

## 24 and 26 James Street\_ George Brown House



### Legal Description

Survey Martin Block 4 part lots 36 and 38

### Description of Property

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.

### Statement of Cultural Value and Interest

#### Historical Value

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's. Through the 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.

### **Physical or Design Value**

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.

### **Contextual Value**

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.