

IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT,
R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER 0.18
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS

149 Church Street

IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS,
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE

TO: Ontario Heritage Trust
The Ontario Heritage Centre
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3
registrar@heritagetrust.on.ca
Attention: Provincial Heritage Registrar

Notice of intention to designate: 149 Church Street

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills intends to designate **149 Church Street** as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under section 29, Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18.

Description of the property

The legal description of the subject property is PLAN 6262 LOT 49 LOT 50.

Statement of cultural heritage value or interest

The subject property is worthy of designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* because it meets **six** of the nine prescribed criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest, according to Ontario Regulation 9/06 as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22. The heritage attributes of **149 Church Street** display: design/physical, historical/associative, and contextual value.

The subject property meets **Criteria 1** because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method. The former Church Street School has design value as a building type, the mid-19th century school. It was subsequently transformed through the addition of a Collegiate Gothic addition in 1930 to accommodate more students. Elements of the original building that were typical of Ontario schools of the mid-19th century included the frontispiece, belfry and

bell, the building's classroom layout and its large multi-paned windows. The 1930s addition to the front façade involved the removal of the original roof, belfry, bell and frontispiece. It is two storeys with a high basement, constructed of stone and features evenly spaced rectangular windows, a simple parapet and a datestone inscribed with "1930."

The subject property meets **Criteria 4** because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community. The former Church Street School has historical value because it illustrates the development of the public school system in Ontario.

The subject property meets **Criteria 5** because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture. The former Church Street Public School has historical and associative value because its construction is representative of the growth of Almonte in the 1860s which not only necessitated a new, up-to-date school public school for the local children but also resulted in the construction of a number of institutional and religious structures in the mid-19th century to accommodate newcomers to the town.

The subject property meets **Criteria 6** because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community. Church Street Public School has historical and associative value because it reflects the work of Andrew Bell, an Almonte architect responsible for several 1860s and 1870s stone buildings in the town. In addition to the school, these include the Victoria Woolen Mill, the Merchant's Bank, Holy Name of Mary Church and his house, "The Maples," which is still standing. He was also a Land Surveyor, receiving his commission in 1866. Richards and Abra, an architectural firm in Ottawa, was responsible for the design of the 1930 addition.

The subject property meets **Criteria 7** because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area. The former Church Street Public School is located in a predominantly residential area located southeast of the historic downtown core of Almonte. The area is characterized by its high concentration of 19th and early 20th century houses, built for the town's emerging middle class. It has contextual value as it supports the residential character of the area both in its setting and function first as a school and later as a residential building.

The subject property meets **Criteria 8** because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings. The former Church Street School has contextual value because it is historically and physically linked to its surroundings in the middle of a neighbourhood established in the 19th century, near other institutions. The school's central location no doubt prompted the development of new houses near it.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following key exterior elements of the property at **149 Church Street** contribute to the heritage value of the former Church Street School as an example of a mid-19th century school with a 1930s addition, and should be considered as heritage attributes in a designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act:

- Simple rectangular plan
- The semi-circular arched windows with stone voussoirs, keystones and sills on the second storey of the rear (original) portion
- The rectangular windows with stone voussoirs, keystones and sills on the first storey of the rear (original portion)
- The rectangular windows with stone sills and lintels on the 1930's addition
- The flat roof with cornice
- The local rough-cut limestone in various sizes laid in even courses on both parts of the building
- The limestone quoins that are darker on the 1930 section of the building, contrasting with those of the 1868 section of the building
- The frontispieces on the east and west facades with segmental arched entrance ways

Key contextual attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the former Church Street School include:

- The property's central location in an established residential area
- The large front yard setback (the site of the former schoolyard) that creates a greenspace in the neighbourhood
- The unimpeded view of the Former Church Street School's front façade

Attributes Not Included in this Designation

The section of the property between the rear lot line and the rear wall of the building may have development potential and is not included in this designation.

The right-of-way from Church Street to 145 Church Street and the Ann Street apartments is not included in this designation.

The interior of the building is not included in this designation.

It is intended that non-original features may be returned to the documented earlier designs or to their documented original state without requiring Council to amend the heritage designation by-law.

A more detailed description of the property's cultural heritage value can be found in the staff report to the Heritage Advisory Committee dated March 4, 2026, which can be viewed at calendar.mississippimills.ca/council by selecting the date of the meeting.

Notice of objection

Any person may send a notice of objection to this proposed designation, 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention, before 4 p.m. on **Friday, May 29, 2026**. This notice must be sent by registered mail or delivered to the Clerk of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills and must set out the reason for the objection and all relevant facts. If a notice of objection is received, the Council of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills shall consider the objection and make a decision whether or not to withdraw the notice of intention to designate the property within 90 days after the end of the 30-day objection period. If Council decides not to withdraw its intention to designate, a heritage designation by-law must be passed within 120 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention to designate. Council must publish a Notice of Passing of the designation by-law which is followed by a 30-day appeal period when appeals of the by-law may be given to the Ontario Land Tribunal for a hearing and decision.

Jeanne Harfield (She/Her)

Clerk & Deputy CAO
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For more information contact:

Melanie Knight (she/her)

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Municipality of Mississippi Mills
Phone: 613-256-2064
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Notice dated: April 29, 2026