

**To:** Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** 12/18/2025

**Report Title:** **295 Ainslie Street South – Recommendation to Designate**

**Report Author:** Scott Abbott, Planner-Heritage **Name(s), Position(s)**

**Department:** Planning and Growth

**Division:** Policy Planning

**Report No.:** 25-047(MHAC)

**File No.:** R01.01.185

**Ward:** Ward 6

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT** the Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) supports the recommendation to designate the property municipally known as 295 Ainslie Street South under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

**Purpose**

This report recommends that the property at 295 Ainslie Street South be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value.

**Key Findings**

- Built circa 1890, a strong example of vernacular industrial architecture (**Attachment A, Figure 1**).
- Home to the Galt Knife Company (1913-2000s).
- Distinctive red-brick façade with original windows.
- Adaptively reused as Grand River Brewing and now Farm League Brewing.
- Contributes to the historic character of South Galt and meets four 9/06 criteria.

**STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:**

- Strategic Action; or
- Core Service

**Objective(s):** Not Applicable

**Strategic Action:** Not Applicable

**Program:** Community Development

**Core Service:** Heritage Conservation

## **BACKGROUND:**

### **Location**

The property at 295 Ainslie Street South is located on the southeast corner of Ainslie Street South and Birch Street in the historic Galt area of Cambridge (**see Location Map, Attachment B**). The one-storey red-brick industrial building is positioned close to the street edges, consistent with late-nineteenth-century factory siting patterns. Gravel parking areas occupy the north and south sides of the lot, and a small patio is situated on the southwest corner. To the east, the property backs onto the steep, tree-covered bluff of the Grand River valley, providing a natural backdrop that reinforces its industrial-riverfront character.

## **ANALYSIS:**

### **Historical Context**

#### **Early History and Galt Knife Company (1890–2000s)**

The property at 295 Ainslie Street South was constructed circa 1890 and has served as an important industrial site in Galt for over a century. Early maps, including the 1861 Tremaine Map of Waterloo County, identify the land as owned by Andrew Elliot, a distiller, prominent local landowner, and the first reeve of the incorporated Village of Galt (**Attachment A, Figure 2**). While no direct association between Elliot and the existing building has been established, the property's later industrial use reflects Galt's continued development as a manufacturing centre during the late nineteenth century.

By 1913, the Galt Knife Company Limited established its operations on the property, manufacturing precision machine knives and industrial blades used in the woodworking, paper, and textile industries (**Attachment A, Figures 3-5**). The company became a key local employer and contributed significantly to Galt's industrial economy throughout the twentieth century.

Following the closure of the Galt Knife Company in the early 2000s, the property was adaptively reused as Grand River Brewing in 2007, initiating a new chapter of industrial and community use. In 2021, the site became home to Farm League Brewing, which continues to operate as a local craft brewery. Notably, Farm League Brewing has embraced the building's heritage: the original 3-ton drill press from the Galt Knife

Company days was kept in place and repurposed as a can-crusher for the brewery. This creative reuse symbolizes the continuity of the site's industrial spirit – from manufacturing steel knives to producing craft beer.

## **Architectural Description**

### **Description of the Building**

The property at 295 Ainslie Street South contains a one-storey, red-brick industrial building constructed circa 1890. Designed in a vernacular industrial style, the structure exhibits the simple, functional character typical of late-nineteenth-century factories. The rectangular plan is oriented north–south along Ainslie Street South, with a flat roof featuring a central gable peak that defines the main façade.

The west elevation, fronting Ainslie Street, is characterized by regularly spaced multi-pane industrial sash windows set within rectangular brick openings with concrete sills. Entrances are modest and utilitarian, consistent with the building's original manufacturing use.

The south elevation (facing Birch Street) includes a secondary entrance sheltered by a simple wood-framed canopy, while the north elevation functions as a service façade with loading access. The east elevation, backing onto the Grand River bluff, mirrors the west elevation in its brick pattern and fenestration rhythm.

The building's restrained design—characterized by red-brick cladding, flat roof, and minimal decorative detailing—reflects its industrial purpose while contributing to the historic streetscape of South Galt.

### **Alteration and Integrity**

Alterations to the building have been limited and sympathetic to its industrial character. These include roof and window replacements, door upgrades, and localized brick repairs. The primary façade's window openings and gable parapet remain intact, preserving the building's historic appearance.

Despite minor modern interventions, the overall form, scale, and material integrity of the original structure are well maintained. The building continues to convey its late-nineteenth-century industrial design, making it a strong representative example of vernacular factory architecture in Cambridge.

Further architectural documentation is included in **Attachment C and D**.

## Evaluation under Ontario Regulation 9/06 (as amended by 569/22)

Heritage Planning staff are of the opinion that the property warrants designation based on a determination that the property satisfies four (4) of the nine (9) criteria contained in the *Ontario Regulation 9/06* (as amended by 569/22).

**1. The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method.**

**YES.** The property is a representative example of late-nineteenth-century vernacular industrial architecture. Its simple rectangular plan, red-brick construction, flat roof with a central gable, and multi-pane industrial windows reflect the utilitarian design typical of Galt's early manufacturing buildings.

**2. The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.**

**NO.** The building exhibits minimal ornamentation and is valued more for its representative industrial form than for craftsmanship or artistry. Features like the painted signage, while culturally interesting, are functional advertisements rather than art pieces.

**3. The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.**

**NO.** There is no indication of any particular technical innovation in the building's construction or design that would set it apart as an engineering achievement. The factory was built using conventional late-19th-century methods and materials. While the long span of its interior space and the surviving heavy machinery (e.g., the drill press) are impressive, they are not unique or pioneering in a broader context.

**4. The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community.**

**YES.** The building is directly associated with the Galt Knife Company Limited, which operated on-site from 1913 into the early 2000s and served as a major local employer in the manufacturing sector. This association illustrates the growth of Galt's industrial economy and its contribution to the region's development.

**5. The property has historical value or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.**

**NO.** The property's history as an industrial site is well documented through records, maps, and existing artifacts. The property does not appear to have potential to yield archaeological or cultural information that would contribute to an understanding of a community or culture.

**6. The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community.**

**NO.** The designer or builder is unknown, and no evidence links the house to a figure of architectural or design importance. The structure is a straightforward industrial building likely built by local contractors using common designs of the period.

**7. The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area.**

**YES.** The property supports and maintains the historic industrial character of South Galt. Its form, materials, and siting close to the street edge contribute to the area's early industrial landscape and complement other nearby heritage buildings.

**8. The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings.**

**YES.** The building is historically linked to the surrounding industrial corridor along Ainslie Street and the Grand River valley. Its location near the river reflects the early pattern of industry that relied on water proximity for transportation and infrastructure. As an industrial employer for decades, the Galt Knife factory had functional ties to the neighborhood – many workers likely lived in nearby homes, and the factory's output served local industries (e.g., nearby furniture factories, mills).

**9. The property has contextual value because it is a landmark.**

**NO.** While 295 Ainslie Street South is well-known locally, it is not a landmark in the sense of being widely recognized or iconic city-wide. It does not occupy a towering position or unique location that would make it a navigational reference for the general public.

### **Cultural Heritage Attributes**

The cultural heritage value of the property is expressed through the following attributes:

- The one-storey, red-brick industrial building constructed circa 1890
- The rectangular plan and low-profile flat roof with a central gable peak
- The red-brick exterior walls laid in common bond

- The regular rhythm of rectangular window openings with multi-pane industrial sash windows and concrete sills
- The modest door openings located on the west and south elevations, reflective of utilitarian industrial design
- The overall massing, scale, and form, consistent with late-nineteenth-century vernacular industrial architecture

### **Site and Landscape Attributes**

- The shallow setback from Ainslie Street South and Birch Street, typical of early industrial siting patterns
- The mature trees and vegetated bluff to the east, providing a natural backdrop associated with the Grand River industrial corridor

### **EXISTING POLICY / BY-LAW(S):**

#### ***Ontario Heritage Act***

#### **Designation by Municipal By-law**

**29** (1) The council of a municipality may, by-law, designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest if,

(a) where criteria for determining whether property is of cultural heritage value or interest have been prescribed, the property meets the prescribed criteria; and

(b) the designation is made in accordance with the process set out in this section. 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (1); 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 7 (1); 2022, c. 21, Sched. 6, s. 4 (1)

#### **Notice Required**

(1.1) Subject to subsections (1.2) and (2), if the council of a municipality intends to designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest, it shall cause notice of intention to designate the property to be given by the clerk of the municipality in accordance with subsection (3). 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (1); 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 7 (2).

#### **Consultation**

(2) Where the council of a municipality has appointed a municipal heritage committee, the council shall, before giving notice of its intention to designate a property under subsection (1), consult with its municipal heritage committee. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 29 (2); 2002, c. 18, Sched. F, s. 2 (9).

## **Notice of Intention**

(3) Notice of intention to designate under subsection (1) shall be,

(a) served on the owner of the property and on the Trust; and

(b) published in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality. R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18, s. 29 (3); 2005, c. 6, s. 1.

## **Contents of Notice**

(4) Notice of intention to designate property that is served on the owner of property and on the Trust under clause (3) (a) shall contain,

(a) an adequate description of the property so that it may be readily ascertained;

(b) a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property and a description of the heritage attributes of the property; and

(c) a statement that notice of objection to the notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality under clause (3) (b). 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (2); 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 7 (4).

## **Same**

(4.1) Notice of intention to designate property that is published in a newspaper of general circulation in a municipality under clause (3) (b) shall contain,

(a) an adequate description of the property so that it may be readily ascertained;

(b) a statement explaining the cultural heritage value or interest of the property;

(c) a statement that further information respecting the notice of intention to designate the property is available from the municipality; and

(d) a statement that notice of objection to the notice of intention to designate the property may be served on the clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality under clause (3) (b). 2005, c. 6, s. 17 (2); 2019, c. 9, Sched. 11, s. 7 (5).

## City of Cambridge Official Plan

### 4.6 Designation of Heritage Properties

1. The City will regulate as fully as possible the demolition, removal or inappropriate alteration of buildings of cultural heritage value or interest included in the Register of Cultural Heritage Resources referred to in Section 4.3, and for these purposes, Council may:

- a) pass by-laws pursuant to the *Ontario Heritage Act* to designate properties including such buildings or structures to be of cultural heritage value. Council shall not permit the demolition, removal or inappropriate alteration of such buildings or structures for a period of 90 days following application by the owner of such buildings or structures, or such further period of time as Council and the owner may agree upon, unless Council has repealed the by-law designating such property or part thereof;

2. Council will preserve and protect the cultural heritage resources owned by the City and prepare and follow a maintenance programme for these resources.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no cost to property owners associated with designating a property in Cambridge. The City does provide and pay for the installation of a heritage landmark plaque at a cost of approximately \$500. The City also pays to register the bylaw on title to the property, which costs under \$100. The property owner of 295 Ainslie Street South will be able to apply for a Designated Heritage Property Grant to support the costs of maintaining the heritage attributes of the property.

#### **PUBLIC VALUE:**

##### **Transparency:**

The MHAC agenda is posted on the City's website as part of the reporting process.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public.

#### **INTERNAL / EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

Heritage Planning staff conducted a site visit to document and assess the property. The property owner has been notified of the City's intention to recommend designation via registered mail. No objections have been received.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The property at 295 Ainslie Street South meets four (4) criteria under *Ontario Regulation 9/06* (as amended by 569/22). It is recommended that MHAC endorse the designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and request that Council direct the City Clerk to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate (**Attachment E**). Designation will ensure the long-term protection of this culturally significant property as part of Cambridge's architectural and community heritage.

**REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: **No**

By-law: **No**

Budget Amendment: **No**

Policy: **No**

**APPROVALS:**

**This report has been reviewed and approved for inclusion in the agenda by  
Melissa Aldunate, Manager of Policy Planning**

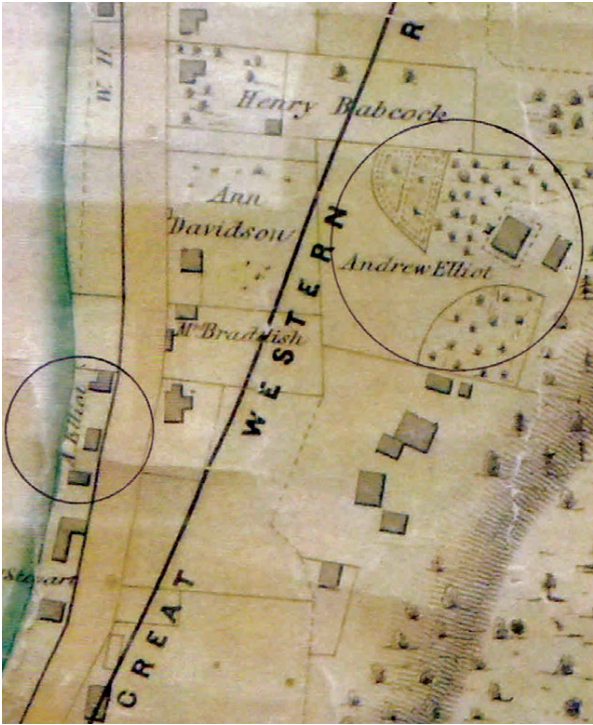
**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 25-047(MHAC) Attachment A – Photographs and Historical Images
2. 25-047(MHAC) Attachment B – Location Map
3. 25-047(MHAC) Attachment C – Architectural Documentation prepared by Jonathan Enns (University of Waterloo School of Architecture, 2008)
4. 25-047(MHAC) Attachment D – WSP Heritage Assessment
5. 25-047(MHAC) Attachment E – Sample Draft Notice of Intention to Designate (NOID)
6. 25-047(MHAC) Attachment F – 1910 Fire Insurance Plan

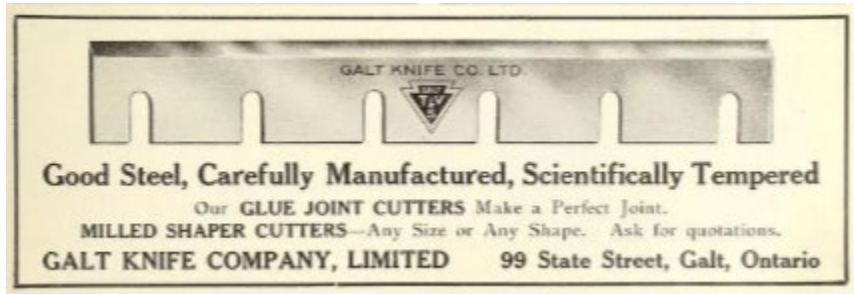
# Attachment A



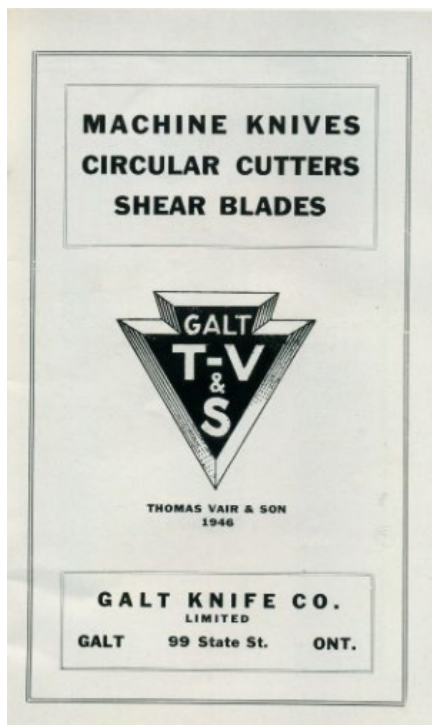
**Figure 1:** Front Façade (West Elevation) of 295 Ainslie Street South (Google Street View 2023).



**Figure 2:** Extract of 1851 Topographical Map of Galt, with the approximate location of the future 295 Ainslie Street South (then undeveloped land) indicated.



**Figure 3:** Canadian Woodworker and Furniture Manufacturer Journal (1915). Excerpt from the Canadian Woodworker and Furniture Manufacturer journal, which includes advertisements and industry listings relevant to machine knife manufacturers.



**Figure 4:** Galt Knife Company Promotional Booklet Cover (1946). Promotional booklet cover for the Galt Knife Company showing the company name and product lines including machine knives, circular cutters, and shear blades (Thomas Vair & Son, 1946).





1:1,000

AINSLIE ST S

PROSPECT PL

BIRCH ST

STATE ST

ALBERT ST



# 295 AINSLIE ST S

**PROPERTY ID:** 295 Ainslie Street South\_Galt



## **PROPERTY DATA**

1. **Name:** Galt Knife Co. Limited
2. **Municipal Address :** 295 Ainslie Street South, Cambridge Ontario
3. **Lot and Plan**
4. **Present Owner:** Grand River Brewing Co.
5. **Present Use:** Commercial

## **HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

1. **Date Constructed:**
2. **Architect/Builder:**
3. **Original Owner:** Galt Knife Co.
4. **Original Use:** Commercial
5. **Significant Later Owners/Users:**
6. **Other Significance:**

## **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

**SITE DETAIL:** The Old Galt Knife Company building is a long N-S oriented rectangular brick building that is sited on the corner of Birch and South Ainslie Street. The site is bound by Birch to the South, Ainslie to the West, and the rising valley bluff to the East. The north boundary of site is gravel and hosts what appears to be the primary service access and private parking for the current Brewery. The South end at the corner of Ainslie and Birch hosts the primary customer access from Birch, and is also gravel. Being an industrial site, most of the property, particularly the perimeter of the building, maintains vehicle accessibility and is largely gravel and mud with little or no grass. There are very few trees on site, the closest limiting their placement to the South East corner at the foot of the bluff, and the North, away from the access route. The bluff itself is heavily treed. There is clear unprotected exposure on the long West façade (facing Ainslie) that hosts many of the building's windows and primary signage. Birch, Ainslie, and the bluff impose boundaries at all but the North orientation, in which the neighboring property is located at a distance. There are no fences or barriers.

**ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:** Brick Industrial.

**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** The brickwork in parts of the large building has almost certainly been patched and fixed over the years; however it appears from the continuity of material and wear, that much of the general massing of the building has remained intact. The windows to the north have recently been blocked out with corrugated material, and those on the south third of the factory have been replaced. Both the Gable and flat roofs have been replaced, the gable roof being clad in a dark aluminum. The fascia and flashing on the flat roof has been re clad in unpainted aluminum. Both the standard and large sized access doors have been replaced.

**PLANS/BAYS/STOREYS:** The long façade contains a continuous double height interior space with an exterior façade ordered in the following pattern: 5 bay flat roof – 3 bay gable – 10 bay flat roof (with entry and double level on south end).

**EXTERIOR BUILDING MATERIALS:** The austere facade is entirely of red brick in plain running bond. The windows have large undressed rectangular openings and, except in a few instances, contain metal rectangular 5x5, or 5x4 pane windows. There is a perimeter base of poured concrete.

**ROOF: STYLE/MATERIALS:** The flat or low slope portion of the roof is surfaced in gravel and supports the outbound HVAC and sprinkler systems. The Gable portion is simply clad in corrugated aluminum. Three successively overlapping perimeter brick courses create shadow lines at the cornice accenting the roof just below the fascia (only on the long facades). The course preceding these overlapping rows (coplanar with the main façade) is a continuous row of headers. These articulations are sandwiched by brick corbels that extend from the north and south facades. These articulations appear to be the only conscious detail in the building.

**1. FRONT ELEVATION:** We will consider the west façade to be the front. This face hosts both the old signage for the Guelph Knife Co. and the most obvious intention at retaining the original character of the old windows (new windows on the east side deviate from the originals in appearance). The face is patterned in a 5-3-10 bay arrangement. Above the 10 south bays is painted, "GALT KNIFE COMPANY. LIMITED. MACHINE KNIVES." in white with a black background and a white border. The sign reaches in height from the window lintels to the base of the parapet, and in width from the first window after the gable to the end of the last large window.

- a. **Entrances:** There is a single customer entrance on the south end of this façade. This incorporates a new metal door in a simple opening in the brick façade. The door is protected by a wood framed awning with aluminum cladding that matches that of the gable roof.
- b. **Windows:** There is a series of 5 old '5x4 pane' windows beginning at the north end of the building. This is followed in the gable by 2 old '5x5 pane' windows, sandwiching a central horizontal 5x2, underneath another blocked in 5x2 in the apex. On the right side this is another row of 5 old 5x5 windows, continued by a series of 5 new 6x6 windows in identical openings. The south end has two horizontal vertically stacked windows, similar to those in the gable. Unlike these however, both now contain a single pane of glass.

The transition from 5x4 panes in the north end to 5x5 panes in the south is due to an internal shift floor height caused by the gentle slope of the site towards the south. The roofline is maintained however, as is the top alignment of the window lintels.

Many of the old panes in the windows have been covered inside by some sort of metal, but generally appear to be in great condition. Their facade openings are created by unaccented terminations in the brick, with undistinguished stretcher bond lintels which one would assume to be supported by interior metal shelf angles. The windows rest on concrete lug sills.

All the large window openings in this facade appear to match those described, except in the replacement windows, which are large 6/6 windows with faux mullions that appear to be double hung and operable. These appear to have white vinyl frames, and have been placed upon new white painted sills.

From discolouration in the facade, it appears that the lower of the two horizontal window openings in the centre of the gable has replaced a larger window similar in size to the neighboring 5x5 pane windows. The inset 5x2 window now appears to have a wood frame rather than metal. The opening above, which appears identical in size has been blocked by a plywood panel.

The two horizontal windows in the south end of the building are similar. The lower window however, is recessed halfway into the concrete base, and rests on a concrete lug sill, while the window above is within the body of the brick facade, and has a brick header lug sill. Both windows have simple stretcher bond lintels, continuing the running bond pattern of their above facade. These windows both contain vinyl framed single paned openings. The upper horizontal window suggests a second level in this portion of the building.

2. **LEFT ELEVATION** The north elevation is constructed in simple un interrupted running bond. This is, and was perhaps the main service facade, and contains a large roll down service door. The narrow face of this facade is composed of four bays; three rectangular window openings (now blocked in), and one large door opening. The Parapet extrudes upwards 3 or 4 bricks above the middle bays, breaking the monotony of the flat roof. Because of the rising grade to the north, here the height of the concrete base course is minimal, and towards the left of the facade, barely perceptible.
  - a. **Entrances:** There is one large access door in the right side of the facade. This contains a modern metal framed roll down door and has no sill. It transitions continuously from the exterior gravel to the interior concrete floor. A three brick high metal lintel inset into the brickwork spans the width of the opening. Above this is painted "GALT KNIFE Co.."
  - b. **Windows:** There are three window openings to the left of this access entry. These have been blocked in with corrugated metal or plastic. The openings maintain the simple lintels and concrete sills evident in the front facade.
3. **REAR ELEVATION:** This elevation is practically invisible from the street, and is greatly concealed by the bordering trees on the valley hill. It maintains vehicle accessibility along its length. Its window arrangements closely mirror those of the front elevation, replacing two window bays with large roll down doors.
  - a. **Entrances:** Two roll down access entries site themselves in the middle of the gable wall, and at the 4<sup>th</sup> window bay south of the gable (4 bays into the final 10 bay arrangement). These maintain the same materiality and metal sill placement mentioned in the left elevation.
  - b. **Windows:** The window arrangement is the same as that mentioned in the front facade, with the exception of two large window openings (at the centre of the gable, and 4 bays into the 10 window row), that have been replaced with large access doors. Four, rather than five windows as in the front elevation, have been replaced with modern double hung windows, and in this elevation do not have pane subdivisions. The materiality, structure, and detailing of this facade is the same as the front.
4. **RIGHT ELEVATION:** The right elevation faces south to Birch Street. This elevation appears to house an administrative entrance.
  - a. **Entrances:** There is one entrance on the right of this facade, identical in appearance to the customer entrance on the front facade. The opening is simply framed, containing a metal door protected by a wood framed awning with asphalt shingles. The entrance has a mailbox.

- b. **Windows:** There are three irregularly placed windows in this façade. The left most window is identical in appearance to the horizontal south bound windows in the front façade, being a single paned, horizontal opening with a concrete lug sill and a stretcher course lintel. Similar to the windows in the front façade, this window is bisected by the termination of concrete base, and the start of the brick façade.

There are two more windows on this face flanking the admin entrance a-symmetrically. To the left of the door is a very small rectangular window containing a modern single pane window. The lintel is undistinguished from the main façade and the concrete lug sill rests just above the concrete base line. To the right of the door is a much larger rectangular, horizontally oriented opening, with a similarly placed concrete lugs ill. This window is both wider and higher, with a typically treated opening. Both of these windows have discolouring on the concrete beneath their sills, indicating an exterior drainage or interior moisture problem.

**CONDITION:** This property appears to be up kept and in good condition.

**THREATS:** None apparent.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** None at this time

Document by Jonathan Enns  
School of Architecture  
University of Waterloo  
January 2008

**ENDNOTES:**

**SOURCES:**

1. On-site architectural inspection and photographic documentation, October 2007.

**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
LISTED (NON-DESIGNATED) PROPERTY REVIEW FORM**

**Address:** 295 Ainslie Street South, Cambridge, Ontario (Formely 99 State Street)  
**Common Name:** Grand River Brewing (Formerly Galt Knife Company)  
**Ward:** Galt  
**Legal Description:** N/A



Plate 1: Front Façade (West Elevation) of 295 Ainslie Street South



Plate 2: Location of 295 Ainslie Street South

**PROPERTY OBSERVATIONS:**

**Integrity:**  Preserved / Intact  Modified  Compromised  Demolished (date): \_\_\_\_\_

**Construction Period:**  1820-1850  1851-1875  1876-1900  1901-1945  1946-1975  1976-1999

**Year (if known):** 1890

**Architect / Builder / Craftsperson (if known):** N/A

**Massing:**  Single-detached  Semi-detached  Row  Other: Click or tap here to enter text.

**Storeys:**  1  1½  2  2½  3  3½  4 or more  Irregular  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Foundation Construction Material:**  Stone  Brick  Concrete  Wood  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish:

**Building Construction Material (if known):**  Brick  Frame (wood)  Stone  Log  Other: Unknown

**Building Cladding:**  Wood  Stone  Brick  Stucco  Synthetic  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish: Red brick, common bond

**Roof Type:**  Hip  Flat  Gambrel  Mansard  Gable  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ **Type:**

**Roof Materials:**  Asphalt Shingle  Wood Shingle  Slate  Tile/Terra Cotta  Tar/Gravel  Metal  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Architectural Style / Influence:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Art Deco / Moderne (1910-1950)	<input type="checkbox"/> Classical Revival (1820-1860)	<input type="checkbox"/> International (1920-1950)	<input type="checkbox"/> Neo-Gothic (1900-1945)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regency (1820-1860)
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Crafts (1890-1940)	<input type="checkbox"/> Colonial Revival (1900-2003)	<input type="checkbox"/> Italian Villa (1830-1900)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ontario Cottage (1840-1900)	<input type="checkbox"/> Richardson Romanesque (1840-1900)
<input type="checkbox"/> Beaux-Arts (1885-1945)	<input type="checkbox"/> Edwardian (1890-1916)	<input type="checkbox"/> Italianate (1850-1900)	<input type="checkbox"/> Period Revivals (1900-2014)	<input type="checkbox"/> Second Empire (1860-1900)
<input type="checkbox"/> Bungalow (1900-1945)	<input type="checkbox"/> Georgian / Mennonite Georgian (1750-1850)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-Century Modern (1945-1965)	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Modern (1960-2009)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vernacular
<input type="checkbox"/> Chateau (1880-1930)	<input type="checkbox"/> Gothic Revival (1830-1900)	<input type="checkbox"/> Neo-Classical (1810-1850)	<input type="checkbox"/> Queen Anne (1870-1910)	<input type="checkbox"/> Wartime Housing (1940-1960)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <a href="#">Click or tap here to enter text.</a>				

**Notes:** Vernacular Industrial

**Notable Building Features:**

- |  |   |                                      |  |                                     |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Porch   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sill(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tower/Spire | <input type="checkbox"/> Bargeboard  | <input type="checkbox"/> Eaves      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Verandah  | <input type="checkbox"/> Lintel(s)          | <input type="checkbox"/> Dome        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transom   | <input type="checkbox"/> Balustrade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balcony   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shutters           | <input type="checkbox"/> Finial      | <input type="checkbox"/> Side Light  | <input type="checkbox"/> Dormer     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Door(s)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Quoins             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pilaster    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pediment  | <input type="checkbox"/> Chimney    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stairs  | <input type="checkbox"/> Voussoir           | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital     | <input type="checkbox"/> Brackets  | <input type="checkbox"/> Parapet    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fire wall   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cornice            | <input type="checkbox"/> Panel       | <input type="checkbox"/> Date Stone  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bay        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Window Details: 30-over-30, 18-over-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Column             | <input type="checkbox"/> Cresting    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Central gable peak, gables over entrances |                                     |

**Notes:** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

**Context:**

- Streetscape (Residential / Commercial)  Terrace / Row  Complex / Grouping  Landmark
- Multi-Address Parcel (list addresses): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)  Other: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
- Related Buildings: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

**Plan:**  Square  Rectangular  L  U  T  H  Cross  Irregular  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Wings:** Left, right    **Setback:**  Shallow  Deep  At ROW  **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_  Corner Lot

**Accessory Features and Structures:**

- Features (i.e., stone wall, fountain, trees/garden beds):
- Gravel parking lots on the north and south sides
  - Patio on the southwest side
  - Ivy growing up the west elevation
- Structures (i.e., shed, ice house, drive shed):
- [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

- Young tree present at the north end of the front facade
- Mature trees lining the east side

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTES, DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH:**

- Previously known as being the Galt Knife Company

#### **Further Historical Value/ Associative Value Research/Evaluation:**

Recommended  Not Recommended

- Additional research recommended to learn more about the buildings past use

#### **Related Planning, Building or Heritage Files:**

- N/A

#### **OBSERVATION FORM COMPLETION:**

<b>Surveyed By:</b>	Meghan McKay, Junior Cultural Heritage Specialist	<b>Date:</b>	03/11/2025
<b>Reviewed By:</b>	Kanika Kaushal, Senior Cultural Heritage Specialist	<b>Date:</b>	06/06/2025

## PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

For properties to be considered *Significant Built Resources* and prioritized for inclusion in the designation work plan, they must meet, at minimum, **two** of nine O. Reg. 9/06 criteria (as amended by O. Reg. 569/22).

For properties to be considered *Character-Supporting Resources* and to be retained on the Heritage Register, they must meet, at minimum, **one** O. Reg. 9/06 criteria.

Yes/No	O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria	Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. The property's style, type, expression, material or construction method is: <input type="checkbox"/> rare <input type="checkbox"/> unique <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> representative <input type="checkbox"/> early	The property located at 295 Ainslie Street South contains a one-storey red brick vernacular industrial building constructed in 1890. Notable architectural features include the rectangular plan, flat roof with central gable peak, red brick exterior, 18-over-18 and 30-over-30 windows, sills, and gables over the entrances. Landscape elements include the mature trees at the rear of the property.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. The property displays a high degree of: <input type="checkbox"/> craftsmanship <input type="checkbox"/> artistic merit	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. The property demonstrates a high degree of: <input type="checkbox"/> technical <input type="checkbox"/> scientific achievement.	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. The property has direct associations with a potentially significant: <input type="checkbox"/> theme <input type="checkbox"/> event <input type="checkbox"/> belief <input type="checkbox"/> person <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> activity <input type="checkbox"/> organization <input type="checkbox"/> institution	The industrial building was originally the home to the Galt Knife Company who employed and served the community of Galt starting in 1913. In 2008 it became Grand River Brewery and now serves as Farm League brewing. The building still houses the original three-tonne drill press used by the Galt Knife Company which the brewery has repurposed as a can crusher.  The 1861 Tremaine Waterloo County Map identifies the subject lands under ownership of Andrew Elliot (1861 Tremaine Waterloo County Map) who was a prominent landowner, distillery owner, and the first reeve of the incorporated Village of Galt.  No direct associative link between A.Elliot and the subject property has been demonstrated.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. The property yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. The property demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of a potentially significant: <input type="checkbox"/> architect <input type="checkbox"/> artist <input type="checkbox"/> builder <input type="checkbox"/> designer <input type="checkbox"/> theorist	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	7. The property is important in: <input type="checkbox"/> defining <input type="checkbox"/> maintaining <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> supporting the character of an area.	The property is important in supporting the historical character of the area through its

Yes/No	O. Reg. 9/06 Criteria	Discussion
		construction materials, industrial architectural style and mature trees.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8. The property is linked to its surroundings: <input type="checkbox"/> physically <input type="checkbox"/> functionally <input type="checkbox"/> visually <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> historically	The property is historically linked to the surrounding Galt community through its past use as an industrial factory which employed locals and contributed to the local economy. The property makes an important contribution to the streetscape of which it forms a part.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. The property is a landmark.	N/A

**Classification:**

- Significant Built Heritage Resource       Character Supporting Resource       Not a Heritage Resource

**Draft Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:**

<b>Description of the Property:</b>	The property located at 295 Ainslie Street South contains a one-storey red brick vernacular industrial building constructed in 1890. The property also includes gravel parking lots on the north and south sides, a patio on the southwest side, ivy growing up the west elevation, a young tree at the front and mature trees lining the east side.
<b>Statement of Cultural Heritage Value:</b>	<p>The property located at 295 Ainslie Street South contains a one-storey red brick vernacular industrial building constructed in 1890. Notable architectural features include the rectangular plan, flat roof with central gable peak, red brick exterior, 18-over-18 and 30-over-30 windows, sills, and gables over the entrances. Landscape elements include the mature trees at the rear of the property. The property makes an important contribution to the streetscape of which it forms a part.</p> <p>The industrial building was originally the home to the Galt Knife Company who employed and served the community of Galt starting in 1913. In 2008 it became Grand River Brewery and now serves as Farm League brewing. The building still houses the original three-tonne drill press used by the Galt Knife Company which the brewery has repurposed as a can crusher.</p> <p>The 1861 Tremaine Waterloo County Map identifies the subject lands under ownership of Andrew Elliot (1861 Tremaine Waterloo County Map) who was a prominent landowner, distillery owner, and the first reeve of the incorporated Village of Galt.</p> <p>No direct associative link between A.Elliot and the subject property has been demonstrated.</p> <p>The property is important in supporting the historical character of the area through its construction materials, industrial architectural style and mature trees. The property is historically linked to the surrounding Galt community through its past use as an industrial factory which employed locals and contributed to the local economy.</p>

<b>Heritage Attributes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-storey red brick vernacular industrial building (built in 1890)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One-storey massing and contribution to urban composition</li> <li>○ Rectangular plan</li> <li>○ Flat roof with central gable peak</li> <li>○ Red brick exterior</li> <li>○ Window Composition Skills</li> <li>○ Gables over front entrances</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mature trees</li> </ul>
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**CRITERIA OF RISK OR VALUE:**

Properties that meet many of the following risk criteria may be prioritized for inclusion in the designation work plan:

- Known to possess significant CHVI (i.e., rare, unique, important historic associations, landmark)
- Located along a corridor planned for intensification
- Located in a proposed Stage 2 ION Station Are
- Located in a Secondary Plan Area or area aligned with other City initiatives or studies
- The site of a proposed development or threatened with demolition
- Located in an area experiencing development pressure or with a trend of high heritage loss (i.e., high number of development and building permit applications received)
- Located in an area with a concentration of pre-1950 buildings
- Located in a remaining settlement area (i.e., distinct place with unique identities)
- Located on a rural landscape or other cultural heritage landscape (i.e., does the property contain a barn?)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- Add to Designation Work Plan
- Consider designation as part of an HCD (Part V Designation)
- Retain on Heritage Register (until 2027) and add to non-status inventory
- Remove from Heritage Register

**NOTES:**

- N/A

**EVALUATION FORM COMPLETION:**

<b>Surveyed By:</b>	Meghan McKay, Junior Cultural Heritage Specialist	<b>Date:</b>	03/24/2025
<b>Reviewed By:</b>	Kanika Kaushal, Senior Cultural Heritage Specialist	<b>Date:</b>	06/06/2025
<b>City Staff Reviewer:</b>	Scott Abbott & Nick Borcescu	<b>Date:</b>	08Jul2025

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<b>Council Decision:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>City Database Update:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	

**SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTATION:**

- N/A

## **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE**

### **IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER O.18**

### **AND IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 295 AINSLIE STREET SOUTH, CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO**

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge intends to designate the property municipally known as 295 Ainslie Street South under Section 29, Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest.

#### **Description of Property**

The property at 295 Ainslie Street South is located at the southeast corner of Ainslie Street South and Birch Street in the historic Galt area. It contains a one-storey red-brick industrial building constructed circa 1890, positioned close to the street edge and backing onto the Grand River valley bluff.

#### **Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest**

The property is of cultural heritage value for its design, historical, and contextual significance. Built circa 1890, the building is a strong representative example of vernacular industrial architecture from the late nineteenth century. Its simple rectangular form, red-brick construction, and flat roof with a central gable are characteristic of early Galt manufacturing structures.

Historically, the property is directly associated with the Galt Knife Company Limited, which operated on-site from 1913 into the early 2000s, manufacturing precision industrial blades used across North America. The company was a key employer and contributor to Galt's industrial economy. Following its closure, the building was adaptively reused as Grand River Brewing (2007) and now as Farm League Brewing (2021)—continuing its long tradition of productive, community-focused industry.

Contextually, the property supports and maintains the historic industrial character of South Galt, with its siting, materials, and massing contributing to the early industrial landscape along Ainslie Street South. The building remains physically and historically linked to the adjacent Grand River industrial corridor.

#### **Description of Heritage Attributes**

The following attributes contribute to the property's cultural heritage value:

##### **Building Attributes**

- One-storey, red-brick industrial building constructed circa 1890
- Rectangular plan and low-profile flat roof with a central gable peak

- Red-brick exterior walls laid in common bond
- Regular rhythm of rectangular window openings with multi-pane industrial sash windows and concrete sills
- Modest door openings on the west and south elevations, reflective of utilitarian industrial design
- Overall massing, scale, and form representative of late-nineteenth-century vernacular factory architecture

### **Site and Landscape Attributes**

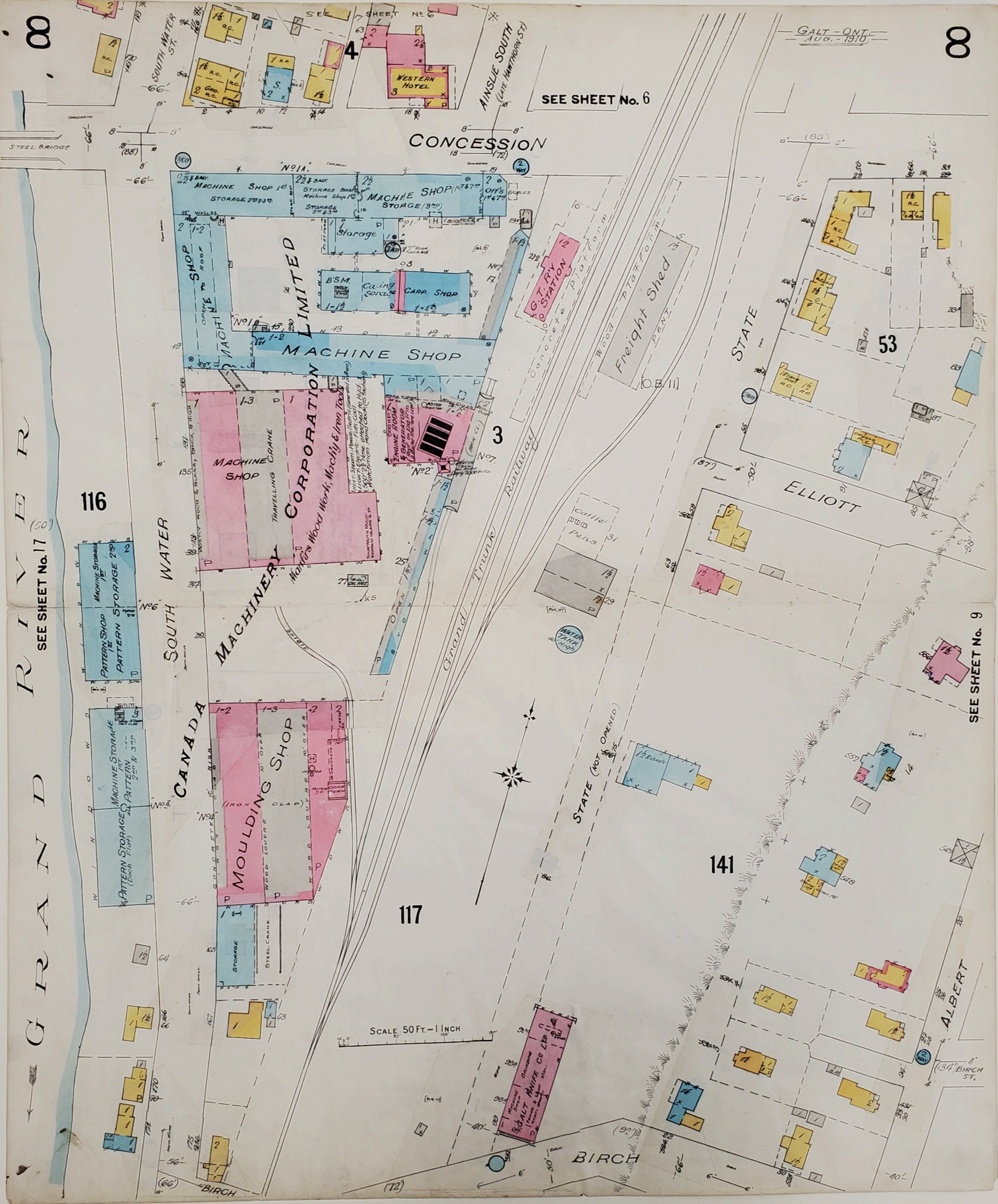
- Shallow setbacks from Ainslie Street South and Birch Street, typical of early industrial siting patterns
- Mature trees and vegetated bluff to the east, providing a natural backdrop associated with the Grand River industrial corridor

### **Objection**

Any person may, within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice, serve on the City Clerk of the City of Cambridge a Notice of Objection to the proposed designation. The notice must set out the reason(s) for the objection and all relevant facts.

Notice of Objection should be addressed to: City Clerk, The Corporation of the City of Cambridge 50 Dickson Street, P.O. Box 669, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 5W8 Email: [clerks@cambridge.ca](mailto:clerks@cambridge.ca)

Further information regarding the proposed designation may be obtained from the Policy Planning Division (Heritage Planning) at [heritageinfo@cambridge.ca](mailto:heritageinfo@cambridge.ca).



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SEE SHEET No. 6

CONCESSION

GRAND RIVER

SEE SHEET No. 17

116

SOUTH WATER

CANADA

MACHINERY CORPORATION LIMITED  
Machinists Wood Works, Machy & Iron Tools

MOULDING SHOP

117

SCALE 50 FT. = 1 INCH

STATE (NOT OPENED)

141

BIRCH

ELLIOTT

SEE SHEET No. 9

ALBERT

(134) BIRCH ST.

GALT-ONT  
AUG. - 1910