



TOWN OF
HALTON HILLS
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REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Caylee MacPherson

DATE: July 21, 2025

REPORT NO.: PD-2025-046

SUBJECT: Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act - 537 Main Street (Glen Williams)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PD-2025-046, dated July 21, 2025 and titled "Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act - 537 Main Street (Glen Williams)" be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council state its intention to designate the property at 537 Main Street, Glen Williams, Town of Halton Hills, known as St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, legally described as "LT 60, RCP 1556, S/T INTEREST IN 85570, IF ANY; 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 537 Main Street, Glen Williams, 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 southeast side of Main Street in the community of Glen Williams within the Town of Halton Hills. The property is an irregular-shaped lot and features an early-twentieth century, one-and-a-half storey stone church building. The property was listed on the Town's Heritage Register during Phase 1 of the Town's Heritage Register process (2010) and was identified as a c.1902 religious building associated with local resident Rose Ann McMaster and Toronto-based architect F.S. Baker.

The property at 537 Main Street 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 May 8, 2025, the Owner, the Anglican Diocese of Niagara, was emailed a designation information package with covering letter from staff, identifying that this work was underway. Staff sent an additional notice on June 5, 2025, confirming 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-2025-0038

THAT Heritage Halton Hills recommend Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property at 537 Main Street for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The property has been identified as a rare, representative example of an early-twentieth-century Gothic Revival church in the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills. The church building displays features typical of the Gothic-Revival style, including the steeply pitched gable roof, cut limestone façade, tall and narrow lancet windows, lancet door openings, stone voussoirs and arches, stone sills and lintels, and stone buttresses. The property has associations with the early Anglican community in Glen Williams, and prominent local residents Rose Ann McMaster, John Sykes, Samuel and Joseph Beaumont, and Harry Holdroyd. The property has also been identified as

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.

being contextually significant as it serves to maintain the heritage character of the Glen Williams community, and remains physically, functionally, and visually connected to its surroundings, having continuously served as a place of worship in Glen Williams. The Church has remained in its existing location for 122 years and is a landmark in the community.

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

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing c.1903 Gothic Revival religious structure along Main Street in the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-and-a-half storey Gothic Revival structure with gable roof, cut limestone construction, and wooden cupola and bell;
- The materials, including limestone, wood, and stained-glass;
- The front (southwest) elevation, including:
 - The one-storey stone vestibule, including:
 - Plinth foundation;
 - Large semi-circular entryway with stone arch and keystone;
 - Small lancet arched entryway with stone voussoir;
 - Multiple flatheaded window openings with stained-glass, stone sills and lintels;
 - Lancet arched window with hood mould and stone voussoir;
- The side (northwest and southeast) elevations, including:
 - Multiple flatheaded window openings with stained-glass, stone sills and lintels separated by stone buttresses;
- The rear (northeast) elevation, including:
 - Multiple flatheaded window openings with stained-glass, stone sills and lintels separated by stone buttresses; and,
 - Datestone inscribed “THIS STONE WAS LAID BY GRAND LODGE OF CANADA A.F. & A.M. SEPT. 8, 1902. M.W. HIS HON. JUDGE J.E.E HARDING, GRAND MASTER”.

The identified heritage attribute of the property at 537 Main Street that contributes to its historical and associative value includes:

- The legibility of the existing church building as an early-twentieth-Gothic Revival religious structure along Main Street within the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 537 Main Street that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the existing church building as an early-twentieth-century Gothic Revival religious structure along Main Street within the community of Glen Williams in the Town of Halton Hills;

- The setback, location, and orientation of the c.1903 St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church on the southwest side of Main Street in the community of Glen Williams; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-and-a-half-storey Gothic Revival religious structure.

The interiors, one-and-a-half storey rectory, and one-storey hall addition have not been identified as heritage attributes of the subject property 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