

**HALIFAX**

# **H00549 – 2096 Creighton Street**

Request to Include Property in the Registry of Heritage  
Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality

Heritage Advisory Committee  
March 22, 2023

# Location

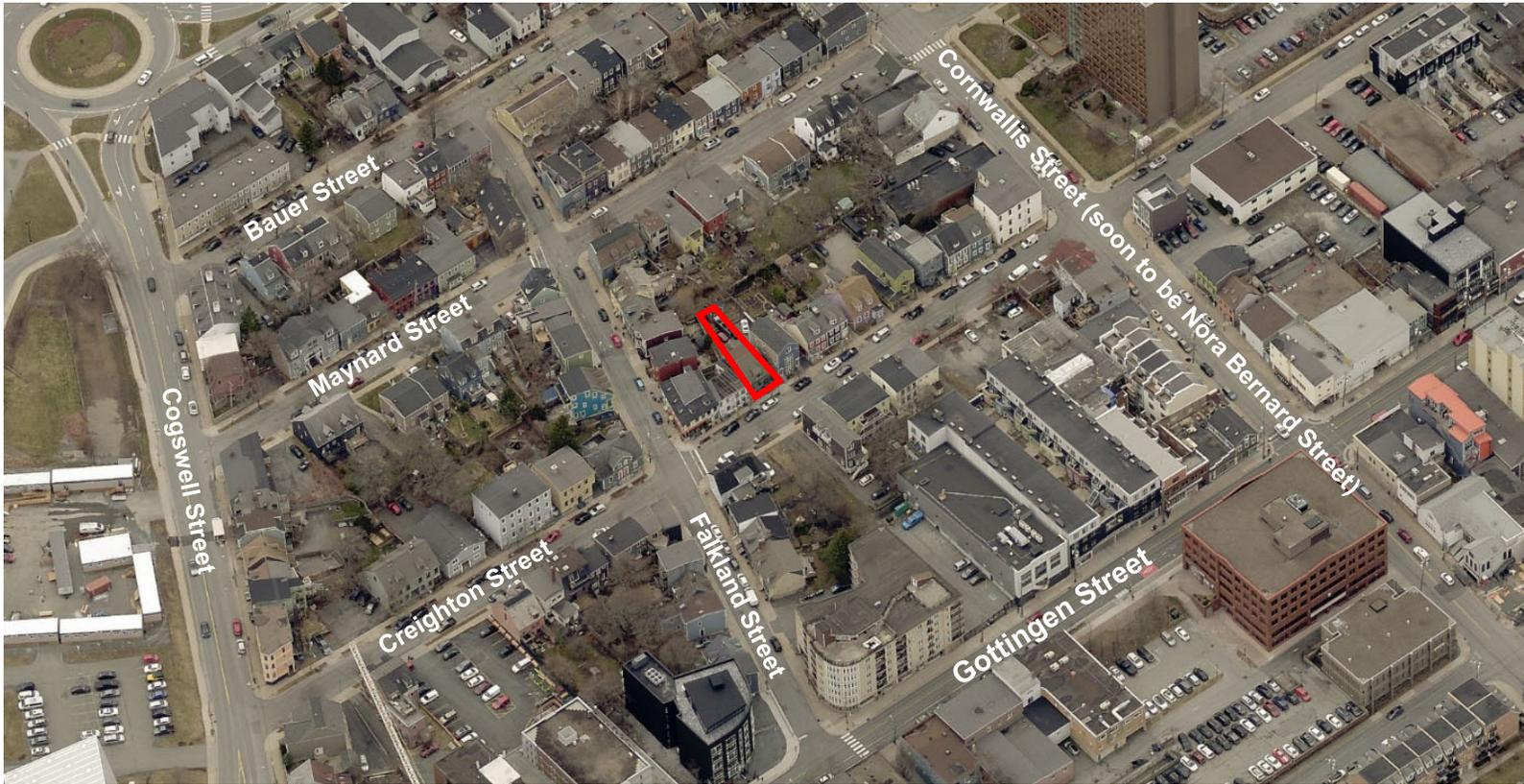


2096 Creighton Street (February 15, 2023)



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# Location



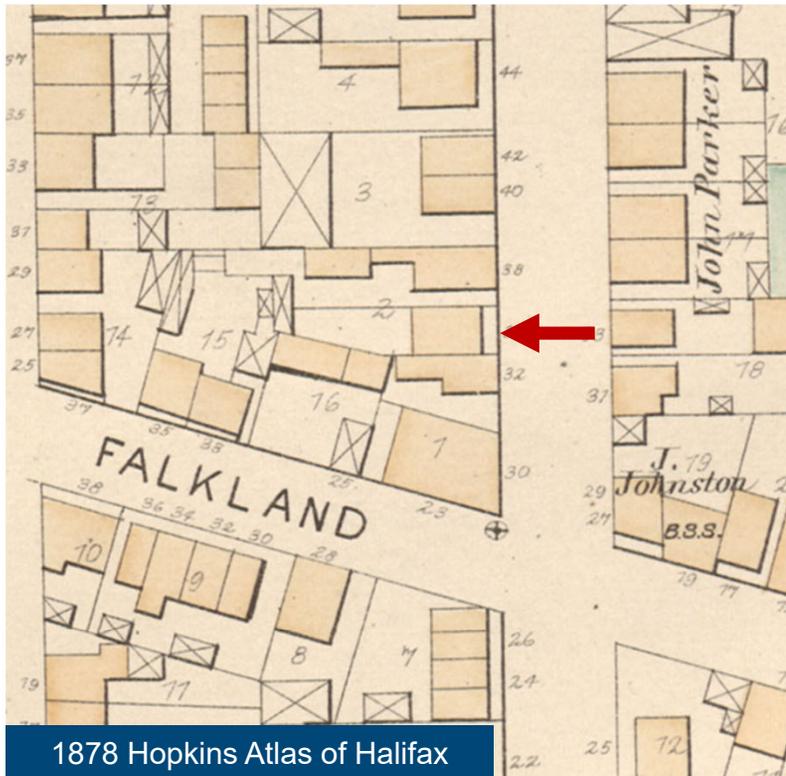
# Registration Evaluation Criteria

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Criterion	Maximum Score
1. Age	25
2.[a] Historical <u>or</u> [b] Architectural Importance	20
3. Significance of Architect / Builder	10
4. Architectural Merit: [a] Construction Type <u>and</u> [b] Style	20
5. Architectural Integrity	15
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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# 1. Age



- William John Robertson built two dwellings on Lot #2 of the original Creighton's Field subdivision, 36 and 38 Creighton Street
- Mortgages taken out by the Robertsons clearly indicate the first dwelling being built in 1849 and the second in 1862
- Historic maps and aerials show 38 Creighton Street (the Robertsons' primary dwelling) being substantially larger than 36 Creighton Street (the subject dwelling)
- Thus, the earlier, smaller, 1849 mortgage most likely paid for the construction of the smaller 36 Creighton Street (2096 Creighton Street) dwelling

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## 2a. Historical Importance *[Historical Relationships]*



Grave of Wm. J. Robertson in Camp Hill Cemetery

### **William John Robertson b. ~1816, d. 1890**

- Worked as a carpenter, housebuilder, and architect
- He built 36 Creighton Street [subject property] and 38 Creighton Street [since demolished]
- He likely built other homes in the area, though his work is undocumented and predates historic building permits
- He and his wife Eliza were commemorated in an 1885 newspaper article for their golden [50th] wedding anniversary, a rare occurrence for the time
- For most of W. J. Robertson's ownership, the house was a rental property.

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## 2a. Historical Importance *[Historical Relationships]*



Photograph showing Everett Bros. Hats, Caps and Furs (100 Granville Street) in 1871.

### Thomas Edward Everett b. 1832, d. 1919

- One of the first and most notable tenants, residing at 36 Creighton from 1868 to 1871
- One half of Everett Bros. Hats, Caps and Furs, with his brother Henry L. Everett
- Hat retailer and manufacturer located on Hollis St opposite Province House and later at 100 Granville Street
- He commissioned and moved into 5 Bauer Street (now 2013 Bauer Street) in 1872
- His brother left the firm, and it became T. E. Everett & Co.

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## 2a. Historical Importance *[Historical Relationships]*



Portrait of Hal B. Forbes in his Gottingen Street workshop (2017) and examples of his restoration work.

### Hal B. Forbes b. 1955, d. 2018

- Costume studies major at Dal, graduating in 1982.
- Worked up the ranks behind the scenes at the Neptune Theatre
- Restored many homes in Halifax's North End
- Established a heritage carpentry workshop on Gottingen Street
- Worked as Canadian singer Rita MacNeil's costume designer and personal assistant.

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### 3. Significance of Architect/Builder



1878 Hopkins Atlas of Halifax showing the two houses W.J. Robertson built.



Plan of North Suburb showing Lot 5 Letter C

- Original architect and builder was William John Robertson
- Restored by Hal B. Forbes

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## 4a. Architectural Merit [*Construction Type*]

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- Timber frame construction
- Built atop a coursed rubblestone foundation
- Timber frame construction was superseded by balloon frame construction through the mid to late 1800s.

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## 4b. Architectural Merit *[Style]*



- Scottish Vernacular style
- Basic form of a Nova Scotian vernacular “half-house”
- Five-sided, hipped-roof, “Scottish” dormer
- Particularly well-ornamented example with hooded front windows and a grand front entrance

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## 4b. Architectural Merit *[Style]*

**Character-defining elements of 2096 Creighton Street are as listed in the Staff Report, but most notably include:**

- Single Scottish (5-sided, hipped roof) dormer with six-over-six, single-hung, wood-frame central window and slender, two-over-two, single-hung, wood-frame flanking windows;
- Front entrance with transom and sidelights, pilasters, and entablature;
- Pair of six-over-six, single-hung, wood-frame front windows with bracketed hood mouldings;



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## 5. Architectural Integrity

- Retains its original rectangular layout [the small rear structure is a shed; it shares no walls with the dwelling and is not an addition]
- Almost all character-defining elements remain intact
- Two notable changes:
  - Large, rear shed-dormer with three windows
  - Foundation has been parged with cement



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## 6. Relationship to Surrounding Area



Aerial of Creighton Street showing subject property [red] and registered heritage properties [yellow]

- Part of the original subdivision of lands of George A. S. Creighton.
- The subject dwelling is one of the oldest houses in this subdivision, which was subdivided only five years prior to its construction
- Example of middle- and working-class housing characteristic of the historic Creighton's Field subdivision
- Compatible use and scale with surroundings
- Stands out for its high heritage integrity and its particularly ornate expression of the Scottish vernacular style
- Proximity to other registered heritage properties and many contributing [unregistered] heritage properties

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## 6. Relationship to Surrounding Area



# Registration Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Score Awarded
1. Age	16
2. Historical or Architectural Importance	10
3. Significance of Architect / Builder	3
4a. Architectural Merit: Construction Type	10
4b. Architectural Merit: Style	6
5. Architectural Integrity	13
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>

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# Recommendation

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That Halifax Regional Council approve the request to include 2096 Creighton Street, Halifax in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality, as shown on Map 1 of the March 22, 2023 staff report, as a municipal heritage property under the Heritage Property Act.

The background features a large, stylized graphic of the Halifax logo, which is a white 'X' shape on a dark blue background. The 'X' is formed by two overlapping triangles. The top-right and bottom-right quadrants of the 'X' are filled with a dark blue color, while the top-left and bottom-left quadrants are filled with a lighter, medium blue color. The word 'HALIFAX' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters in the top-right quadrant.

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**Thank You**