

Research and Evaluation Report



(Town of Halton Hills 2026)

Moore-Creelman House

44 Main Street North, Georgetown, Town of Halton Hills

March 2026

Project Personnel

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1.0 Property Description

44 Main Street North	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Halton Region
Legal Description	PT LT 19, CON 8 ESQ, PART 1, 2, 20R5276; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING; PIN: 250350255
Construction Date	c.1888
Original Use	Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	Unknown
Architectural Style	Italianate
Additions/Alterations	Pre-1960s Rear addition
Heritage Status	Listed on the Town’s Heritage Register
Recorder(s)	Laura Loney
Report Date	March 2026

2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of the property at 44 Main Street North in 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*.

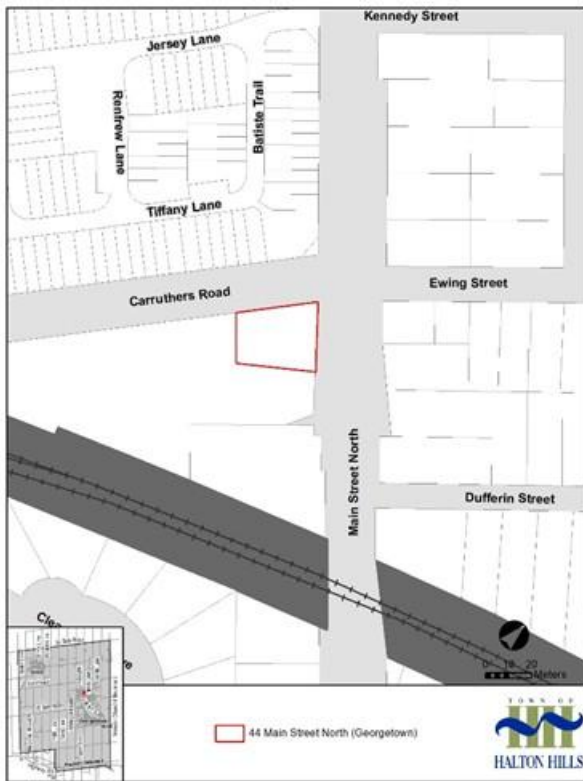


Figure 1: Location Map – 44 Main Street North

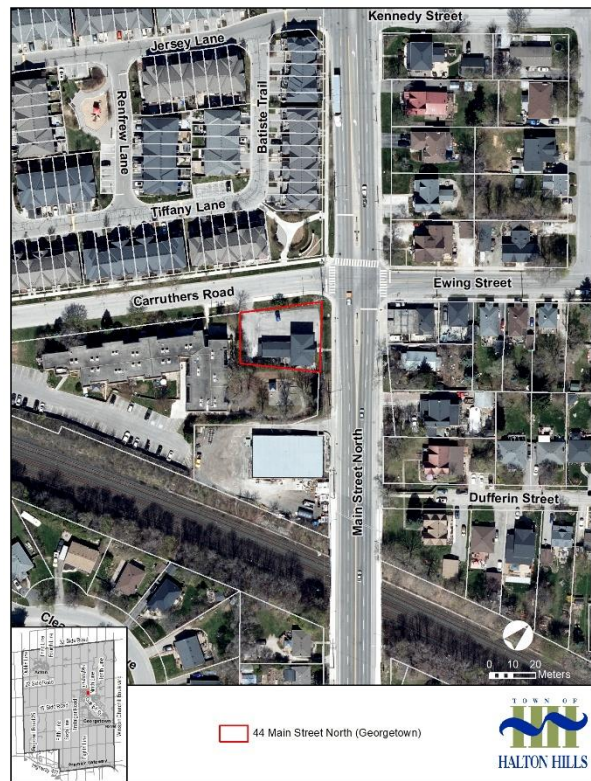


Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 44 Main Street North

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

European Settlement History

The subject property is located within Concession 8, Lot 19 within the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills. The Crown Patent was granted to Abraham Nelles in 1820, following which it was transferred to Charles Kennedy, who was hired by Nelles to survey land in the north part of Esquesing Township and received land as payment. The subject property was sold by Charles Kennedy to his brother John Kennedy in 1845. In 1886, the subject property was sold from John Kennedy’s estate to

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.

William Patterson Moore (1852-1933), who likely constructed the residence in 1888, the same year as he constructed the Moore Block along Main Street South in downtown Georgetown. Moore was a hardware merchant, local politician on Town Council, Mason, and member of the military; when he died, Moore held the position of Lieutenant Colonel. The 1891 Census identifies the then single Moore living with his parents, sister, and brother in a two-storey brick home with 11 rooms in Georgetown. Several years later, the year after he retired from business in town, Moore sold the property in 1904 to Richard Creelman for \$3000.



Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton, Ontario



Figure 4: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Map

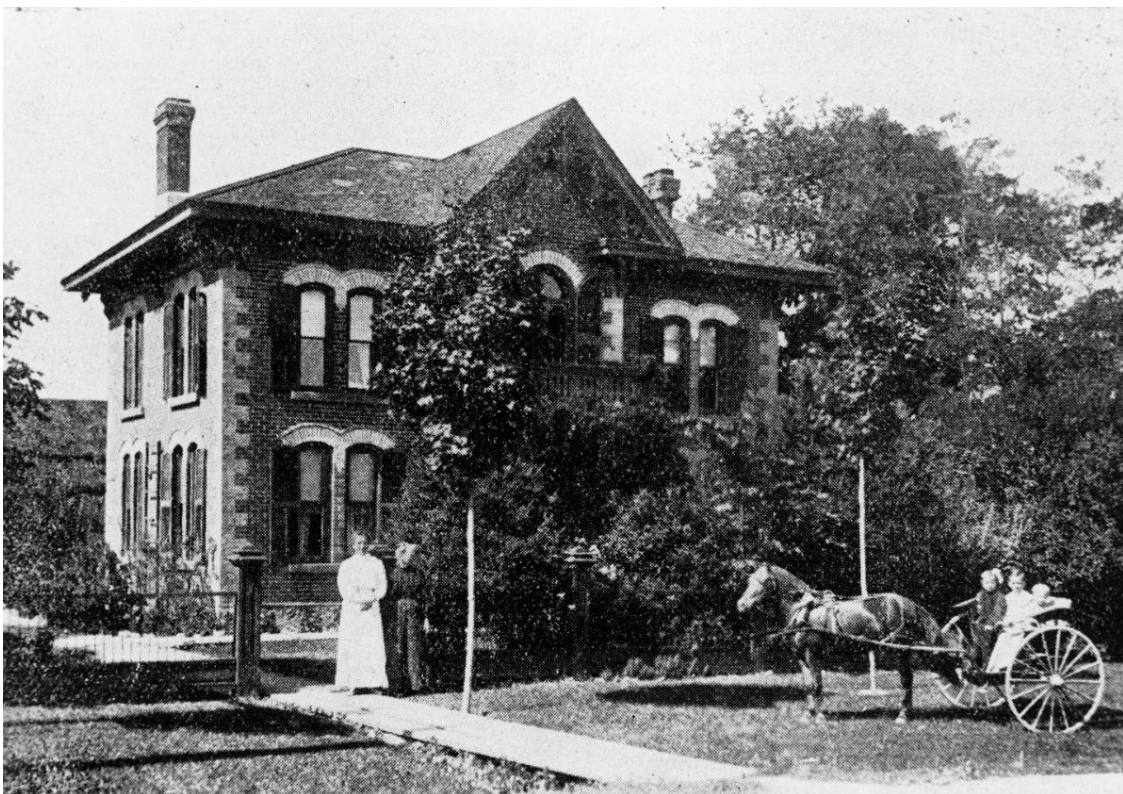


Figure 5: Moore-Creelman House, c.1913 (EHS 00108)



Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1918 National Topographic Map

Creelman Family and Creelman Brothers

Richard Creelman (1851-1932) was born in Georgetown and spent most of his life in the community, following his early education at Rockwood Academy. Richard and his brother Robertson Creelman began their business careers by operating a bookstore and selling sewing machines, typewriters, and pianos. The Creelman Brothers Typewriter Company would later be absorbed by the United Typewriter Company.

In 1876, Creelman Brothers began manufacturing knitting machines which would bring them their most success; their knitting machine manufacturing company would be the first of its kind in Canada. In 1881, they built a three-storey brick factory building on the site of a former sawmill owned by Elijah Travis. However, in 1890, Robertson Creelman left the business and set up a stationary business in Collingwood.



Figure 7: Richard Irving Creelman, c. 1893 (EHS 00897)



Figure 8: Georgetown Lawn Bowling Club, c.1907; R.J. Creelman identified in the back row (EHS 00117)



Figure 9: Creelman Factory Building along Main Street, Georgetown, c.1900 (EHS 26085)



Figure 10: Workers on the steps of the Creelman Factory Building, c.1910 (EHS 20760)

The 1891 Census identified that the then-40-year-old Creelman was single and had six employees, living with Lewis and Annie Bennett at the Bennett House Hotel. In September 1897, Creelman married Lydia A. Lochhead (1867-1933), and had a son, Clifford, and daughter, Alice; the 1901 Census shows Richard and Lydia living in the hotel with their son Clifford and domestic help Mary Young. The 1911 and 1921 Censuses identify Creelman and his family living on Main Street in Georgetown. The Creelman family were long members of the Presbyterian and later United Church community in Georgetown.

Creelman was a highly successful businessman in Town and beyond; in 1893 the *Toronto Daily Mail* profiled Creelman as part of a feature on Georgetown. Along with his role with the Creelman Brothers, Creelman also worked as Secretary of the Georgetown Floral Company and the Credit Valley Brick Company, served as director of the Sovereign Life Insurance Company, and as president of the Canada Needle Works following his purchase of the company in 1922.

In 1923, the firm's name was changed to Creelman Limited. During the 1920s the portion of the company that sold typewriters was sold, and the company was closed as of October 1930.

Following a decline in his health, Richard Creelman died in 1932, and the funeral was held at his home.

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Figure 11: Notice in the *Georgetown Herald*, c.1926 (October 6, 1926, p. 3)



Figure 12: Santa Clause Parade on Main Street in Georgetown, c.1955; Creelman Factory Building identified in the background (EHS 12734)



Figure 13: Creelman Factory Building identified along Main Street in Georgetown, c.1966 (EHS 17038)

A few years prior to his death, the subject property had been transferred from Richard Creelman to Lydia Creelman, who remained there until her death in 1933, following which it was owned by their

daughter, Alice Creelman (1903-1994), until 1940. In January 1940, the property was transferred from Alice Creelman to Ruth Evans.

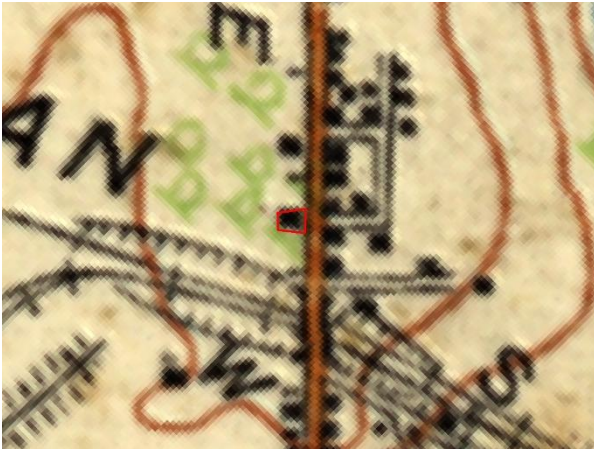


Figure 14: Subject property identified on the 1929 *National Topographic Map*

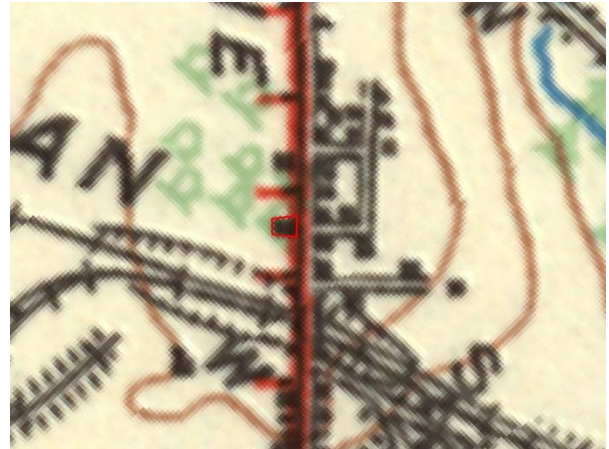


Figure 15: Subject property identified on the 1938 *National Topographic Map*



Figure 16: Painting of Creelman brick house on Main Street North, c.1940 (EHS 18517)

Ruth Evans

Ruth Evans (1909-1985) was born in Halton, however lived for a time with her family in Manitoba. By 1921 the family were living on Market Street in Georgetown. In 1935, Evans was living in Toronto and occupied as a stenographer; however, following the death of her brother (1944) and mother (1946) was again living in Halton by 1949 and working as a clerk. Evans lived in Georgetown until her death in 1985.

Brown Family

In 1948 the property was sold by Ruth Evans to Norman H. Brown (1893-1964). Brown held several roles within the community, including operating a bakery on Main Street in Georgetown, serving as Town Councillor and Reeve, and working as a Provincial Paper employee, realtor, and taxi driver. Brown's wife,

Jean Brown (née Ross) (1892-1961), managed the bakery between 1921 and 1944, and was a member of St. John's United Church and the Verdun Rebekah Lodge.

In 1956, rooms for rent were advertised within the home in the *Georgetown Herald* during the Brown's ownership. In 1957, Brown advertised in the *Georgetown Herald* a private sale of several items as he was moving to a smaller home. The same year, Brown sold to John Gibson Wright and E. Wright, who opened the Heather Nursing Home within the existing building.

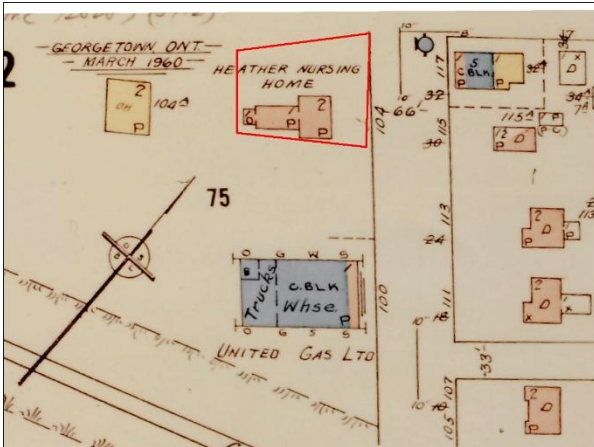


Figure 17: Subject property identified on the 1960 Fire Insurance Plan of Georgetown



Figure 18: Subject property identified in 1960 aerial photography

Nursing Home Operations

In 1961, the property was sold to Foxstone Investments Ltd. Toronto which operated several nursing homes in several communities., and the Wright family moved to Arizona. The property appears to have been operated as a nursing or rest home under various names as identified in local news, including "Heather Nursing Home" (1961), "The Georgetown Convalescent and Nursing Home" (1961 and 1963), "Georgetown Nursing Home" (1968), and "Georgetown Rest Home" (1970).

In 1963 the property was transferred to Grenville Austin who owned it until it was sold to Malcolm Swim in 1966.



Figure 19: Subject property identified in 1965 aerial photography

Malcolm Swim owned the property under companies Swims Laboratories of Canada and M. Swim's Fisheries of Canada Limited until sold to Douglas Wilfred Sitchfield. In 1970, a notice in the *Georgetown Herald* indicated that the entire home was available for rent. In 1973, a three-bedroom apartment was advertised for rent at the subject property in the *Georgetown Herald*.

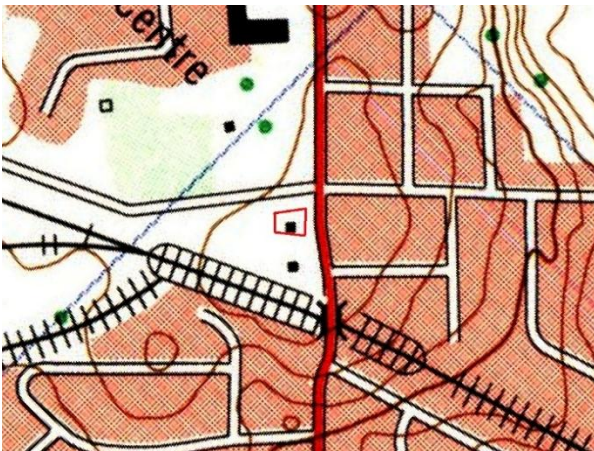


Figure 20: Subject property identified on the 1974 *National Topographic Map*



Figure 21: Subject property identified in 1985 aerial photography



Figure 22: Moore-Creelman House, c.1995 (EHS 13164)



Figure 23: Moore-Creelman House, c.1995 (EHS 18521)



Figure 24: Subject property identified in 1999 aerial photography



Figure 25: Subject property identified in 2007 aerial photography



Figure 26: Subject property identified in 2015 aerial photography

The subject property was purchased by Euteneier Industries following a foreclosure in 1979 and then purchased by its current owners in 2019.



Figure 27: Moore-Creelman House, c.2016 (EHS 23169)



Figure 28: Detail of the front facade of Moore-Creelman House, c.2016 (EHS 23169)

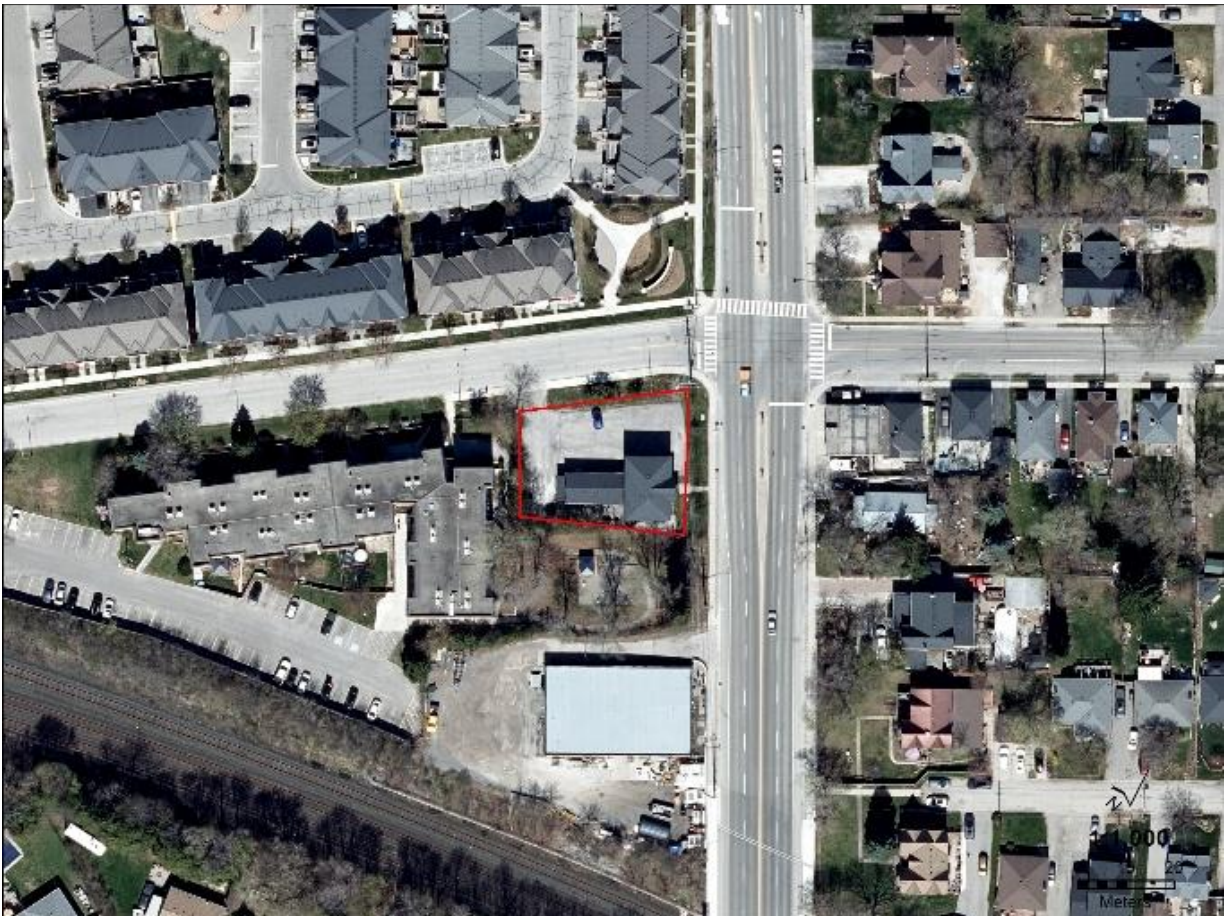


Figure 29: Subject property identified in 2021 aerial photography

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

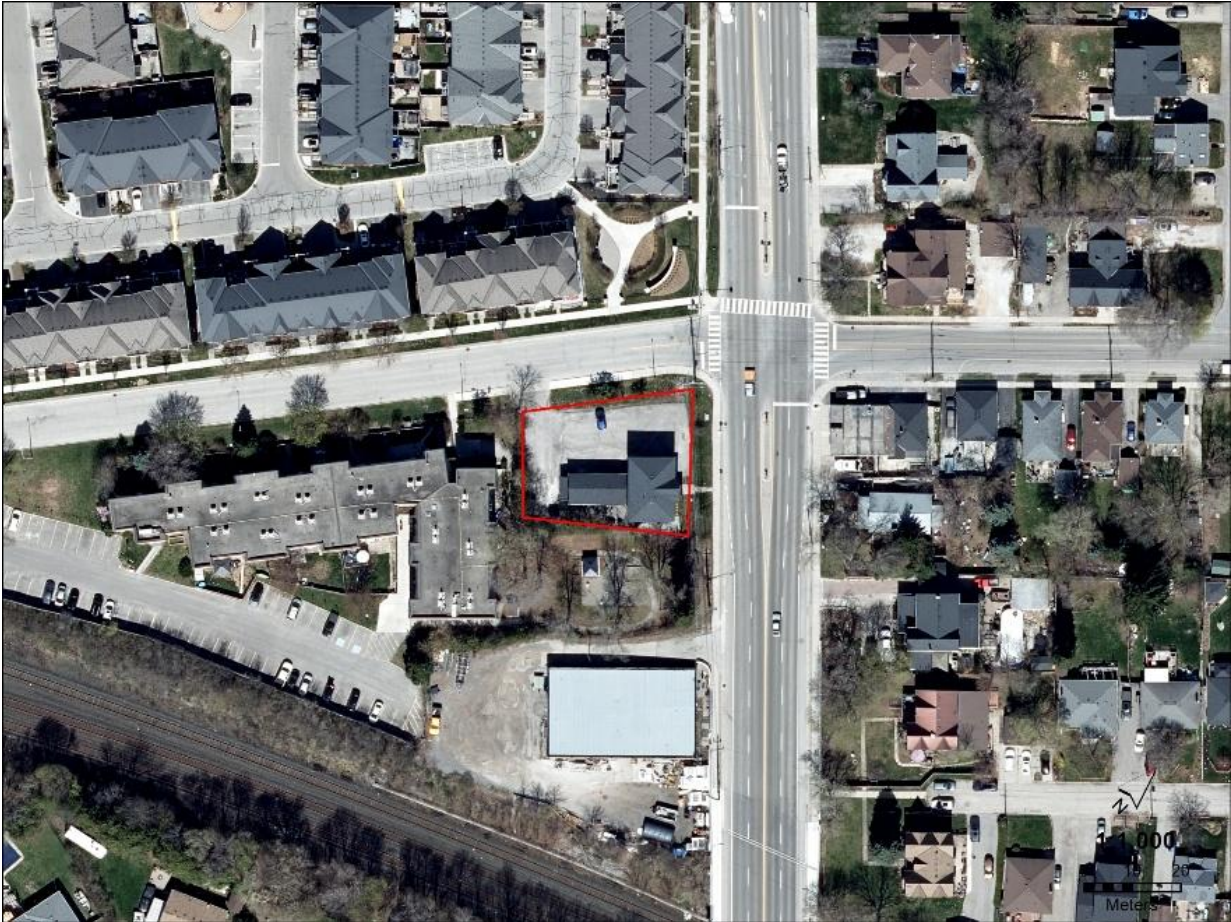


Figure 30: Subject property identified in 2025 aerial photography

The subject property is an irregularly shaped parcel located within the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills along the southwest side of Main Street North and along the southeast side of Carruthers Road. The property contains a two-storey brick residential structure with hipped roof featuring a central gable on the front elevation, with one-storey brick addition to the rear. A paved parking area is extant surrounding the existing building and trees line the side and rear lot lines.

A low-rise residential complex is located to the southwest of the existing property, while contemporary townhouses extend along the opposite side of Carruthers Road. A one-storey commercial building is located opposite the subject property at the southeast corner of Main Street North and Ewing Street, while another residential heritage property is located kitty-corner to the subject property at 49-51 Main Street North.



Figure 31: Looking southeast towards the subject property along Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)



Figure 32: Looking northwest towards the subject property along Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)

The front (northeast) elevation of the existing building features a three-bay, symmetrical layout, with the central bay projecting slightly from the rest of the elevation featuring buff brick quoining within the red brick facade. The central entrance features a flatheaded opening with sidelights and transom above, beneath a shallow hipped roof porch with simple squared columns. Paired segmentally arched window openings featuring buff brick hood moulds and a shared stone sill are extant on either side of the central entrance at the first storey, and buff brick quoining extends from the first storey to the eaves at each corner of the front elevation. The cut stone foundation is visible at grade.

At the second storey of the front (northeast) elevation, each side bay features identical paired window openings as the first storey. Within the second storey of the central bay is a round-arched door opening with buff brick hood mould above, extended into a door opening. Early photos of the building show a covered front porch at the first storey with a balcony with railing accessed by the second storey opening. Above this window opening, the eaves return to meet the buff brick hood mould at each side beneath the central gable peak.



Figure 33: Front (northeast) elevation of the existing building at 44 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)

The side (northwest) elevation of the original two-storey building features the cut-stone foundation at grade with small contemporary basement entrance towards the rear of the elevation. Paired, segmentally arched window openings with shared stone sills are extant at both the first and second storeys. More modest buff brick quoining is extant at the rear corner of the elevation. The side (southeast) elevation of the existing building mirrors the northwest elevation.



Figure 34: Looking south towards the northwest elevation of the existing building at 44 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)



Figure 35: Looking towards the southeast elevation of the existing building at 44 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)

The rear (southwest) elevation of the original two-storey building is partially obscured by the one-storey brick addition extant at the rear of the original building, which is shown in the 1960 Fire Insurance Map of Georgetown. The gable-roofed addition is red brick construction, features flat-headed window openings with buff brick voussoirs and concrete sills, a flatheaded entrance featuring buff brick voussoirs, and simplified buff brick quoining at the corners. Above the rear addition is a small rectangular window opening directly under the eaves and a smaller segmentally arched window opening adjacent to a truncated chimney. The visible rear façade shows evidence of infilled bricks and some alterations over time.



Figure 36: Looking northeast towards the rear (southwest) elevation of the existing building with one-storey addition at 44 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)

2.3 Architectural Style and Comparative Analysis

The Italianate style was a popular style for commercial and residential buildings within Ontario, predominantly between 1850 and 1900. Shannon Kyles of *Ontario Architecture* notes that the original owners of these homes would have been third or fourth generation Canadians, likely descended from United Empire Loyalists. Unique to Ontario were Italianate residences with projecting eaves, moderately pitched hip roof, and ornate cornice brackets as featured in *The Canada Farmer* in 1865; the style was seen as an alternative to the popular Gothic Revival farmhouse, or Ontario Cottage. John Blumenson identifies features extant within the Italianate style including the hip roof, strongly accentuated corners, eyebrowlike segmentally arched window cornices, large-paned sash-type windows, and tall chimneys, while maintaining references to the Georgian tradition of formal and symmetrical compositions.

Although now no longer extant, until 2018 the home featured decorative wooden brackets beneath the wooden soffit and fascia at each corner and at the corners of the central bay on the front elevation, a wooden cornice beneath the eaves, and decorative bargeboard within the central gable peak on the front elevation. Paired bracketed eaves and the wooden cornice were also extant on the side and rear elevations, and some window openings featured wooden shutters. The dual chimneys above each side elevation were also removed at an unknown date. Photograph evidence of these lost features provides a significant opportunity to restore the decorative elements that once contributed to the building's Italianate style.

Despite the removal of several original features, the existing building still features several architectural details characteristic with the Italianate style, including hipped roof, corners accentuated with buff brick quoining, segmentally arched window openings with brick hood moulds and extended stone sills, and a highly symmetrical composition on the front and side elevations.



Figure 37: Google Streetview of the front elevation of the Moore-Creelman House (Google Streetview 2018)



Figure 38: Google Streetview of the side elevation of the Moore-Creelman House (Google Streetview 2016)

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 Moore-Creelman House at 44 Main Street North is a representative example of a late-nineteenth-century residential Italianate building with hipped roof in the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills. Features extant within the existing building consistent with the style include its red brick accentuated with buff brick quoining at its well-defined corners, segmentally arched window openings with brick hood moulds and extended stone sills, and a highly symmetrical composition on the front and side elevations.

The architectural detailing, including the elaborate buff brick hood moulds over segmentally arched windows and detailed buff brick quoining, reflects a high degree of artistic merit. Photographic evidence of these lost features, including decorative wooden brackets, wooden cornice, decorative wooden bargeboard, wooden shutters, and dual brick chimneys provide a significant opportunity to restore the additional artistic and decorative elements that once contributed to the building's Italianate style.

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 Moore-Creelman House at 44 Main Street North has significant historical and associative value due to its direct associations with William Patterson Moore and the Creelman family.

Moore was a hardware merchant, local politician on Town Council, Mason, and member of the military; when he died, Moore held the position of Lieutenant Colonel. The 1891 Census identifies the then single Moore constructed the existing home in 1888 and lived there with his parents, sister, and brother. In 1904, Moore sold the property to Richard Creelman for \$3000.

Georgetown-born Richard Creelman (1851-1932) and his brother Robertson Creelman (1848-1909) began their business careers by operating a bookstore and selling sewing machines and pianos. In 1876, Creelman Brothers began manufacturing knitting machines which would bring them their most success;

their knitting machine manufacturing company would be the first of its kind in Canada, and in 1881, they built a three-storey brick factory building along Main Street in Georgetown.

The Creelman family, including Richard’s wife Lydia A. Lochhead and children Clifford and Alice, were long members of the Presbyterian and later United Church community in Georgetown. Creelman was a highly successful businessman in Town and beyond; in 1893 the *Toronto Daily Mail* profiled Creelman as part of a feature of the community of Georgetown. Along with his role with the Creelman Brothers, Creelman also worked as Secretary of the Georgetown Floral Company and the Credit Valley Brick Company, served as director of the Sovereign Life Insurance Company, and as president of the Canada Needle Works following his purchase of the company in 1922.

The property was also owned in the mid-twentieth century by Norman and Jean Brown. Norman Brown held several roles within the community, including operating a bakery on Main Street in Georgetown, serving as Town Councillor and Reeve, and working as a Provincial Paper employee, realtor, and taxi driver. Brown’s wife, Jean Brown (née Ross) (1892-1961), managed the bakery between 1921 and 1944, and was a member of St. John’s United Church and the Verdun Rebekah Lodge. The Brown’s ownership of the property was followed by years of use of the property as a nursing home, following which it has served as a residential property.

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 Moore-Creelman House at 44 Main Street South remains part of a collection of several remaining late-nineteenth-century residential buildings along Main Street on either side of the railway corridor in the community of Georgetown. Although there is significant infill development in and around these residential properties, the Moore-Creelman House, along with these other residential buildings, reflects the evolution of the area from its nineteenth-century European settlement to more dense urban character today, and as such is functionally and historically linked to its surroundings. The Moore-Creelman House is located adjacent to dense vegetation along the southeast side and is partially screened from Main Street North by deciduous trees and as such, 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 44 Main Street North 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 44 Main Street North that contribute to its physical and design value include:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the Moore-Creelman House along Main Street North in the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing two-storey brick building with hipped roof featuring extended eaves on a cut-stone foundation;
- The materials, including red and buff brick, stone sills, and cut-stone foundation;

- The front (northeast) elevation of the two-storey building, including:
 - The three-bay symmetrical layout with central projecting bay and buff-brick quoining;
 - At the first storey:
 - The central entrance with flatheaded opening, sidelights and transom;
 - Paired segmentally arched window openings featuring buff brick hood moulds and shared stone sills;
 - At the second storey:
 - Paired segmentally arched window openings featuring buff brick hood moulds and shared stone sills;
 - The central round-arched door opening with buff brick hood mould;
 - Returning eaves within the gable peak;
- The side (northwest and southeast) elevations of the two-storey building, including:
 - Buff brick quoining; and,
 - Paired, segmentally arched window openings with buff brick hood moulds and shared stone sills at the first and second storeys.

The heritage attribute of the property at 44 Main Street North that contributes to its historical and associative value includes:

- The legibility of the existing building as a late-nineteenth century representative example of a residential Italianate building with hipped roof along Main Street North within the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills.

The heritage attributes of the property at 44 Main Street North that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the existing building as a late-nineteenth century representative example of a residential Italianate building with hipped roof along Main Street North within the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The setback, location, and orientation of the Moore-Creelman House along Main Street North in the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing two-storey brick building with hipped roof featuring extended eaves on a cut-stone foundation.

The rear (southwest) elevation of the two-storey building, rear one-storey addition, and interiors are not identified as heritage attributes of the subject property.

5.0 Sources

Primary Sources

1901 Census - Year: 1901; Census Place: Ontario; Page: 3; Family No: 30

1921 Census: Reference Number: RG 31; Folder Number: 62; Census Place: Georgetown, Halton, Ontario; Page Number: 12

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