

**Heritage Report:
Reasons for Heritage Designation**



**3448 Castlemore Road
Squire Thomas Burrell Grist Mill Site/Burrell's Hollow**

October 2015

Municipal Address	3448 Castlemore Road
PIN Number	142202940
Roll Number	10-12-0-002-20712-0000
Legal Description	PL 43M1652 BLK 107 (formerly Lot 11 Con. 7, EHS)
Ward Number	10
Property Name	Squire Thomas Burrell Grist Mill Site/Burrell's Hollow
Current Owner	The Corporation of the City of Brampton
Owner Concurrence	-
Current Zoning	Floodplain (F)
Current Use(s)	Open Space
Construction Date	1842
Notable Owners or Occupants	Thomas and Christopher Burrell
Heritage Resources on Subject Property	Ruin, cultural heritage landscape, potential archaeological resources
Relevant Council Resolutions	-
Additional Information	-

1. Current Situation:

The property at 3448 Castlemore Road is worthy of designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value or interest. The property meets the criteria for designation prescribed by the Province of Ontario under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, Regulation 9/06 for the categories of design/physical value, historical/associative value, and contextual value.

2. Description of Property

The property at 3448 Castlemore Road is approximately 39 acres located within valley land situated at the north-west corner of Goreway Drive and Castlemore Road. A tributary of the West Humber River meanders in a south-easterly direction through the subject lands, from Airport Road and the former hamlet of Stanley's Mills. The mill site was located above the tributary on the west side. The land is undeveloped open space, conveyed as floodplain to the City of Brampton.

3. Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

Design/Physical Value:

The cultural heritage value of 3448 Castlemore Road is related to its design/ physical value as an example of a 19th century grist mill site in Brampton. The site contains the ruins of the circa 1842 Thomas Burrell Grist Mill. There are deep trenches still present, which served as sluices to direct the water to the mill, as well as remnants of foundation walls. The site is also distinguished by open meadows and groves of trees.

A grist mill is a mill that grinds grains such as wheat, rye and oats, into flour. In the 19th century they were most often water powered, thus located by streams and rivers. Such mills were crucial to Euro-Canadian settlements in Ontario. Typically, in a water powered grist mill, water was diverted from the nearby water source and contained in a mill pound. Once diverted, the water would be controlled by various channels (sluices) and sluice gates, and the water movement would power the water wheel that would, in turn, power the movement of the mill stones to ground the grains into flour.

Historical/Associative Value:

The cultural heritage value also lies in its association with at least three generations of the Burrell family, an early business serving the Township of Toronto-Gore area, and the changing landscape of the former Township of Toronto-Gore from the early

settlements of Euro-Canadian settlers, to the rise of small villages and industries that in turn evolved into open farmland and the horse industry in Peel.

On October, 31, 1828, the 200 acres of Lot 11, Concession 7 in the Township of Toronto Gore was granted by the Crown to Bishop Strachan as part of the Clergy Reserve lands. On February 10, 1838, John Sanderson bought the land from Bishop Strachan, and on May 15, 1838, he sold it to Thomas Burrell for £1000.00.

William Thomas Burrell was born in 1782 to a well-respected family in Lincolnshire, England. Thomas held a prominent position in the Lincolnshire Militia, where his main responsibility was training soldiers. He married Ann Standerlin while still in England and they immigrated to Upper Canada around 1816, and arrived in Peel County around 1825 with their young son, Christopher.

Thomas quickly became involved in local politics, and wrote to *The Colonial Advocate* in the fall of 1827, suggesting that the “infallible remedy against executive influence is that inhabitants of York should refuse to deal with any merchant or tradesman who voted for government placemen.” Burrell was a supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie, and using his knowledge from Lincolnshire Militia experience, not only trained his own sons to fight but also helped to train some of the other rebels.

Once Burrell and his wife settled down on Concession 7, Lot 11 in Toronto Gore, he became a very successful local business man. One of his first undertakings was a tannery. In 1842, he built a substantial grist mill, which had two runs of grindstones. The mill was located in the middle of the valley, above the river. It was accessible from today's Airport Road by a long lane, as well as from Goreway Drive.

The mill supplied flour to the neighbouring communities of Stanley's Mills, Castlemore and Tullamore, as well as other parts of the Township. In addition to the tannery and grist mill, Burrell sold his grains and skins wholesale, and also ran a store, brewery, smithy (blacksmith's shop) and other properties. Further cementing his role in the community, he was appointed a magistrate.

However, not every transaction went smoothly. Thomas Burrell had a mortgage with John Sanderson, a Methodist preacher, who kept coming for payments. Thomas Burrell became suspicious, added up his receipts and found he overpaid by £600. The following is the inscription he wrote for his tombstone:

*This is a world full of deceit, of illness and pride.
Men use religion as a cloak their dark deed for to hide.*

*Therefore be cautious with whom you deal and take him for a rogue.
And never put your trust in man but place it in the Lord.
There justice will no doubt be done to every mortal man.*

Thomas Burrell died on October 29, 1858 when he fell through a hole in the floor of the mill. He was buried in St. Mary's Anglican cemetery (Lot 17, Con. 6 E., Chinguacousy Township), in Tullamore. It is not known for certain if his tombstone was actually inscribed with the above verse, as the original monument for Thomas Burrell, his wife Ann and their son William cannot be found in the cemetery. Apparently the monument was damaged and was placed behind a barn located in Lot 17 Con. 6E Chinguacousy Township and a new one was to be erected. However, the original disappeared and there is no replacement stone for them currently in the cemetery.

It was Thomas's oldest son, Christopher Burrell, who eventually took over the running and ownership of the mill and property. Thomas's other son, William Burrell, did not take over the mill because he was killed when his team of horses bolted at the sound of a boat whistle when he was delivering a wagon load of grain to the waterfront in Toronto.

Christopher first married in 1835, and soon after immigrated to the United States with his wife, Catherine, in search of cheap land in Illinois. While in the U.S., both his wife and brother-in-law died, and Christopher returned to Peel in the early 1850's with his new wife (and former sister in law), Elizabeth, and young son, Richard. They rejoined the family interests in running the mill, and it is Christopher who is credited for adding a distillery to the family business. The new distillery, by all accounts, made a very fine whiskey. Workmen were allowed at least one drink per day, but anyone found drunk was immediately dismissed. Prior to his death in 1858, Thomas Burrell sold the holdings to his son Christopher on February 19, 1855 for £2000.

A mere 2 years after buying the mill from his father, Christopher sold the mill to Gordon Tucker for £4000 in March 1857. In 1859, Christopher Burrell was named the postmaster of Stanley's Mills (and again from 1864-1886), and was also a magistrate like his father. In 1861, the Census listed the occupation of Christopher Burrell as "Private". The Burrell family was perhaps no longer in the milling business, although he continued on as a resident of considerable influence, donating land for St. Mary's Anglican cemetery in Tullamore, and then founding a local branch of the Methodist Church in 1859.

However, for unknown reasons Christopher Burrell bought back the mill few years later from Gordon Tucker. By the 1871 Census, his son, William, is listed as a miller, and in

the 1877 Peel County Atlas Christopher Burrell is noted as the owner of the entire property again. Although there were many employees and head millers, the business was essentially run by his sons, William and Richard, until 1895.

Through the 1860s to 80s, the Toronto-Gore Township and the village of Stanley's Mills was a thriving centre, reaching a peak 19th century population of 175. It was widely reported to have the best farmland, and was along a well-travelled route to Toronto so it had numerous inns, taverns, distilleries and mills. Several Township Council meetings are known to have taken place at Burrell's Hollow during this time.

But by the mid-1880s, the village of Stanley's Mills began to decline as did the fortunes of the mill. This may be partially attributed to the development of the railways that were located in the Town of Brampton, thus encouraging business to relocate to more central areas. The passing of first the *Dunkin Act* of 1864, which allowed communities to enact prohibition, as well as the 1878 *Canada Temperance Act*, may have also negatively impacted the mill.

Although the County of Peel initially voted against prohibition in 1876, local prohibitionists called for and were able to convince the municipal governments to pass a number of local ordinances and regulations that effectively closed down a number of taverns and distilleries in the area. In 1874, there were 15 licensed taverns for travelers in Toronto-Gore, and by 1885, only one of those taverns was still licensed to serve alcohol.

By 1888, Burrell's mill operation was described as a flour mill only, with no references to a distillery. In 1885, Christopher Burrell sold all 200 acres "excepting the mill property" to Noah Chant in March 1885 for \$11,150. The remaining mill property itself was sold a few years later in 1892 by Richard Burrell to John Chant for \$300.

Christopher Burrell died on January 13, 1893, at age 82. His wife, Elizabeth, died on January 17, 1876, at age 67. They are buried in St. Mary's Anglican Cemetery, Tullamore. Richard Burrell and his wife, Anne Noble, moved to Caledon where he continued in the grain business and owned a successful store in Lockton. He died in 1929.

The Chant family held onto and farmed the original 200 acres for 15 years, until they sold it to Stephen Payne in 1910 for \$10,000. In 1928, Albert Payne split the property and sold the west 100 acres to James Hosie, and the east 100 acres to Robert and Martha Peacock. It is the east half of the property that contains the remains of the mill,

and while the property may have been used for farming, it was also known as the remains of the Burrell mill.

Eventually in 1956, James E. Cotrelle purchased the east half of the site and it became part of Cottrelle's family farm and horse stables known as "Springpark". The property was purchased for a residential development prior to 2004, and the lands that currently comprise 3448 Castlemore Road were conveyed to the City of Brampton in October 2004 in part because of the significant cultural heritage.

Contextual Value:

The property also holds contextual value as it is important in defining a significant cultural heritage landscape with its scenic open space, meandering stream, vegetation and intact vistas.

4. Description of Heritage Attributes/Character Defining Elements

The heritage attributes comprise all façades, architectural detailing, construction materials and associated building techniques, as well as significant landscape elements and important vistas. The detailed heritage attributes/character defining elements include, but are not limited to:

- remnants of mill (e.g. foundation walls);
- trenches for sluices that directed water to the mill;
- meandering tributary of the West Humber River; and
- scenic open space.

5. Alteration History and Heritage Integrity

The following are the known alterations to the subject property:

- The mill was closed or abandoned in the late 19th century.

6. Archaeological Potential

The subject property has archaeological potential because there are known archaeological sites on or within 300 meters of the property, there are water sources within 300 metres of the property, and the property has been recognized for its cultural heritage value.

7. Policy Framework

In the context of land use planning, the Province of Ontario has declared that the wise use and management of Ontario's cultural heritage resources is a key provincial interest.

A set of Provincial Policy Statements (PPS) provides planning policy direction on matters of provincial interest in Ontario. These statements set the policy framework for regulating the development and use of land. The relevant heritage policy statement is PPS 2.6.1, which states that "significant built heritage resources and significant cultural heritage landscapes shall be conserved". PPS 2.6.1 is tied to Section 3 of the *Ontario Planning Act*, which stipulates that land use planning decisions by municipalities "shall be consistent with" the Provincial Policy Statements.

The policy is also integrated with the Ontario Heritage Act. This piece of legislation grants municipalities powers to preserve locally significant cultural heritage resources through heritage designation. Decisions as to whether a property should be designated heritage or not is based solely on its inherent cultural heritage value or interest.

City Council prefers to designate heritage properties with the support of property owners. However, Council will designate a property proactively, without the concurrence of a property owner as required. These principles are reflected in Brampton's Official Plan. The relevant policies are as follows:

Section 4.10.1.3: All significant heritage resources shall be designated as being of cultural heritage value or interest in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act to help ensure effective protection and their continuing maintenance, conservation and restoration.

Section 4.10.1.5: Priority will be given to designating all heritage cemeteries and all Class A heritage resources in the Cultural Heritage Resources Register under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Section 4.10.1.6: The City will give immediate consideration to the designation of any heritage resource under the Ontario Heritage Act if that resource is threatened with demolition, significant alterations or other potentially adverse impacts.

In 2013, the City of Brampton adopted a new Strategic Plan to guide the evolution, growth and development of the city over the next two decades. Heritage preservation is one of the strategic priorities of the Strategic Plan.

These principles are also guided by recognized best practices in the field of heritage conservation.

8. Resources

Canadian Census Rolls, www.ancestry.ca

City of Brampton. *Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Resources Listing Candidate Summary Report: Squire Thomas Burrell Grist Mill Site*. 2008.

Clergy and Crown Reserves, www.ancestry.ca

Hazen, T. R. *Historically: How to Site a Mill*.
<http://www.angelfire.com/journal/millrestoration/site.html>

Peel Art Gallery, Museum + Archives (PAMA)
Brampton Daily Times and Conservator, 1928-29
Bull, William Perkins. *From Booze to Business*.
William Perkins Bull Collection (Boxes 30, 36)

Pope, J. H. *Illustrated historical atlas of the County of Peel, Ont.* Toronto: Walker & Miles, 1877.

Tavender, George. *From This Year Hence: A History of the Township of Toronto Gore 1818-1983*. Toronto: The Byrant Press Ltd., 1984.

9. Appendix



Figure 1: Aerial photograph with 3448 Castlemore Rd highlighted (Source: City of Brampton)



Figure 2: Map with 3448 Castlemore Rd highlighted (Source: City of Brampton)

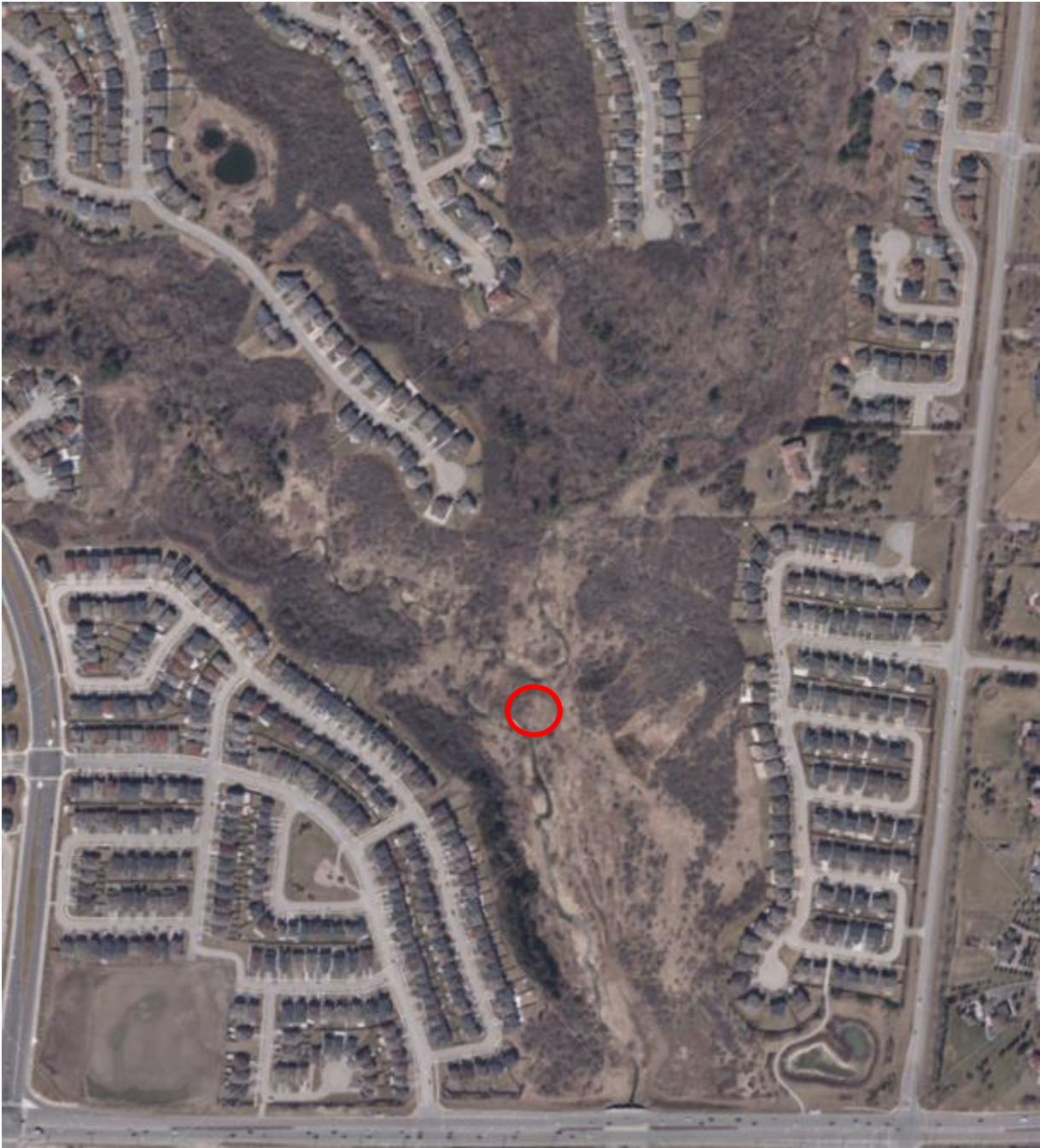


Figure 3: Aerial photograph showing general area of mill (Source: City of Brampton)



Figure 4: Subject lands from the 1877 Peel County Atlas



Figure 5: Remnants of mill foundation, 2008 (Source: City of Brampton)



Figure 6: Mill remnant, 2008 (Source: City Brampton)



Figure 7: Portion of sluice trenching leading to the mill, 2008 (Source: City of Brampton)



Figure 8: Portion of sluice trenching leading to the mill, 2008 (Source: City of Brampton)



Figure 9: General view of cultural heritage landscape taken from taken from Castlemore Road north-west, 2008 (Source: City of Brampton)