

**HALIFAX**

# **H00563 – 6484 - 6484 1/2 Jubilee Road**

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

Heritage Advisory Committee  
August 23, 2023

# Location



6484 - 6484 ½ Jubilee Road (June 22, 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

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Photo of the subject dwelling, referred to as “Red Gables”, in 1921, from the diaries of Harry I. Mathers

- Harry Isaac Mathers I purchased two adjacent lots at the southwest corner of Jubilee Road and Beech Street from Geldert in 1919 and 1920 respectively
- He commissioned architect Allison Graham Creighton and carpenter and contractor St. Clair Alexander Hiltz to design and build the home
- The historic building permit for the dwelling was issued in May of 1920, suggesting construction began that year
- City directories show Mathers listed as residing there in 1921 and his diaries indicate he moved from 39 Chestnut Street to 250 Jubilee Road on **February 24, 1921**.

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# 1. Age

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Date of Construction	Points	Timeline
1749 - 1785	25	Halifax Garrison Town to the Loyalist migration
1786 - 1830	20	Boom period following construction of Shubenacadie Canal
1831 - 1867	16	From Boom to Confederation
1868 - 1899	13	Confederation to the end of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century
1900 - 1917	9	Turn of the Century to Halifax Harbour Explosion
1918 - 1945	5	The War Years
1945 - Present	3	Post-War

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



Isaac Henry Mathers,  
founder of I.H.  
Mathers Ltd.



I.H. Mathers Ltd.  
present day logo with  
original company flag

### I. H. Mathers Ltd. Shipping Agents (Isaac Henry Mathers 1845-1932)

- Born in Newry, and apprenticed under his father Francis Mathers, a merchant in timber, iron, slate, and general goods.
- Isaac emigrated to New York in 1870 and then to Saint John, NB in 1871, opening offices in both locations for the Liverpool-based Carvell Line of packet ships.
- The following year (1872) he and his wife relocated to Halifax, NS, where Isaac opened I.H. Mathers Ltd. shipping agents which operates to this day as a shipping logistics firm.

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



Photograph of Harry I. Mathers I in his office,  
c.1925

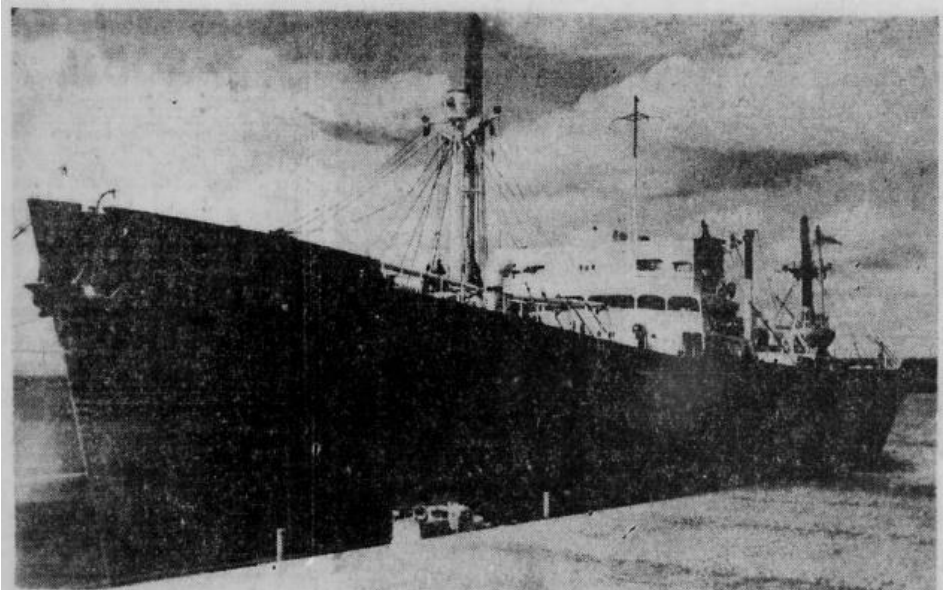
### Harry Isaac Mathers I (1870-1945)

- Son of Isaac Henry Mathers, he joined the firm in 1890 and took over as President of I.H. Mathers & Son Ltd. in 1906.
- Expanded the company into exports of lumber, pulp, salt, & canned lobster; imports from the Caribbean
- Operated mills and factories across Nova Scotia to produce their exports
- Served as Russian, Danish, and Norwegian consul and later received Norwegian and Danish knighthoods
- Commissioned the subject dwelling, which he named “The Red Gables”, and resided there from 1921 until his death in 1945

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



**FIRST OF NEW FLEET**—Formerly the Lakeview Park, the 10,000-ton Canadian-built freighter shown above at a Halifax wharf has been renamed the Halifax County. It is the first vessel of a new post-war fleet owned and operated by Acadia Overseas Freighters Limited, a Halifax company formed during the early years of the war. The company is taking over six ships to start with, and others will be secured as trade expands, according to Harry Mathers, president of the company. The fleet will be the largest owned and operated in the Maritimes. Names of Nova Scotian counties will be assigned to the other vessels as they are taken over, and all will be registered in Halifax. The company's ships will be black-hulled with white super-structure and buff funnels.

A 1946 newspaper clipping showing the first of 84 freighters to be acquired by Harry I. Mathers after WWII

### Harry Isaac Mathers II (1915-1980)

- Harry Isaac Mathers I died in 1945, and the role of President of I.H. Mathers & Son Ltd. passed to his son Harry Isaac Mathers II
- Harry Isaac Mathers II, Canada's "boy" shipping boss, acquired 84 freighter vessels after WWII, the largest freight fleet in Canada
- He expanded company operations into shipbuilding, stevedoring, and marine insurance
- Harry Isaac Mathers II died in 1980 and the role of President passed to his son Harry Isaac Mathers III

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

## 2A) Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups

<b>Nationally</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Intimately Related	16 - 20	
Moderately Related	11 - 15	
Loosely Related	1 - 10	
<b>Provincially</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Intimately Related	11 - 15	
Moderately Related	6 - 10	
Loosely Related	1 - 5	



# 3. Significance of Architect/Builder

- Architect: Allison Graham Creighton
- Resided at the Evergreen Estate [now the Dartmouth Heritage Museum]

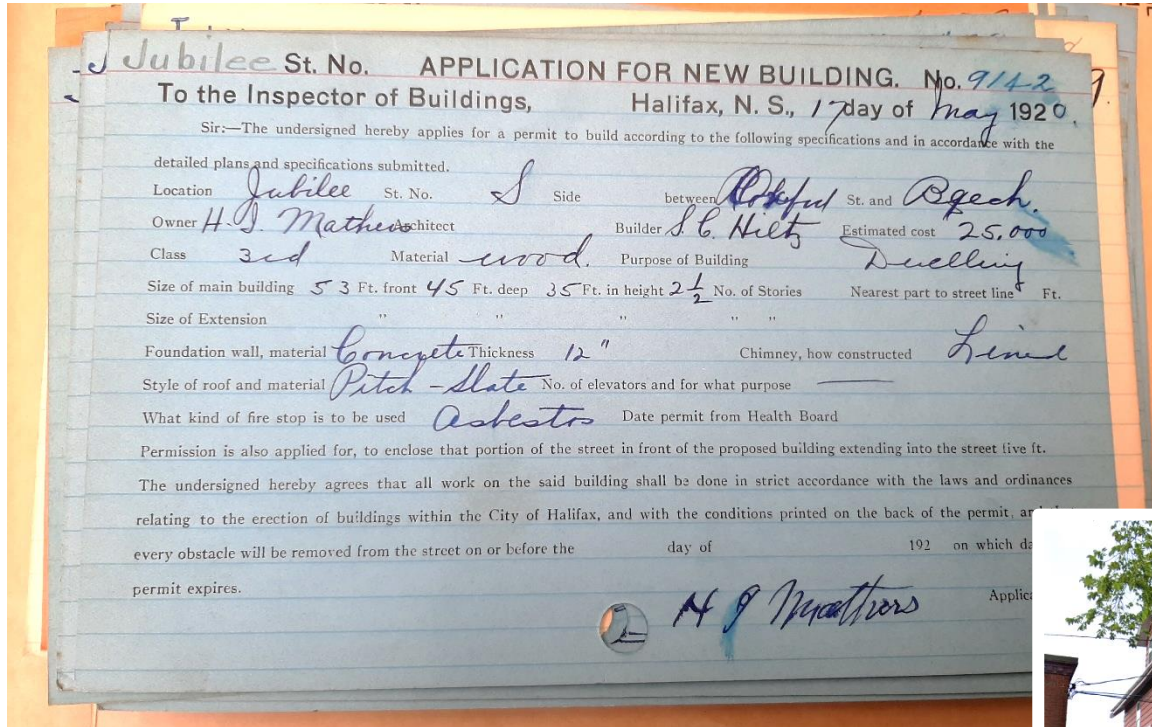


Photo of Allison Graham Creighton



**Significant works, clockwise from top left:** Park School in Dartmouth, NS; Knights of Columbus Hall in Prince Albert, SK; Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Prince Albert, SK; and Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon, CT; among others.

# 3. Significance of Architect/Builder



- Builder: St. Clair Alexander “Sandy” Hiltz
- Resided at 5731-33 McCully St [formerly 13 McCully Street]

**Above:** Original building permit for the subject dwelling, showing St. Clair Alexander Hiltz as the builder.

**Right:** 5731-33 McCully Street [formerly 13 McCully Street], residence of St. Clair Hiltz and family



Status	Points
Nationally	7 - 10
Provincially Significant	4 - 6
Locally Significant	1 - 3
Not Significant	0

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



**Above:** Close-up of faux half-timbering on the front elevation

- Balloon frame construction
- Built atop an early poured concrete foundation
- Stucco and wood faux half-timbering, rare in Nova Scotia

<b>A) Construction type</b>	<b>Points</b>
Very rare/ early example	7 - 10
Moderately rare/ early	4 - 6
Somewhat rare/ early example	1 - 3
Not rare/ common example	0

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



Character-defining elements are as listed in the Staff Report, but most notably include:

- Tudor-revival style with steeply pitched roof and intersecting gables
- Stucco and wood faux half-timbering
- Windows with many small panes separated by muntins
- Prominent chimneys and gabled dormers
- Unique rear bay window, second storey balcony, and flanking sunrooms

B) Style	Points
Very rare/ early example	7 - 10
Moderately rare/ early	4 - 6
Somewhat rare/ early example	1 - 3
Not rare/ common example	0

# 5. Architectural Integrity



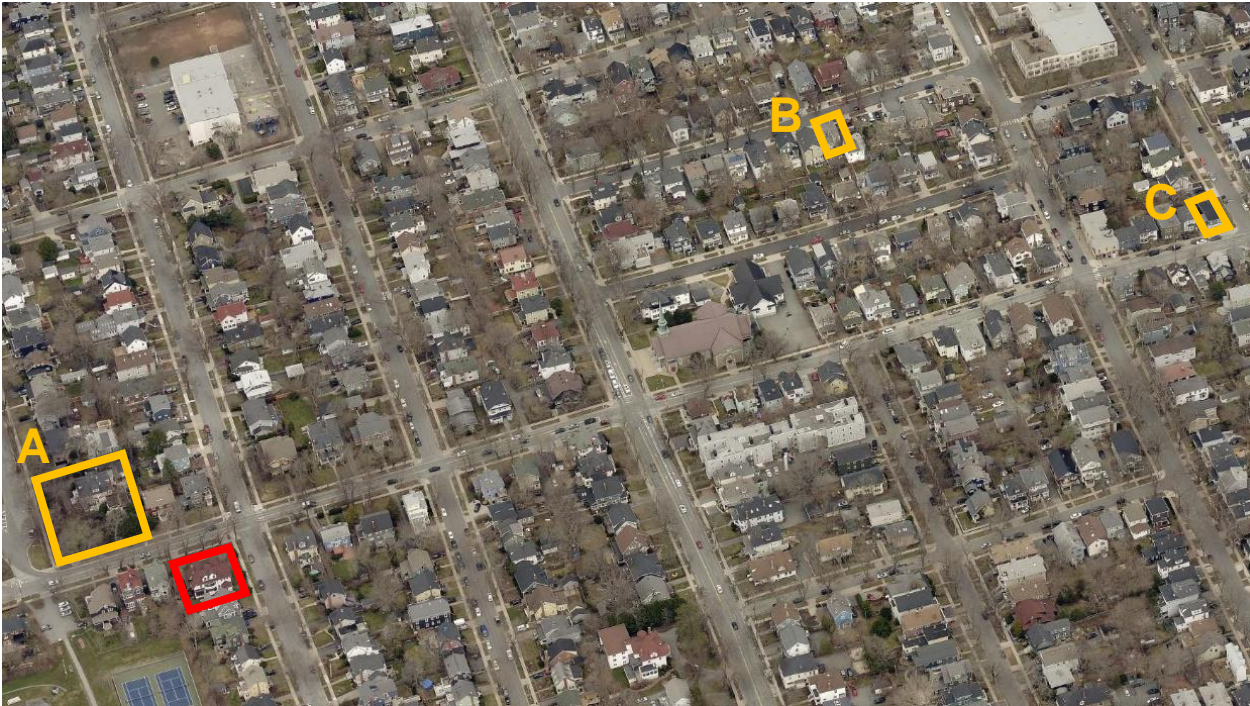
Photo of the subject dwelling, referred to as “Red Gables”, in 1921, from the diaries of Harry I. Mathers

- Rectangular layout is unchanged and nearly all original character defining elements remain intact.
- Two notable changes:
  - Original slate roof (specified in the building permit) has been replaced with asphalt shingles
  - Flanking porches have been enclosed as sunrooms (wood frame windows suggest this was completed long ago)

Exterior	Points
Largely unchanged	11 - 15
Modest changes	6 - 10
Major changes	1 - 5
Seriously compromised	0

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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 John M. Geldert lands, parcelled off and constructed over a decade prior to the 1933 subdivision into house lots.
- Built during a period of expansion westward
- Proximity to other registered heritage properties and many contributing [unregistered] heritage properties
- Stands out for its uncommon and exemplary Tudor-revival style and its corner placement

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# 6. Relationship to Surrounding Area



Registered heritage property, Senator William Dennis House [1884], situated diagonally opposite 6484 Jubilee Road.



Surrounding [unregistered] contributing heritage situated opposite 6484 Jubilee Road.

Points	Comments
6 - 10	The building is an important architectural asset contributing to the heritage character of the surrounding area.
1 - 5	The Architecture is compatible with the surrounding area and maintains its heritage character.
0	Does not contribute to the character of the surrounding area.

# Recommendation

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Should 6484 - 6484 ½ Jubilee Road, Halifax score 50 or more points on evaluation as a heritage property under the HRM Heritage Property Program, the Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Regional Council:

1. Set a date for a heritage hearing to consider the inclusion of the subject property in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality; and
2. Approve the request to include 6484 - 6484 ½ Jubilee Road, Halifax in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality, as shown on Map 1, as a municipal heritage property under the Heritage Property Act.

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**Thank You**