

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

BY-LAW NO. 26-038

BEING a by-law to designate the property municipally known as 149 Church Street in Almonte, locally known as the Church Street School, as a property of cultural heritage value or interest under Section 29, Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and

WHEREAS Section 29, Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* authorizes the council of a municipality to designate a property within the municipality to be of cultural heritage value or interest on the terms set out therein;

AND WHEREAS council for a municipality may only designate a property under Section 29 Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, if the property meets two or more of the criteria as prescribed under O.Reg 9/06;

AND WHEREAS 149 Church Street was evaluated against the criteria set out in O.Reg 9/06, and the Municipality's Heritage Advisory Committee and Council for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills determined that the property has cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS notice of intention to designate 149 Church Street as being of cultural heritage value or interest was published on the municipal website, having general circulation in the municipality on **April 29, 2026** and was also served on the owner of the property, and on the Ontario Heritage Trust, in accordance with the requirements of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*,

AND WHEREAS no notice of the objection to the proposed designation has been served on the Clerk of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills, and the time for filing such objections has passed;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills enacts as follows:

Designation of Property

1. Pursuant to the authority granted under Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. 0.18 as amended, Council for the Municipality of Mississippi Mills hereby designates, as being of cultural heritage value or interest, the property:
 - (a) municipally known as 149 Church Street in Almonte;
 - (b) legally described as PIN 050920023, PLAN 6262 LOT 49 LOT 50.
 - (c) owned by Bhojnardine Shivkumar and Radha Shivkumar; and
 - (d) further described in the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and Description of Heritage Attributes as set out in Schedule "A" attached hereto.

Schedules Incorporated

2. Schedule "A" attached hereto are incorporated into and form a part of this By-law. A copy of this by-law can be viewed on the municipal website at www.mississippimills.ca.

Notice

3. The Clerk of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills is hereby authorized and directed to cause:
 - (a) a copy of this By-law to be served on the owner of the land described in section 1 of this By-law, on any person who objected to the designation, and on the Ontario Heritage Trust;
 - (b) notice of the passing of this By-law to be published on the municipal website for general circulation within the Municipality of Mississippi Mills;
 - (c) notice that any person who objects to the by-law may appeal to the Tribunal by giving the Tribunal and the Clerk of the municipality, within 30 days after the date of publication, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the objection, accompanied by the fee charged by the Tribunal; and
 - (d) the property to be entered into the municipal register of designated properties in accordance with Section 27 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Registration

4. The Municipality's Solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to register a copy of this Designating By-law to be registered on title to the property affected in the land titles office for the land registry office, after the 30 day appeal period.

Effective Date

5. This By-law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing.

BY-LAW read, passed, signed and sealed in open Council this 9th day of June, 2026.



Christa Lowry, Mayor





Jeanne Harfield, Clerk

Written approval of this by-law was given by Mayoral Decision MDE-26-010 dated June 09, 2026.

Schedule “A” to By-law 26-038

Description of Property – Church Street Apartments, Former Church Street School, 149 Church Street

The former Church Street School is a stone structure constructed in 1874 and located on the east side of Church Street, between William and Ann Streets.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The cultural heritage value of the former Church Street School lies in the building being a good example of a mid-19th century public school, transformed through an addition in 1930, its historical associations with the development of the public school system in Ontario, and Almonte architect Andrew Bell and its contribution to the character of the surrounding neighbourhood.

The former Church Street School, built in 1868-1869, was constructed to replace a log one-room schoolhouse. The building has design value as an example of a mid- 19th century public school constructed when the school system was expanding across Ontario. The original school’s design was typical of mid-19th century Ontario schools constructed in towns. Its design reflected contemporary trends in school design with high ceilings, large windows, a separate office for the principal and amenities such as chalkboards and cloakrooms. It was two storeys in height and had a high hipped roof and a central frontispiece with a gabled roof capped by a belfry. Large semi-circular windows illuminated the classrooms. The 1930 addition replaced the front portion of the original building, the roof and the belfry. Its rectangular windows, flat roof, and pediment with date stone are typical of Collegiate Gothic schools of the time expressed in its simplest form.

The former Church Street Public School has historical value as a public school built when a system of universal public education was being developed in Ontario. For many years, school attendance was erratic, children were kept home to work, and there was no oversight of the province’s schools. A series of Acts were passed in the first decades of the 19th century that laid the foundations of a public school system, but it was not until the appointment of Egerton Ryerson to the post Superintendent of Public Schools for Upper Canada in 1844 that real progress was made towards universal public education. In 1846 the Common School Act was passed, creating local school districts that were responsible for hiring and firing teachers and administering funds collected through taxes and establishing teacher training programs in what were referred to as “Normal Schools.” By 1871, three years after the completion of the Church Street Public School, school attendance was mandatory for children aged eight to fourteen.

The former Church Street School has historical value as an example of the work of Andrew Bell, an early Almonte architect and surveyor. His design reflected current theories of school design advocated by the Ontario government in the 19th century through a series of publications. Bell was responsible for a number of stone buildings in Almonte, including the Victoria Woollen Mill (1863-67), the Royal Canadian Legion (1874), Holy Name of Mary Church (1869) and his house, the Maples. In the late 19th century, he was a founding member of the Ontario Association of Architects.

Description of heritage attributes

Key exterior elements that contribute to the heritage value of the former Church Street School as an example of a mid-19th century school with a 1930s addition include:

- 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

Exclusions

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.