



REPORT

TO: Mayor Lawlor and Members of Council

FROM: Laura Loney, Manager of Heritage Planning

DATE: March 30, 2026

REPORT NO.: PD-2026-028

SUBJECT: Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act – 19 St. Alban’s Drive (Acton)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PD-2026-028, dated March 30, 2026, and titled “Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act – 19 St. Alban’s Drive (Acton)” be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council state its intention to designate the property at 19 St. Alban’s Drive, legally described as “PT LT 5, BLK 1, PL 31, AS IN EW128, EW1658 ALSO SHOWN ON PL 1098; 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, legally described above, 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 subject 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, 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 as such Staff are recommending that Council state its intention to designate the property; and,
- 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 at the northwest corner of St. Alban's Drive and Willow Street North within the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills. The property is an irregularly-shaped lot, extending northwest along Willow Street North and including a small rectangular area within the centre of the block. The property features the original c.1872 one-storey frame church building with gable roof, with a c.1951 one-storey frame parish hall addition connected to the original church building on the northwest side via a c.1985 narthex, similar in scale and design to the original church building and featuring a small flat-roofed entrance vestibule on its front (northeast) elevation. The property was added to the Heritage Register during Phase 3 of the Town's Heritage Register process (2016) and was identified as a good example of Tudor-style architecture of stucco and wood construction with an open bell cupola.

The subject property 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

In February 2025, a church representative contacted staff to learn more about the designation process. In October 2025, the representative again contacted staff and requested that the Research and Evaluation process for the property begin. Discussions with staff and church representatives continued through early 2026, including a meeting with additional church representatives on January 27, 2026, following which staff confirmed that the Research and Evaluation report for the property would be reviewed at the March meeting of Heritage Halton Hills.

Heritage Halton Hills reviewed the Research and Evaluation Report for 19 St. Alban's Drive at its March 18, 2026, meeting, where the following motion was carried:

Recommendation No. HHH-2026-0010

THAT Heritage Halton Hills recommend Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property at 19 St. Alban's Drive (Acton) for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church has been identified as a vernacular church building with Gothic Revival and Tudor Revival influences within the community of Acton

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.

in the Town of Halton Hills. The property has significant historical and associative value with the early Anglican community in Acton and the surrounding area, and with the early growth of Anglican congregations throughout Halton Hills. The property has also been identified as being contextually significant and a landmark in the community.

The heritage attributes of the property at 19 St. Alban's Drive that contribute to its physical and design value include:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the original c.1872 church building along St. Alban's Drive and Willow Street North in the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-storey c.1872 church building with gable roof and frame bell-tower, with one-storey porch and one-storey wing;
- The materials, including the stuccoed exterior, half-timbering, wooden window surrounds, and stained glass within the original c.1872 church building;
- The southwest elevation of the c.1872 building, including:
 - Single Gothic-arched window opening featuring wooden surrounds, sills, and tracery, and stained glass window within the opening;
- The southeast elevation of the c.1872 building, including:
 - Gothic-arched window openings featuring wooden surrounds, sills, and tracery, and stained glass windows.
 - The c.1907 wing with gable roof and Gothic-arched window openings featuring wooden surrounds, sills, and tracery, and stained glass windows, and circular window opening featuring a quatrefoil window beneath the gable peak;
 - The c.1907 one-storey porch entrance with gable roof, wooden double doors, small Gothic-arched window featuring stained glass, and half-timbering beneath the gable;
- The northeast elevation of the c.1872 building, including:
 - Symmetrically-placed Gothic-arched window openings, with a smaller centrally-placed window opening between and beneath the gable peak, featuring stained-glass windows;
 - Half-timbering within the upper portion of the façade;
 - Above the gable peak, the frame bell-tower with c.1895 bell;
- Within the narthex, the northwest elevation of the c.1872 building, including:
 - The stuccoed exterior;
 - The lancet window openings featuring wooden surrounds, sills, and tracery, and stained glass windows.

The interiors of the church building, the c.1985 narthex, the flat-roofed porch along Willow Street North, and the c.1951 parish hall addition have not been identified as heritage attributes of the property at this time. Additionally, although the church has been stuccoed since 1934, the original church exterior featured board-and-batten siding, which could be restored at a later date.

The heritage attribute of the property at 19 St. Alban's Drive that contributes to its historical and associative value includes:

- The legibility of the c.1872 church building as a late-nineteenth-century example of a vernacular church building with Gothic Revival and Tudor Revival influences within the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills.

The heritage attributes of the property at 19 St. Alban's Drive that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the c.1872 church building as a late-nineteenth-century example of a vernacular church building with Gothic Revival and Tudor Revival influences within the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The setback, location, and orientation of the original c.1872 church building along St. Alban's Drive and Willow Street North in the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-storey c.1872 church building with gable roof and frame bell-tower, with one-storey porch and one-storey wing.

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,

Bronwyn Parker, Director of Planning Policy

John Linhardt, Commissioner of Planning & Development

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer