block in the Town of Halton Hills. The c.1889 two-storey red-brick dwelling features design elements typical of the Queen Anne Revival style, including the steeply pitched roof, asymmetrical façade, two-storey bay, front facing gable peak, stacked brick chimneys, decorative brick banding, as well as the verandah with wooden radiating spindles, decorative brackets, architrave, and frieze.

The building also features elements that are common amongst Victorian-era buildings and are extant within various styles of the period, including the flatheaded window openings with jack arches, projecting plinth foundation, brick corbelling, limestone sills and stringcourse, and tall stacked brick chimneys. The decorative brick work, such as the brick corbels and banding, display a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit.

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 Boston Presbyterian Manse at 9059 Third Line is associated with the nearby Boston Presbyterian Church, serving as a manse for ministers and their family for nearly 70 years. The Boston Presbyterian congregation was formed in 1820 and was created due to the large presence of Scottish immigrants in the area. At the annual congregational meeting on January 5, 1888, the congregation considered the building of a manse for the home of the next pastor. After approving the construction of a new manse, a building committee was appointed on September 21, 1888, and consisted of 15 members of the Church, including Archibald McGibbon, Robert Stewart, Thomas Aitken, Alexander Robertson, Abram Stark, John Sproat, James Murray, John T. Elliot, Peter Campbell, William Hampshire, James Hume, John Stewart, John Michie, and John Hardy. Throughout the ownership of the Boston Church, the manse hosted several ministers and their families up until 1957, including Rev. James Milne, Rev. Gregory, Rev. Watts, Rev. Rose, and Rev. McDermott.

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 Boston Presbyterian Manse at 9059 Third Line has contextual value as it is important in defining, maintaining, and supporting the rural character of Scotch Block. The former manse is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings, and accommodated several ministers from the nearby Boston Presbyterian Church. Due to the setback of the house, and the vegetation partially obscuring the front and side elevations, 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 9059 Third 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 9059 Third Line are identified as follows:

- The scale, form, and massing of the two-storey c.1889 Victorian-era Queen Anne Revival residential building with hipped-gable roof, projecting brick plinth foundation, and brick banding;
- The materials, including brick, stone, and wood;
- The front (southwest) elevation, including:
 - Two storey projecting bay, including:
 - Brick banding at the first and second storey;
 - Flatheaded window openings at the first and second storey with jack arches, hood moulds, and projecting limestone stringcourse sills; and,
 - Hipped roof;
 - Front gable peak with brick corbelling and banding directly beneath the roofline;
 - Flatheaded window opening with jack arch, hood mould, and stone sill;
 - L-shaped porch with decorative frieze and brackets;
 - Two flatheaded entryways;
- The side (southeast and northwest) elevations, including:
 - Flatheaded window openings, jack arches, hood moulds, and stone sills;
 - Tall brick chimneys; and,
 - Brick corbelling.

The identified heritage attribute of the property at 9059 Third Line that contributes to its historical and associative value includes:

- The legibility of the Victorian-era Queen Anne Revival residential building along Third Line within the community of Scotch Block in the Town of Halton Hills.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 9059 Third Line that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the Victorian-era Queen Anne Revival residential building along Third Line within the community of Scotch Block in the Town of Halton Hills;

- The setback, location, and orientation of the c.1889 Boston Presbyterian Manse on the northeast side of Third Line in the community of Scotch Block; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the two-storey Victorian-era Queen Anne Revival residential building.

The interiors, rear elevation, and rear additions have not been identified as heritage attributes of the subject property 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

Primary Sources

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