

Cultural Heritage Attributes Summary

4860 Townline Road



Constructed in 1856, the property at 4860 Townline Road holds historical significance for its association with Peter Niles Holm, a Danish immigrant and early pioneer in local industrial development. Known as Holm's Mill or Speed River Mill, the property exemplifies Georgian Mill architecture and has played a key role in shaping the industrial and economic character of the area.

The 3½-storey limestone flour mill displays exceptional craftsmanship, particularly in its fieldstone construction, voussoirs, and quoins. The mill is part of the Black Bridge Cultural Heritage Landscape, contributing to the area's historical and contextual value. Additional features include a one-storey sawmill outbuilding, remnants of canal and dam infrastructure, and mature natural landscapes.

The property is adjacent to other significant heritage features, including the Black Bridge Road Bridge (designated), the Mill Manager's House, and the Mill Boarding House (both listed), reinforcing its importance within the heritage landscape.

210 King Street East



The property is a representative example of a Georgian-influenced commercial residential building in a small-town Ontario setting. Notable architectural features include a side-gabled roof with parapet end walls and double chimneys, a symmetrical three-bay facade, six-over-six sash windows, and stone masonry construction (concealed by historic stucco). Despite alterations to the storefront and rear elevation, the building retains a high degree of architectural integrity in form, massing, and character.

The property is associated with the Werlich family, notable entrepreneurs in Preston's industrial history. Jacob Werlich, a furniture maker and civic leader, co-founded Werlich Bros. & Co. with his brother John Werlich, producing player pianos, furniture, and related goods in the early 20th century. While the primary piano manufacturing facility may have been located elsewhere, 210 King Street East is strongly associated with the Werlichs' retail presence, and reflects their role in Preston's commercial development.

The property contributes to the historic streetscape of King Street East and is physically and historically linked to adjacent 19th-century buildings at 204 and 234 King Street East. Together, these structures form a cohesive streetscape that illustrates the historical evolution of Preston's downtown core. The property helps define the character and visual continuity of the area.

70 Oak Street



The property at 70 Oak Street has design/physical value as a representative example of vernacular stone residential architecture in mid-19th-century Galt. Constructed with uncoursed multicolored fieldstone and retaining its original front door and wooden porch, the dwelling displays craftsmanship typical of early tradespeople and local building traditions.

The property has historical/associative value for its connection to Henry Aldoris and Charles Wilber, carpenters who owned the lot in the 1850s, as well as Nellie Lundy Graham, who resided in the house in the early 20th century. Nellie Graham was the daughter of Dr. J.B. Lundy, an early physician in the region, and the wife of James Young Graham, a prominent pharmacist, and civic figure in Galt. Their long-term residence at this address contributes to an understanding of Galt's professional and religious history.

The property has contextual value as a contributing element to the historic streetscape of Oak Street. It supports the area's 19th-century residential character and is historically and visually linked to nearby properties associated with early Galt development.

119 Wellington Street



The property is a representative example of the Gothic Revival style as applied to domestic architecture in 19th-century Galt. Built circa 1870, it features distinctive elements including a front-gabled roof, ornate bargeboard with finial, raised brick quoins, segmentally arched wood sash windows, a full-width porch with Doric columns and fish-scale shingle detailing, and a symmetrical façade with twin arched windows in the front gable.

The property is directly associated with James Kay, a prominent Galt carriage maker and civic leader who served as a municipal councillor and Reeve of Galt in 1860. Kay established one of the earliest carriage works in Galt on Water Street and constructed this home circa 1870 as his family residence. He lived at 119 Wellington Street until his death in 1875. The property reflects the prosperity of Galt's middle class during the town's industrial expansion in the mid-19th century.

The property supports the historic character of Galt's Eastern Hill neighborhood and is visually and historically linked to its surrounding 19th-century residential streetscape. It is a contributing feature within a historically significant area that experienced substantial development between 1850 and 1880.

194 Blue Heron Ridge



The property known as the Hilborn House, located at 194 Blue Heron Ridge, is a rare and significant example of late 20th-century Canadian residential architecture. Designed by internationally renowned architect Arthur Erickson and completed in 1974, the house reflects Erickson's modernist design philosophy rooted in natural integration, landscape sensitivity, and spatial continuity. Positioned dramatically along a wooded slope of the Grand River, the house demonstrates Erickson's signature interplay of geometry, structure, and environment.

The home's massing, rampart-style brick construction, and deep-set glazing emphasize a seamless relationship between architecture and topography. Its cedar-clad roofline and rooftop parapet create a strong horizontal profile that blends with the natural setting.

The house was commissioned by Richard "Dick" Hilborn, son of Percy Hilborn (1886–1972), a major figure in local manufacturing, civic leadership, and environmental conservation. His engagement of Arthur Erickson illustrates a tradition of architectural patronage in Cambridge and reflects the broader cultural aspiration to bring nationally significant design into local communities.

The Hilborn House remains remarkably intact and continues to express the original design intent of Arthur Erickson, who is recognized nationally and internationally as one of the most important architects in Canada's modernist movement. The property demonstrates the high degree of artistic merit, innovation, and contextual sensitivity characteristic of his work.

29 Roseview Avenue



The property at 29 Roseview Avenue, constructed in 1891 by prominent local carpenter and builder Joseph B. Strain, is a well-preserved example of a late-Victorian residence designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Known locally as "The Castle House," the building's architectural significance is evident in its asymmetrical massing, use of rough-faced ashlar granite, round-arched windows, decorative half-cove shingles, and intricate wooden detailing including carved brackets and a central staircase.

The property also holds historical value for its association with Joseph Strain, a skilled builder who contributed to Galt's development in the late 19th century. The house remains the most architecturally refined example of his work.

Contextually, the house contributes to the historic character of Roseview Avenue and visually anchors the corner of Roseview Avenue and Cambridge Street.

469 Duke Street



The property at 469 Duke Street has cultural heritage value as a representative example of Victorian Queen Anne Revival residential architecture. The house is distinguished by its asymmetrical massing, steeply pitched gabled rooflines with iron cresting, decorative wooden bargeboard, segmentally arched windows with keystones, and two prominent verandas on the Duke and Waterloo Street elevations, each surmounted by an upper-storey balcony.

The property contributes to the historic character of the Duke Street streetscape and is recognized as a local landmark within the former Village of Preston. Its architectural detailing and prominent siting illustrate the aspirations and material culture of Preston's residents during a period of economic and community growth at the turn of the 20th century.

54 Bruce Street



Constructed circa 1859 with major additions in the 1890s, the house illustrates the evolution of domestic architecture in Galt from vernacular Georgian to Richardsonian Romanesque influences. It was built by Thomas and James Dalgleish, prominent local stonemasons who helped shape many of Galt's early landmark buildings. The property is a unique local example of a residence with a round turret, conical roof, and arched oriel window, demonstrating a high degree of craftsmanship in both its stone and wood detailing.

Contextually, the property contributes to the historic character of the Bruce Street neighbourhood. Its scale, mature setting, and architectural expression make it a landmark within the area and visually link it to other 19th-century stone homes in the vicinity.