



BY-LAW NO. 2025-0013

A By-law to designate the Secord-Starkman Block, 2 Mill Street East, Acton, Town of Halton Hills, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as being of cultural heritage value or interest

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact a by-law to designate real property, including all of the buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS authority was granted by the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills to designate the property at 2 Mill Street East, Acton, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton, legally described as LT 1, BLK 14, PL 31, ALSO SHOWN ON PL 227 & MUP 1098; HALTON HILLS, and known as the Secord-Starkman Block, as being of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills has caused to be served upon the owners of the land and premises known as the Secord-Starkman Block, located at 2 Mill Street East, Acton, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to Designate the property and has caused Notice of Intention to be published on the Town's website per the Town's "Ontario Heritage Act – Alternate Notice Policy";

AND WHEREAS the Reasons for Designation are set out in Schedule "B" of this by-law;

AND WHEREAS on October 28, 2024, Council for the Town of Halton Hills approved Report No. PD-2024-080, dated October 16, 2024, in which certain recommendations were made relating to the designation of the subject property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the Secord-Starkman Block, located at 2 Mill Street East, and further described in Schedule "A", is hereby designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as being of cultural heritage value or interest for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" attached to and forming part of this By-law;
2. THAT a copy of this By-law together with reasons for the designation be registered against the property and served in accordance with Section 29 of the Act;
3. THAT a notice of this By-law be published in accordance with Section 29 of the Act.

BY-LAW read and passed by the Council for the Town of Halton Hills this 10th day of February, 2025.

MAYOR – ANN LAWLOR

TOWN CLERK – VALERIE PETRYNIAK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. 2025-0013

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PT LT 1, BLK 14, PL 31, ALSO SHOWN ON PLAN 227 & MUP 1098, AS IN 286212,
T/W 708455; HALTON HILLS

PIN: 249960054

SCHEDULE “B” TO BY-LAW NO. 2025-0013

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Description of Property

The subject property is a rectangular lot located at the southeast corner of Mill Street and Main Street in the community of Acton. The property contains a two-storey brick-clad commercial building with flat roof. The property is legally known as PT LT 1, BLK 14, PL 31, ALSO SHOWN ON PLAN 227 & MUP 1098, AS IN 286212, T/W 708455; HALTON HILLS.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Secord-Starkman Block possesses significant physical and design value, serving as a representative example of an early-20th-century vernacular commercial building within the community of Acton, particularly on Mill Street, the heart of Acton’s commercial centre. The property retains key features from the c.1920s Starkman renovations, particularly on the north-west and south-west elevations. These include the original brickwork, stone sills and lintels, flat roof, decorative parapets, and storefront configurations. The building exemplifies the design principles of its era, demonstrating both historical continuity and the aesthetic qualities associated with late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial structures. The existing building at 2 Mill Street East serves as a physical reminder of Acton’s early commercial development and character.

The Secord-Starkman Block holds significant historical and associative value, reflecting the early settlement and subsequent growth of the Acton community during the mid-19th century. Its continuous use and association with key figures in Acton’s history further emphasize its importance in the town’s commercial and economic development. Originally constructed by Sarah Secord, a prominent early settler of Acton, the building was later acquired and renovated by Abraham Louis Starkman, one of the most influential businessmen and community leaders of the twentieth century. Although the facade underwent substantial renovations in 1922 which altered its original appearance, the property’s function has remained consistent for nearly 150 years. This continuity, particularly its century-long existence in its current form, demonstrates the building’s enduring role in supporting local businesses and the community from the 1880s through the 1920s and into the present day.

The property and existing building at 2 Mill Street East hold significant contextual value and play a crucial role in defining and maintaining the character of the area along Mill Street East in Acton. Situated at its original location on the corner of Main Street and Mill Street, the building is intrinsically connected to its surroundings — physically, functionally, visually, and historically — as a commercial structure. Architecturally, the style is aligned with other contemporary commercial buildings along Mill Street, such as the Leishman Block at 3 Mill Street East, and the structures at 8, 10, 25 (Warren Block), 27, and 29 Mill Street East, several of which were also renovated by Starkman. As a prominent landmark, the building anchors the corner of the busiest intersection in Acton, contributing significantly to the fabric of early-20th-century commercial architecture that characterizes the town’s downtown core.

Heritage Attributes

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 2 Mill Street East that contribute to its physical and design value include:

- The setback, placement, and orientation of the two-storey, mid-19th-century commercial building at the historic intersection of Main Street and Mill Street in Acton;
- The scale, form, and massing of the two-storey building with flat roof, red brick exterior and the existence of a brick parapet;
- The materials, including red brick exterior and detailing throughout;
- The front (northwest) elevation, including:
 - The two-bay composition defined with brick pilasters;
 - At the first storey, the recessed storefront entrance with flatheaded opening and transom window, and storefront windows beneath the projecting wooden cornice;
 - At the second storey, the paired single window openings with stone sills and lintels connecting the openings;
 - Brick parapet;
- The west corner, including:
 - Brick pilasters defining the corner;
 - Recessed entrance at the first storey and single flatheaded window opening with stone sill and lintel at the second storey;
- The side (southwest) elevation, including:
 - Three-bay composition defined by brick pilasters and a brick chimney;
 - At the first storey, three small flatheaded window openings within the first two bays, and a larger single flatheaded window opening within the rearmost bay featuring a stone sill and lintel; and,
 - At the second storey, the three single flatheaded window openings with stone sills and lintels.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 2 Mill Street East that contribute to its historical and associative value includes:

- The legibility of the existing property as an early-20th-century commercial building at the corner of Main Street and Mill Street in the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 2 Mill Street East that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the existing property as an early-20th-century commercial building at the corner of Main Street and Mill Street in the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The setback, placement, and orientation of the two-storey, early-20th-century commercial building at the historic intersection of Main Street and Mill Street in Acton; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the two-storey building with flat roof, red brick exterior and the existence of a brick parapet.