



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
Working Together Working for You!

REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Caylee MacPherson, Planner - Development Review & Heritage

DATE: July 21, 2025

REPORT NO.: PD-2025-044

SUBJECT: Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act - 14021 Regional Road 25 (Esquesing)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PD-2025-044, dated July 21, 2025 and titled "Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act - 14021 Regional Road 25 (Esquesing)" be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council state its intention to designate the property at 14021 Regional Road 25, Esquesing, Town of Halton Hills, known as Lorne School, legally described as "PT LT 31, CON 3 ESQ, AS IN 275645; AS SHOWN ON PL 1098; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING" 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 14021 Regional Road 25, Esquesing, Town of Halton Hills be brought forward to Council for adoption.

KEY POINTS:

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

- Staff have undertaken a Research & Evaluation Report for the property in accordance with the Town's Council-approved Heritage Register Prioritization Strategy to respond to changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through Bill 23, the

More Homes, Built Faster Act, 2022, with further amendments made through Bill 200, the *Homeowner Protection Act*;

- The subject property 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.
- This report is identified as requiring immediate action due to legislated timelines for Notices of Intention to Designate under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

The subject property is located on the northeast side of Regional Road 25 in the community of Esquesing within the Town of Halton Hills. The property is a rectangular-shaped lot and features a late-nineteenth-century, one-and-a-half-storey rural schoolhouse. The property was listed on the Town's Heritage Register during Phase 3 of the Town's Heritage Register process (2016) and was identified as former one-room rural schoolhouse that contributes to the historic rural landscape of Halton Hills.

The property at 14021 Regional Road 25 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*¹.

On October 30, 2024, a designation information package with a covering letter from staff was delivered via mail to the property owner, identifying that this work was underway. Staff sent an additional notice on June 5, 2025, advising the owner that the Research and Evaluation Report for the subject property would be reviewed at the June 18, 2025, meeting of Heritage Halton Hills.

Heritage Halton Hills reviewed the Research & Evaluation Report for the subject property at the June 18, 2025, meeting and the following motion was carried:

Recommendation No. HHH-2025-0037

THAT Heritage Halton Hills recommend Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property at 14021 Regional Road 25 for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The property has physical and design value as a rare and representative example of an Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival architectural style, in the community of Esquesing within the Town of Halton Hills. The one-and-a-half-storey schoolhouse features design elements such as dichromatic brickwork, a gable roof, two windows along the front elevation with multiple windows along the side elevations, two dichromatic brick chimneys, and a date stone inscribed: "Lorn S.S. No. 12... A.D. 1882". The property has historical and associative value due to its associations with the early

¹ 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. On June 6, 2024, Bill 200 (the *Homeowner Protection Act*) received Royal Assent, extending the 2-year timeline prescribed by Bill 23, giving municipalities, including the Town of Halton Hills, until January 1, 2027, to either issue a NOID for a listed property or to remove it from the Heritage Register.

educational system in the community of Esquesing. The property serves to define and maintain the rural character north of Acton, and is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings as an early schoolhouse that serviced School Section No. 12.

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

- The setback, location, and orientation of the schoolhouse along Regional Road 25 in the community of Esquesing within the Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the c.1882, one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse with a gable roof, two dichromatic brick chimneys, brick plinth, and stone foundation;
- Materials, including red brick, buff brick, and stone;
- Front (southwest) elevation:
 - Lancet arched window openings with stone sills and buff brick hood molds;
 - Circular datestone inscribed “Lorn S.S. No. 12 ... A.D. 1882” with semi-circular voussoir and stone sill;
- Side (southeast and northwest) elevations:
 - Lancet arched window openings with stone sills and buff brick hood molds, and;
 - Decorative wooden corbels.

The identified heritage attribute of the property at 14021 Regional Road 25 that contributes to its historical and associative value includes:

- The legibility of the existing property as a late-nineteenth-century Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse along Regional Road 25 within the community of Esquesing in the Town of Halton Hills.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 14021 Regional Road 25 that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the existing property as a late-nineteenth-century Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse along Regional Road 25 within the community of Esquesing in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The setback, location, and orientation of the c.1882 institutional building on the northeast side of Regional Road 25 in the community of Esquesing; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-and-a-half-storey Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse.

The rear elevation, interiors, and rear addition were not investigated as part of this report.

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 identifies natural areas and heritage 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,

Laura Loney, Manager of Heritage Planning

Bronwyn Parker, Director of Planning Policy

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning & Development

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer