



## REPORT

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

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

**DATE:** March 30, 2026

**REPORT NO.:** PD-2026-029

**SUBJECT:** Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act – 65 Main Street North (Acton)

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### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. PD-2026-029, dated March 30, 2026, and titled “Intention to Designate under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act – 65 Main Street North (Acton)” be received;

AND FURTHER THAT Council state its intention to designate the property at 65 Main Street North, legally described as “PT LTS 7 & 8, BLOCK 1, PL 63, AS IN HR370748 ALSO SHOWN ON PL1098, 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 property at 65 Main Street North is a rectangular parcel located at the corner of River Street and Main Street North in the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills. The property features a one-and-a-half storey original frame residence with brick veneer facing Main Street North as well as a significant two-storey flat-roofed addition. The property was added to the Heritage Register during Phase 3 of the Town's Heritage Register process (2016) and was identified as a Gothic Revival residence built by esteemed carpenter Richard Hamilton on the former site of a woolen mill.

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*.<sup>1</sup>

On January 13, 2026, the current property owner was emailed 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. An additional notice was sent on February 24, 2026, notifying the owner that the Research and Evaluation Report for the subject property would be reviewed at the March 18, 2026 meeting of Heritage Halton Hills.

Heritage Halton Hills reviewed the Research and Evaluation Report for 65 Main Street North at its March 18, 2026, meeting, where the following motion was carried:

### Recommendation No. HHH-2026-0013

THAT Heritage Halton Hills recommend Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate for the property at 65 Main Street North (Acton) for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The Hamilton-Reed House has been identified as an excellent representative example of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century Gothic Revival residential building. The property is historically associated with carpenter Richard Hamilton and the Reed family, prominent members of the local community during the early to mid-twentieth century. The property has also been identified as being contextually significant.

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<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. 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.

The heritage attributes of the property at 65 Main Street North that contribute to its physical and design value include:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building at the corner of Main Street North and River Street in the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-and-a-half-storey frame residential building with brick veneer with gable roof;
- The materials, including red and buff brick, wood sills, and wooden bargeboard;
- The front (southwest) elevation, including:
  - At the first storey, the segmentally arched window openings with dichromatic brick jack arches and wood sills and central, segmentally arched entrance with transom;
  - At the second story, the lancet window opening beneath the central gable peak with buff brick voussoirs and wood sill;
  - Dichromatic brick detailing above the first storey and dichromatic quoining at each corner;
  - Decorative wooden bargeboard beneath the gable peak;
- The side (southeast) elevation, including:
  - At the first storey, the segmentally arched window opening with dichromatic brick voussoir and wood sill within the original two-and-a-half storey portion of the building;
  - At the second storey, the segmentally arched window openings with dichromatic brick voussoirs and wood sills;
- The side (northwest) elevation, including:
  - At the first storey, the segmentally arched window opening with dichromatic brick jack arch and wood sill,
  - At the second storey, the segmentally arched window opening with dichromatic brick voussoirs and wood sill;
  - Dichromatic brick detailing above the first storey and dichromatic quoining at each corner; and,
  - Decorative wooden bargeboard beneath the gable peak.

The heritage attribute of the property at 65 Main Street North that contributes to its historical and associative value includes:

- The legibility of the Hamilton-Reed House as an excellent representative example of a nineteenth-century Gothic Revival, or Ontario Cottage, residential building.

The heritage attributes of the property at 65 Main Street North that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the Hamilton-Reed House as an excellent representative example of a nineteenth-century Gothic Revival, or Ontario Cottage, residential building;
- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building at the corner of Main Street North and River Street in the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-and-a-half-storey frame residential building with brick veneer with gable roof.

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