

Research and Evaluation Report



George H. Kennedy Family Home

49 & 51 Main Street North, Georgetown, Town of Halton Hills

March 2026

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Table of Contents

1.0 Property Description	5
2.0 Background	5
2.1 Historical Background	6
2.2 Property & Architectural Description	11
2.3 Architectural Style and Comparative Analysis	16
3.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist	17
4.0 Summary	18
5.0 Sources.....	21

Table of Figures

Figure 1: Location Map – 49 & 51 Main Street North.....	5
Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 49 & 51 Main Street North	5
Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1819 Patent Plan	7
Figure 4: Subject Property identified on the 1877 <i>Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton, Ontario</i>	7
Figure 5: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Map	8
Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1918 National Topographic Map	8
Figure 7: Subject property identified on the 1934 Fire Insurance Plan of Georgetown.....	9
Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1938 National Topographic Map	9
Figure 9: Subject property identified in 1960 aerial photography	10
Figure 10: Subject property identified in 1965 aerial photography	10
Figure 11: Subject property identified in 1990 aerial photography	10
Figure 12: Subject property identified in 2002 aerial photography	10
Figure 13: Subject property identified in 2007 aerial photography	11
Figure 14: Subject property identified in 2021 aerial photography	11
Figure 15: Subject property identified in 2025 aerial photography	11
Figure 16: Looking west towards the subject property at the corner of Main Street North and Ewing Street (Town of Halton Hills 2026).....	12
Figure 17: Looking north towards the subject property at the corner of Main Street North and Ewing Street (Town of Halton Hills 2026).....	12
Figure 18: Front (southwest) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026).....	13
Figure 19: Detail of the projecting bay on the front (southwest) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2025)	13
Figure 20: Detail of the central gable on the front (southwest) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North, showing the decorative bargeboard and wooden finial (Town of Halton Hills 2025)	13
Figure 21: Front (southwest) elevation of the rear wing of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)	14

Figure 22: Side (northwest) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026) 14

Figure 23: Detail of the side (southeast) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026) 15

Figure 24: Side (southeast) elevation of the existing building and rear wing at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026) 15

Figure 25: Detail of the side (southeast) elevation of the existing building and rear wing at 49 & 51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026) (N.B.: Although the sign on the existing porch identifies the unit as 4 Ewing Street, the property address for the entire property 49 & 51 Main Street North) 15

Figure 26: Rear (northeast) elevation of the existing building with rear wing and addition at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026) 16

1.0 Property Description

49 & 51 Main Street North	
Municipality	Town of Halton Hills
County or Region	Halton Region
Legal Description	LT 24, PL 59, EXCEPT PM172; HALTON HILLS PIN: 2250380039
Construction Date	c.1877
Original Use	Residential
Current Use	Residential
Architect/Building/Designer	Unknown
Architectural Style	Gothic Revival
Additions/Alterations	Covered Front Entrance, Rear additions
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 49 & 51 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*.

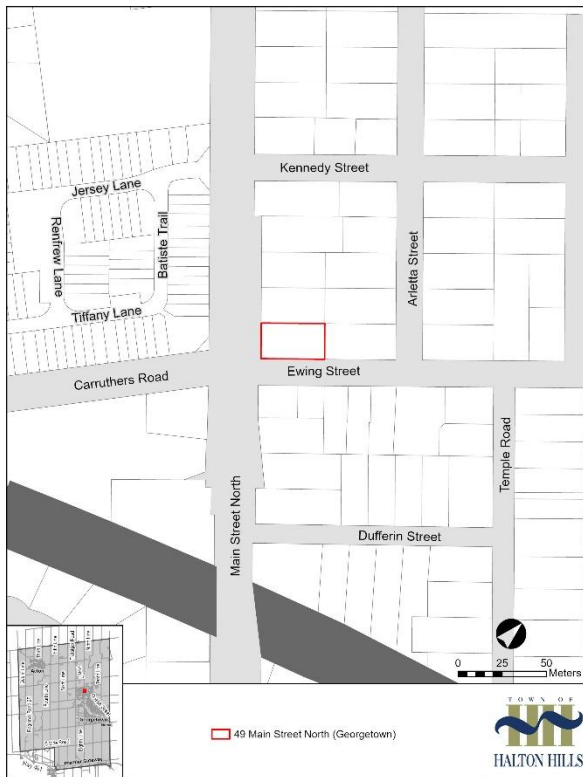


Figure 1: Location Map – 49 & 51 Main Street North

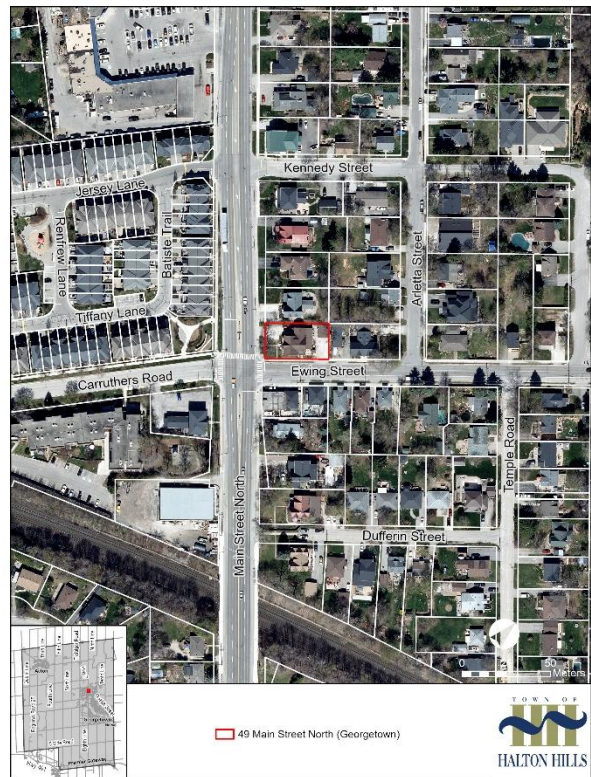


Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – 49 & 51 Main Street North

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

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.

European Settlement History

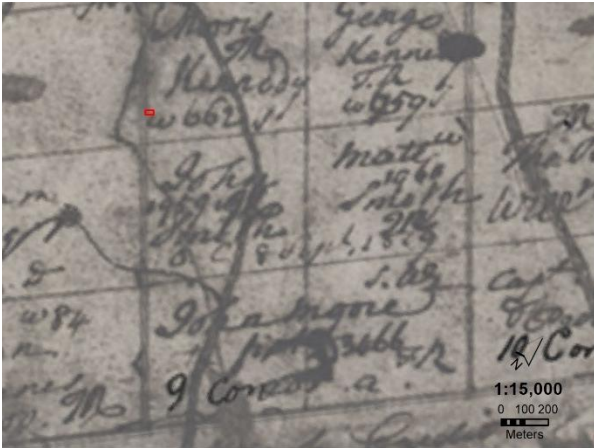


Figure 3: Subject property identified on the 1819 Patent Plan



Figure 4: Subject Property identified on the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton, Ontario*

In 1821, the Crown granted the patent for the southwest half of Lot 19, Concession 9 to John Smith, and the east half to Matthew Smith in 1831. John Smith sold the southwest half to Morris Kennedy in 1828, and Matthew Smith sold the east half to Morris Kennedy in 1834, however the sales were not registered until 1845. In 1863, Morris Kennedy and his wife sold part of Lots 19 and 20 in Concession 9 to Thomas Willsie. In 1877, Thomas Willsie and his wife sold Lot 24 in Plan 59 to George H. Kennedy, Morris Kennedy's cousin; the extant building within the subject property was likely constructed shortly after.

George H. Kennedy & Family

George H. Kennedy (1836-1901) was the son of Charles Kennedy (brother to Morris Kennedy) and Elizabeth Williams. George H. Kennedy was born in Georgetown and spent most of his life in the community. In 1856, Kennedy married Margaret Jane Walker (1840-1914); Walker was born in Ireland and immigrated with her family to Canada in 1849, settling in Georgetown where she lived for the rest of her life.

George and Margaret had ten children, although five of them died in infancy. Surviving children included H.W. Kennedy, John W. Kennedy, Mary Kennedy, Maggie Kennedy, and an adopted daughter, J.W. Adams. Prominent community members, the Kennedy family were also devout members of the Methodist church, and George H. Kennedy led the construction of the Episcopal Methodist Church on Guelph Street (now St. John's United Church). Kennedy, a farmer, also served as a member of County Council, Deputy Reeve, and later Reeve of Georgetown, and in 1892 became the Clerk of Esquesing Township following Colonel Murray's death, a position which he held until 1900. Kennedy was also a school trustee and a member of the Georgetown High School Board, and a Justice of the Peace.

In 1890, in preparation for his retirement, Kennedy built two houses for his daughters further north along Main Street North, the properties now known as 73 and 75 Main Street North. Census data shows the daughters living with their mother until 1911, suggesting they stayed in the family home rather than moving to 73 or 75 Main Street North. In 1901, through Probate of Will, 73 Main Street North was transferred to Mary Kennedy, while 75 Main Street North was transferred to Maggie Kennedy. 73 Main Street North was sold by Mary to Richard McMullin in 1922, while 75 Main Street North was sold in 1915 to Joseph Carter.

Through probate of will, the subject property was transferred to Margaret Kennedy during her natural life, following which it was to be transferred to their daughter Maggie Lavina Ann Kennedy (1879-1917).

The 1901 Census identifies Maggie Kennedy as living with her parents and her sister Mary (1874-1956) who worked as a saleswoman, while the 1911 Census identifies Mary and Maggie living with their widowed mother Margaret; Maggie is identified as a saleswoman.

Maggie Kennedy worked with her brother, Herbert Willis (H.W.) Kennedy. In 1913 the *Georgetown Herald* reported that H.W. Kennedy's sister, Miss Kennedy, "...is an efficient assistant in the store". H.W. Kennedy, who established his mercantile business in Georgetown in 1885, also worked as a realtor, insurance agent, issued marriage licences, and served as Clerk and Treasurer of the Town, in addition to serving as Chair of the Public Library Board and Secretary of the Trustee Board of the Methodist Church.

The 1909 and 1918 National Topographic Maps show the red brick residence on the northeast corner of Main Street North and Ewing Street in Georgetown (Figure 5 and Figure 6).



Figure 5: Subject property identified on the 1909 National Topographic Map

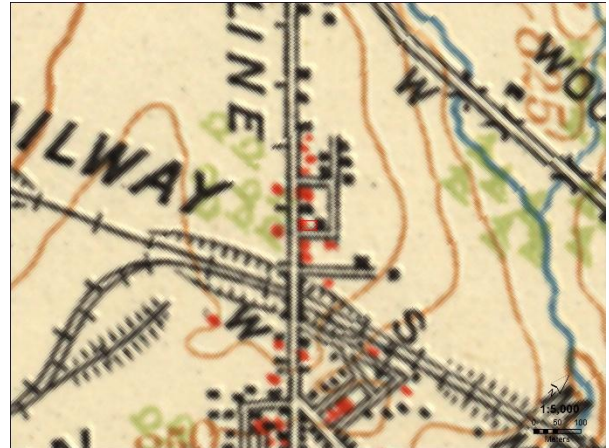


Figure 6: Subject property identified on the 1918 National Topographic Map

Maggie Kennedy died of cancer at her home in December 1917 at the age of 38. Following her death, the property was transferred to her sister, Mary Agnes Charlotte Kennedy ("Mamie" Kennedy) (1874-1956), however Mamie lived at the c.1890 home built by her father at 73 Main Street North. Mamie Kennedy was a member of the Methodist Church and is identified as a dressmaker working at home in the 1911 Census.

The 1934 Fire Insurance Plan of Georgetown (Figure 7) shows a two-storey brick residence with a two-storey frame addition at the rear and one-storey frame bay on the northwest elevation with a porch extending along the front (southwest elevation).

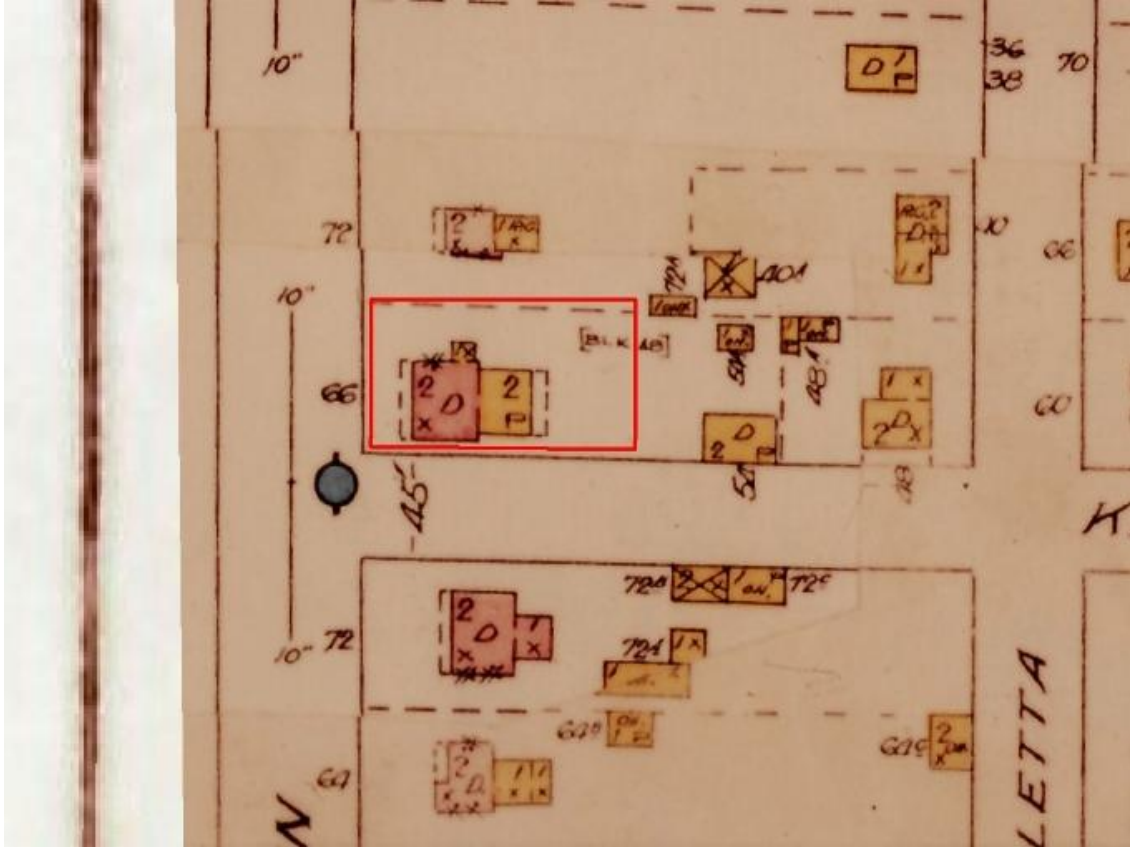


Figure 7: Subject property identified on the 1934 Fire Insurance Plan of Georgetown



Figure 8: Subject property identified on the 1938 National Topographic Map

Mid-Twentieth-Century Ownership to Present

In 1951, an administrative deed transferred the property from Kennedy to Myrtle Corner (née Lusty) (1905-1981). Myrtle was first married to Austin Allen Corner (1904-1966) (later Wallace Morrison). Austin Corner owned and operated a stone quarry.



Figure 9: Subject property identified in 1960 aerial photography



Figure 10: Subject property identified in 1965 aerial photography

In 1966, the property was transferred from Myrtle Corner to Judith Lee and Marjorie Joan Pomeroy and then back to Myrtle Corner Morrison (following her marriage to Wallace Morrison) in 1971.

In 1974 the property was sold to John Lewis Hunter who would own the property until 1980 when it was sold to Donald and Sheila Curry. The property changed hands several more times until it was sold in 2022 to its current owners.



Figure 11: Subject property identified in 1990 aerial photography



Figure 12: Subject property identified in 2002 aerial photography



Figure 13: Subject property identified in 2007 aerial photography



Figure 14: Subject property identified in 2021 aerial photography

2.2 Property & Architectural Description

The subject property is located at the northeast corner of Main Street North and Ewing Street in the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills. The property is a rectangular parcel containing a single-detached dwelling and a one-storey garage with gable roof at the rear.

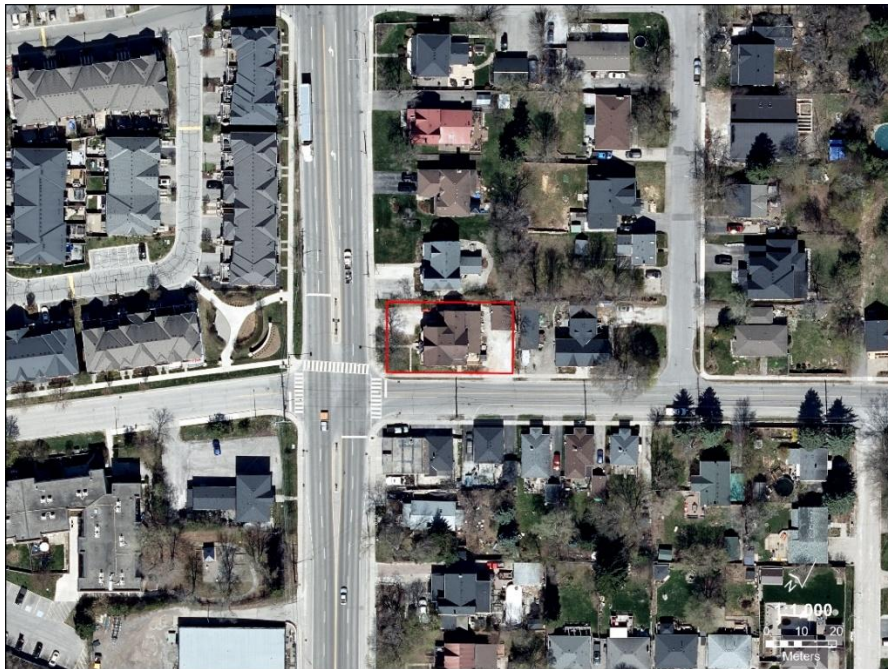


Figure 15: Subject property identified in 2025 aerial photography

The existing residential building within the subject property is a one-and-a-half storey brick building with a rectangular plan and gable roof, with one-and-a-half storey rear wing with a gable roof intersecting the main roof.



Figure 16: Looking west towards the subject property at the corner of Main Street North and Ewing Street (Town of Halton Hills 2026)



Figure 17: Looking north towards the subject property at the corner of Main Street North and Ewing Street (Town of Halton Hills 2026)

The front (southwest) elevation is symmetrical in its composition, featuring a central entrance (currently obscured within an enclosed porch with mansard roof above a contemporary flight of stairs), with two flat-roofed projecting bays on either side of the central entrance. The cut stone foundation is visible across the front elevation and within the base of each projecting bay. Buff brick quoining is extant at each corner.



Figure 18: Front (southwest) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)

Each projecting bay features a buff brick string course above the foundation and red brick exterior. Single segmentally arched window openings are extant on each of the three sides of these projecting bays with a connected buff brick hood mould over each opening. Stone sills are extant beneath each window opening. The projecting bays feature bracketed wooden eaves beneath the roofline. A lancet arched window opening is extant above the central entrance and within the central gable peak and features a dichromatic brick hood mould. Wooden bargeboard is extant within the gable peak on this elevation.



Figure 19: Detail of the projecting bay on the front (southwest) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 20: Detail of the central gable on the front (southwest) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North, showing the decorative bargeboard and wooden finial (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

The front (southwest) elevation of the rear wing features similar detailing to that of the primary elevation, featuring buff brick quoining at the corner. A covered wooden porch featuring decorative wooden detailing extends across this portion of the elevation. Beneath the front porch are a single segmentally arched entrance with buff brick hood mould above and a single segmentally arched window opening to the side. The side (northwest) elevation of the main portion of the building is visible in front of the porch, featuring two segmentally arched window openings with stone sills at each storey and the same buff brick string course as the front elevation extending above the cut stone foundation.



Figure 21: Front (southwest) elevation of the rear wing of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)



Figure 22: Side (northwest) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)

The side (southeast) elevation mirrors the northwest elevation of the building, with two segmentally arched window openings with stone sills at each storey and the same buff brick string course as the front elevation extending above the cut stone foundation. Buff brick quoining is extant at each corner. The southeast elevation of the rear wing features a covered wooden porch with decorative wooden detailing, with single flatheaded window openings featuring buff brick voussoirs on either side of a flatheaded entrance with buff brick voussoirs above. The 1934 Fire Insurance Plan shows the rear addition as frame; as the brick work is not consistent with that of the original building's dichromatic detailing it is likely brick veneer added later. The existing wooden porch mirrors the porch on the front elevation; however, it also appears to have been modified; the existing porch deck, railing and stairs on both porches are not original.



Figure 23: Detail of the side (southeast) elevation of the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)



Figure 24: Side (southeast) elevation of the existing building and rear wing at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)



Figure 25: Detail of the side (southeast) elevation of the existing building and rear wing at 49 & 51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026) (N.B.: Although the sign on the existing porch identifies the unit as 4 Ewing Street, the property address for the entire property 49 & 51 Main Street North)

The rear (northeast) elevation is partially obscured by a one-storey frame shed-roofed addition. Above this addition are two segmentally arched window openings with red brick voussoirs and a contemporary chimney extending along the elevation near the corner. Buff brick quoining is extant at the rear corner facing Ewing Street.



Figure 26: Rear (northeast) elevation of the existing building with rear wing and addition at 49-51 Main Street North (Town of Halton Hills 2026)

2.3 Architectural Style and Comparative Analysis

The Gothic Revival style was prevalent in Ontario between 1830 and 1900, with the Gothic Revival Cottage being the most popular home style until the 1950s. There are many variations of the Gothic Revival Cottage in Ontario, with many featuring different exterior finishes and detailing. However, the pattern and footprint of these cottages remained similar and consistent. These Cottages were often constructed of brick, stone, and wood. Gothic Revival Cottages typically feature a one-and-a-half storey massing, central lancet window beneath a gable peak, gable roof, decorative bargeboard, and a central entrance flanked by sidelights and transoms.

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. Italianate residential buildings often also feature a frontispiece, quoins, and ornate detailing such as carved wooden bargeboard. 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.

Features extant on the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North that are consistent with the Gothic Revival architectural style include its one-and-a-half-storey massing, central lancet window beneath the gable peak, ornate wooden bargeboard, and central entrance. Features also consistent with the Italianate architectural style include its symmetrical composition, cornice brackets beneath the eaves of each projecting bay, buff brick quoining and strongly defined corners, dichromatic brick detailing, ornate buff brick hood molds and voussoirs over the window openings, and finial above the central gable peak.

As the predominant form and roof structure of the existing building is more aligned with the Gothic Revival Style, the existing building at 49-51 Main Street North reads more as this style than Italianate, while upon closer inspection those details consistent with the Italianate style are understood. As such, the existing building can best be described as a Gothic Revival residential building with Italianate influences.

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 George H. Kennedy Family Home at 49-51 Main Street North in Georgetown is a representative example of a Gothic Revival residential building with Italianate influences within the community. Features extant on the existing building that are consistent with the Gothic Revival architectural style include its one-and-a-half-storey massing, central lancet window beneath the gable peak, ornate wooden bargeboard and wooden finial above the gable peak, and a central entrance, while features consistent with the Italianate architectural style include its symmetrical composition, cornice brackets beneath the eaves of each projecting bay, buff brick quoining and strongly-defined corners, dichromatic brick detailing, and ornate buff brick hood molds and voussoirs over the window openings.

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 subject property has significant historical and associative value due to its connections with the family of prominent community member George H. Kennedy. George H. Kennedy (1836-1901) was the son of Charles Kennedy and Elizabeth Williams, notable 19th-century settlers in the area. In 1856,

Kennedy married Margaret Jane Walker (1840-1914); Walker was born in Ireland and immigrated with her family to Canada in 1849, settling in Georgetown where she lived for the rest of her life. George H. Kennedy served as a member of County Council, Deputy Reeve, and later Reeve of Georgetown, and in 1892 became the Clerk of Esquesing Township following Colonel Murray’s death, a position which he held until 1900. Kennedy was also a school trustee and a member of the Georgetown High School Board, and a Justice of the Peace. Prominent community members, the Kennedy family were also devout members of the Methodist church.

The George H. Kennedy Family Home would later be owned by both of their daughters. Through probate of will, the subject property was transferred from George H. Kennedy to Margaret Kennedy during her natural life, following which it was transferred to their daughter Maggie Lavina Ann Kennedy (1879-1917). Maggie Kennedy worked as a saleswoman with her brother, Herbert Willis (H.W.) Kennedy. In 1913 the *Georgetown Herald* reported that H.W. Kennedy’s sister, Miss Kennedy, “...is an efficient assistant in the store”. H.W. Kennedy, who established his mercantile business in Georgetown in 1885, also worked as a realtor, insurance agent, issued marriage licences, and served as Clerk and Treasurer of the Town, in addition to serving as Chair of the Public Library Board and Secretary of the Trustee Board of the Methodist Church.

Following Maggie Kennedy’s death in 1917, her sister Mary Agnes Charlotte Kennedy (1874-1956), a dressmaker, lived in the home until her death.

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 George H. Kennedy Family Home 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 George H. Kennedy Family Home 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 George H. Kennedy Family Home is similar in scale and massing to existing surrounding residential buildings and 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 49 & 51 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 49 & 51 Main Street North that contribute to its physical and design value include:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the George H. Kennedy Home at the northeast corner of Main Street North and Ewing Street in the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills;

- The scale, form, and massing of the existing one-and-a-half-storey building with gable roof and cut stone foundation;
- The materials, including red and buff brick, stone sills, and wooden detailing;
- The front (southwest) elevation, including:
 - Buff brick quoining at each corner;
 - At the first storey:
 - The centrally-located entrance;
 - Buff brick string course across the façade;
 - Two projecting bays on either side of the main entrance, featuring a buff brick string course, red brick exterior, single segmentally arched window openings with buff brick hood moulds and stone sills, and bracketed wooden eaves;
 - At the second storey:
 - Lancet arched window opening with dichromatic brick hood mould and stone sill;
 - Wooden bargeboard within the central gable peak;
- The front (southwest) elevation of the rear wing, including:
 - Buff brick quoining at each corner;
 - Covered wooden porch featuring decorative wooden detailing;
 - Segmentally arched window opening with buff brick hood mould;
 - Segmentally arched door opening with buff brick hood mould;
- The side (northwest) elevation, including:
 - At the first and second storeys, two segmentally arched window openings featuring stone sills and buff brick hood moulds;
 - Buff brick string course across the façade;
- The side (southeast) elevation, including:
 - At the first and second storeys, two segmentally arched window openings featuring stone sills and buff brick hood moulds;
 - Buff brick string course across the façade;
- The side (southeast) elevation of the rear wing, including:
 - Buff brick quoining at each corner;
 - Segmentally arched window opening with stone sill and buff brick hood mould;
 - Flatheaded entryway with buff brick jack arch;
- The rear (northwest) elevation, including:
 - Buff brick quoining at each corner; and,
 - Two segmentally arched window openings with brick voussoirs and stone sills.

The heritage attribute of the property at 49 & 51 Main Street North that contributes to its historical and associative value includes:

- The legibility of the existing building as a representative example of a Gothic Revival residential building with Italianate influences along Main Street North in the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills.

The heritage attributes of the property at 49 & 51 Main Street North that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the existing building as a representative example of a Gothic Revival residential building with Italianate influences along Main Street North in the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The setback, location, and orientation of the George H. Kennedy Home at the northeast corner of Main Street North and Ewing Street in the community of Georgetown in the Town of Halton Hills; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the existing one-and-a-half-storey building with gable roof and cut stone foundation.

5.0 Sources

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