



REPORT

TO: Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

FROM: Laura Loney, Senior Heritage Planner

DATE: May 20, 2022

REPORT NO.: PD-2022-0039

SUBJECT: Evaluation of a Listed Heritage Property – 72 Mill Street
(Former Gregory Theatre)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PD-2022-0039 dated May 20, 2022 regarding “Evaluation of a Listed Heritage Property – 72 Mill Street (Former Gregory Theatre)” be received;

AND FURTHER THAT following documentation of the property by staff, the property at 72 Mill Street be removed from the Heritage Register.

KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The property at 72 Mill Street (the former Gregory Theatre) is listed on the Town’s Heritage Register.
- In December 2021, via Resolution No. 2021-0234, Council directed staff to research and evaluate the subject property, along with the Old Post Office & Customs House at 70 Mill Street.
- Upon completion of a Research and Evaluation Report, staff do not recommend the designation of the subject property as it does not retain significant physical and design value or contextual value.
- Should Council adopt staff’s recommendations, the property should be photographed and documented by staff prior to its removal from the Heritage Register to commemorate its historic and associative value.
- The owners of the subject property have been notified of staff’s findings prior to the finalization of this report.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

At its meeting of December 13, 2021, the following Resolution (2021-0234) was adopted by Council, regarding the Old Post Office:

“THAT staff be directed to complete the research and evaluation of 70 & 74 Mill Street (Georgetown) to investigate potential heritage designation and bring the results for discussion and approval to the Heritage Halton Hills Committee at their meeting in January, 2022”.

The property at 70 Mill Street (The Old Post Office and Customs House) was designated by Council under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* at its meeting of February 7, 2022. In that report, staff indicated that the property at 74 Mill Street (known municipally as 72 Mill Street) would be researched and evaluated under Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria.

Town staff have prepared a Research & Evaluation Report for the property located at 72 Mill Street (Appendix B). The existing building was reconstructed following a fire in 1958 and has been altered over time, with little remaining of its former theatre façade. Additionally, the alterations to the building have limited its contextual value and contribution to the streetscape. The findings of this research and evaluation demonstrate that, while the property has historical and associative value, the property has not been identified for significant physical and design value or contextual value and should not be recommended for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Staff reviewed the Research & Evaluation Report for the subject property at the May 18, 2022 meeting of Heritage Halton Hills. The Heritage Halton Hills Committee made the following recommendation at its meeting:

THAT Heritage Halton Hills recommend that the property at 72 Mill Street remain on the Heritage Register until it is fully documented and that it be removed prior to any future demolition applications for the property.

Staff contacted the owners of the subject property following the May 18, 2022 meeting of Heritage Halton Hills to advise them of the Committee's recommendation and identified next steps.

Should Council adopt staff's recommendations, the property will remain on the Heritage Register until such time as the property can be documented by staff, following which staff will remove the property from the Heritage Register. This allows the property owners to obtain a demolition permit without additional notice to the Town as required for listed properties under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This report aligns to the Town's Strategic plan recognizing the value to preserve, protect and promote our distinctive historical urban and rural character of Halton Hills through

the conservation and promotion of our built heritage, cultural heritage landscapes and archaeological resources.

This report also identifies shaping growth as one of the Town's Strategic priorities.

RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Public Engagement was not needed as this report is administrative in nature.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION:

Heritage Halton Hills was consulted at its meeting of May 18, 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

This report is administrative in nature and does not have any financial implications.

Reviewed and approved by,

Bronwyn Parker, Director of Planning Policy

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning and Development

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer