



# The Corporation of the Town of Milton

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Report To: Council

From: Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services

Date: February 24, 2025

Report No: DS-014-25

Subject: Recommendation Report - Notice of Intention to Designate 24 and 26 James Street\_ George Brown House

**Recommendation:** **THAT** Staff Report DS-014-25 entitled: "Recommendation Report - Notice of Intention to Designate\_ 24 and 26 James Street\_ George Brown House" be received;

**THAT** Council recognizes the historic house at 24 and 26 James Street in the Town of Milton as being of heritage significance;

**THAT** Council designate the property under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18 for the reasons outlined in the Reasons for Designation attached as Appendix 1 to this Report;

**AND THAT** the Town Clerk provides the Notice of Intention to Designate as outlined in Section 29 (4) of the Ontario Heritage Act;

**AND FURTHER THAT** once the thirty-day objection period has expired and if there are no objections, a designation by-law is brought forward for Council adoption.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This one-and-a-half-storey semi-detached home on the southwest corner of James Street and Mill Street was built in 1842 for the first Mayor of Milton George Brown. Around 1870, the house was moved from Main Street to its current location at 24 and 26 James Street. It houses three generations of blacksmiths from the Waldie family.
- The property's current owners have voluntarily responded to the heritage designation program and desires that their property be designated.
- Staff has evaluated this historic home as a significant built heritage resource for the Town of Milton and should be designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. (See Appendix '1')

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This significant heritage resource fulfils more than two of the evaluation criteria in Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (R.S.O. 1990), Ontario Regulation 9/06 (See Appendix 2). As such, it is worthy of designation under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act.

## REPORT

### Background

This historic house was the home of George Brown, Milton's first Mayor. It was built around 1842 and located originally on Main Street. In 1870, James Alfred Waldie Senior moved it from 170 Main Street East, the current Knox Presbyterian Church, to its present site on 24 and 26 James Street. The Waldie family lived in this house for three generations and operated the Blacksmith's shop on the adjacent lot.

### Discussion

This historic house, the home of Milton's first mayor, has a deep connection to the Waldie family. The Waldie family, spanning three generations, lived in this house and operated the adjacent Blacksmith's shop, a testament to their enduring legacy in our community.

The original lot, created by the Crown in 1853, was registered to John Martin and sold by his wife to James Hume that same year. Hume and his wife Sarah sold it to James Waldie Senior in 1867. The house was moved from Main Street to the current location around 1870. The property was mortgaged to William Murray and John McKindsey in 1875 and 1876; The Murrays conveyed the property to the McKindseys in 1881. In 1883, George McKindsey released the property back to Sarah Priscilla Waldie, wife of James Alfred Waldie Senior. The property has since remained with the Waldie family and housed three generations of blacksmiths. The property ownership passed on to Alfred Ethelred Waldie, his wife Edna Marie Wilkinson Waldie and James Franklin Waldie in 1970. The present owners are Marsha (nee Waldie) and Gayle Brown.

Alfred James Waldie Junior was a member of the Council in 1906. He was also captain of the Milton Fire Department and coach of the department's "Hook and Ladder" running team. His other memberships include the Odd Fellows Lodge, founding member of the Milton Rebecca Lodge, and Halton Agricultural Society.

The legacy of the blacksmithing profession is an important part of the history of Milton. The Waldie family shod horses, repaired wagons, manufactured farm implements, and horse-drawn carriages for the local community. Alfred Ethelred was the last member of the Waldie family to operate the blacksmith shop, which he closed in the early 1970s. Through the

## Discussion

efforts of the Waldie family and the Milton Historical Society, the adjacent blacksmith shop at 16 James Street was restored and received heritage designation in 2015.

Physically, this one-and-a-half-storey semi-detached house has a low gable roof with a front gable dormer, protruding eaves and a plain soffit. The east elevation has a balanced, three-bay front faced with horizontal sidings. The central entrance has one stone step, a landing, and an overhead lean-to canopy with decorative metal trims. Single-leaf panel front doors have moulded trims, and an upper glass insert provides entry to each half of the property. Most original windows are two-sided, one-over-one, with plain trims and shutters. The original single-flue brick chimney is still on the house's southern side.

Contextually, this house is physically and historically linked to the designated Waldie Blacksmith Workshop, an important part of the blacksmithing in Milton and links to Milton's settlement history.

### Character Defining Elements/Heritage Attributes

Key attributes that reflect the cultural heritage value of the property include:

- A three bays, one and a half story semi-detached home with horizontal siding on a stone foundation
- The low gable roof with front gable dormer, projecting eaves, plain fascia and soffit
- Plain two-sash, two over two windows with wooden shutters
- Two identical single-leaf panel wood doors with moulded trims and glass inserts.
- Central entrance with a single stone step, metal canopy over both doors with no supports and decorative metal trims
- Single flue brick chimney on the south elevation
- Historical home of the first Mayor of Milton, George Brown and Councillor Alfred James Waldie Junior
- Contextually, this house is physically and historically linked to the designated Waldie Blacksmith Workshop, an important part of the history of blacksmithing and the settlement of Milton.

### Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the optimal conservation and protection measures for this heritage property is the designation of the property.

