

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

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills intends to designate **492 River Road** 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 843 LOT 1 PT LOTS 4 AND;8 UNREG.

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 **seven** 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 **492 River Road** 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 property is valued for its cultural significance as a prime example of Georgian Classicism. This style, rooted in classical traditions, became widespread in Upper Canada between 1800 and 1850, largely due to settlers from the British Isles and Ireland who chose it as it reflected the architecture of their countries of origin and

Loyalists who brought it with them from the United States. Georgian houses incorporated decorative features, floor plans, and elevations influenced by ancient Greek and Roman architecture. In Upper Canada, these houses generally had rectangular layouts and symmetrical façades. Typical design elements included side gable roofs and central hallways, with entrances often highlighted by fanlights and sidelights. The basic layout and proportions of Georgian architecture were versatile and were found in structures ranging from simple log buildings and wood frame structures to substantial brick and stone houses. These stone houses were constructed to meet the needs and aspirations of the emerging middle and upper classes, demonstrating the enduring appeal and adaptability of Georgian design.

The subject property meets **Criteria 2** because it has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit. The Teskey House has design value as an elegant example of Georgian Classicism architecture in Canada. Constructed by local craftsmen in 1837 and 1844, its multi-paned windows, front door with sidelights and an elliptical fanlight are sophisticated elements of the style. Although the stone masonry does not display a high degree of craftsmanship, the fanlight and sidelights are excellent examples of local craftsmanship.

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 Teskey House has cultural heritage value because of its associations with the Irish Palatines and the Peter Robinson emigration scheme of 1823. It was built in 1837 and 1844 by Joseph Teskey, an Irish Palatine who had emigrated from Ireland with his parents as part of the first sponsored emigration organized by Peter Robinson. Robinson organized two settlements of southern Irish immigrants in the 1820s, one to Shipman's Mills (Almonte) in 1823 and the other to the Newcastle District, near present-day Peterborough in 1825. A total of about 500 arrived in the area from Ireland in the autumn of 1823. These settlers played a prominent role in the early history of Ramsay Township.

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 Teskey House has historical and associative value because of its links with the Teskey Family who settled the land that became Appleton in 1823 after their arrival in Upper Canada as part of the Peter Robinson emigration scheme.

The subject property meets **Criteria 7** because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area. The Teskey House has contextual value as it helps define the character of the small village of Appleton. The house is prominently located on attractive grounds on River Road, the main access road through the village. It overlooks the former mill sites that once dominated the village and serves as a reminder of the wealth and prosperity of the village in the 19th century.

The subject property meets **Criteria 8** because it has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings. The Teskey House has cultural heritage value because it is physically linked to its surroundings, overlooking the Mississippi River and the former site of Joseph Teskey's grist mill. Joseph Teskey opened Appleton's first mill, a grist mill, in 1823 soon after his arrival in Upper Canada. While the mill no longer exists, the house's proximity to its original site reflects his role as both an employer and a leader in the small community.

The subject property meets **Criteria 9** because it is a landmark. The Teskey House stands on a large lot along River Road in Appleton, facing the Mississippi River, beside the former United Church. Its prominent location, unique architecture, unusual "ell" shape and attractive fenced front garden make it a notable local landmark.

Description of Heritage Attributes

The following key exterior elements contribute to the heritage value of the Teskey House, 492 River Road, Appleton, as an excellent example of the Georgian Classicism style, and should be considered as heritage attributes in a designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, and include:

- House plan that includes a side gabled roof, one and a half storey structure with a verandah on three sides (1837) that forms an "ell" with a front gabled, one and a half storey stone structure with a front verandah and three arched entrances to the carriage house at the rear (1844);

Main House, 1837

- One and a half storey massing, with side-gable roof
- Irregularly sized rough-cut limestone quarried locally and laid in uneven courses;
- Stone voussoirs above main door and all windows;
- Three-bay front façade with centrally placed door flanked by 12 over 12 windows;
- Rectangular plan;
- Six over six windows on the ground floor;
- Neoclassical doorway featuring fanlight with tracery, flanked by divided sidelights;
- Verandah on three sides;
- Stone chimneys at either end of the roof;

1844 Kitchen/Carriage House Addition

- Front gabled, three bay structure with a front veranda, three chimneys:

- Constructed of larger, darker, more rectangular blocks of limestone than the 1837 section, laid in roughly even courses;
- Rectangular six over six windows with stone voussoirs, white sills on front façade, small square six pane windows under eaves;
- Features a carriage shed with three arched openings (one enclosed);

Setting

- The large side yard, located to the north of the house;
- The retaining wall and fence.

Attributes 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 **June 3, 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, within 30 days after the date of publication of the notice of intention, before 4 p.m. on **Saturday, July 25, 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

Office of the Clerk

Municipality of Mississippi Mills

3131 Old Perth Road, PO Box 400
Almonte ON K0A 1A0
Phone: 613-256-2064
Email: jharfield@mississippimills.ca

For more information contact:

Melanie Knight (she/her)

Director of Development Services and Engineering

Municipality of Mississippi Mills

Phone: 613-256-2064

Email: mknight@mississippimills.ca

Notice dated: June 25, 2026