



TOWN OF  
**HALTON HILLS**  
*Working Together Working for You!*

## REPORT

---

**TO:** Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

**FROM:** Laura Loney, Manager of Heritage Planning

**DATE:** September 15, 2023

**REPORT NO.:** PD-2023-067

**SUBJECT:** Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act – 116 Main Street South

---

### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PD-2023-067 dated September 15, 2023 and titled “Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act –116 Main Street South” be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council state its intention to designate the property at 116 Main Street South, known as Knox Presbyterian Church, legally described as “LTS 7 & 8 & PT LTS 43 & 44, PL 27, AKA YOUNG AND BARBER'S SURVEY, AS IN G10564; HALTON HILLS”, under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act as recommended by Heritage Halton Hills;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town Clerk proceed with serving a Notice of Intention to Designate as mandated by Section 29(3) of the Ontario Heritage Act;

AND FURTHER THAT once the 30-day objection period has expired, and if there are no objections, a designation by-law for the property at 116 Main Street South, Georgetown be brought forward to Council for adoption.

### KEY POINTS:

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

- The property at 116 Main Street South, Georgetown meets Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria for designation under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and,
- Staff are recommending that Council state its intention to designate the property.

## BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The subject property is located at 116 Main Street South, Georgetown. The property at 116 Main Street South is located at the intersection of Church Street and Main Street South in the community of Georgetown, Ontario. The property includes a one-storey stone church building with a raised basement in the Gothic Revival style. The church is set back from Main Street South and accessed by a paved walkway extended from the sidewalk and features a large, grassed area south of the church building along Main Street South. The property was listed on the Town's Heritage Register during Phase 2 of the Town's Heritage Register process (2011) and was identified as a good example of a Gothic Revival church, associated with the religious history of Georgetown.

The property at 116 Main Street South, Georgetown has been researched and evaluated by staff as part of the Town's Council-approved Heritage Register prioritization strategy to respond to *Bill 23, More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022*<sup>1</sup>.

In July 2023, the current property owners were provided via courier, a designation information package with covering letter from staff, identifying that this work was being undertaken and encouraging them to contact staff to discuss further. On August 29, an additional letter was mailed to the property owner indicating that the Research and Evaluation report for the subject property would be considered at the September 13, 2023 meeting of Heritage Halton Hills. Representatives from Knox Presbyterian Church attended the meeting in person on September 13, 2023 and asked questions relating to the designation of the property, and were supportive of the designation process.

Heritage Halton Hills reviewed the final Research & Evaluation Report for the property at its meeting of September 13, 2023, and the following motion was carried:

### **Recommendation No. HERITAGE-2023-0029**

THAT Heritage Halton Hills recommend Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property at 116 Main Street South (Knox Presbyterian Church) for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The property has been identified as having significant cultural heritage value as a representative example of a late nineteenth-century Gothic Revival church building, associated with early Protestant Christian communities in Georgetown and the surrounding area. Knox Presbyterian Church is also associated with prominent community member H.P. Lawson and has contextual value as a significant landmark within Georgetown at the corner of Church Street and Main Street South.

As described in the Research & Evaluation Report, the identified heritage attributes of the property include:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing c.1887 church building;

---

<sup>1</sup> Bill 23 stipulates that municipalities have a two-year window to determine whether properties on the Heritage Register warrant designation under the Ontario Heritage Act. If not so designated after two years, properties must be removed from the Heritage Register.

- The scale, form, and massing of the one-storey church building with raised basement;
- The gable roof with dormers on the northwest and southeast slopes;
- The materials, including rock-faced and smooth stone walls and detailing, wooden window and door surrounds and architectural detailing throughout; lancet window openings throughout with wooden tracery;
- The Hugh McKay memorial window, c.1887;
- On the front (northeast) elevation:
  - The double towers, with stone buttresses, stone courses and all stone detailing, lancet door and window entrances with stone detailing and surrounds, triangular window openings, lancet louvred window openings, castellated parapets, and basement-level flat-headed openings with stone lintels, and wooden tracery within window openings throughout;
  - The central entrance within projecting stone surround, including the paired wooden doors, stone detailing, and engraved stone reading “Presbyterian 1887” above;
  - The central lancet-arched window opening with wooden tracery and detailing, stone surrounds and lintel;
  - The round window openings beneath the gable peak;
- On the side (southeast and northwest) elevations:
  - The projecting, gable roofed bay with stone buttresses, louvred window beneath the gable peak, and lancet window opening with wooden tracery, stone sill, and surrounds;
  - The paired lancet window openings with stone sills and surrounds and wooden tracery;
  - At the basement level, flat-headed window openings with stone lintels and surrounds;
- At the rear (southwest) elevation:
  - The paired stone chimneys, circular window opening with trefoil tracery, and lancet window opening below.
- The church bells, manufactured by the significant bellfoundry of London, Taylors of Loughborough.

The flat-roofed addition and interiors have not been identified as part of this report, however, should there be support within the congregation, it is recommended that the interiors be investigated to identify potential interior attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the property. Staff will revisit this in future in consultation with the property owners following January 1, 2025 in light of staff’s current work program.

Based on the identified cultural heritage value of the property, and as the property meets criteria for designation per Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria, staff are recommending that Council designate the property under Part IV of 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 in the preparation of this report.

**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 & Development

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer