



BY-LAW NO. 2024-0045

A By-law to designate Knox Presbyterian Church, located at 116 Main Street South, Georgetown, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

WHEREAS Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.O.18 authorizes the Council of a municipality to enact a by-law to designate real property, including all of the buildings and structures thereon, to be of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS authority was granted by the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills to designate the property at 116 Main Street South, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton, and known as Knox Presbyterian Church as being of cultural heritage value or interest;

AND WHEREAS the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills has caused to be served upon the owners of the land and premises known as Knox Presbyterian Church at 116 Main Street South, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to Designate the property and has caused Notice of Intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Municipality as required by the Ontario Heritage Act;

AND WHEREAS the Reasons for Designation are set out in Schedule "B" of this by-law;

AND WHEREAS on October 10, 2023, Council for the Town of Halton Hills approved Report No. PD-2023-067, dated September 15, 2023, in which certain recommendations were made relating to the designation of the subject property;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT Knox Presbyterian Church located at 116 Main Street South, and further described in Schedule "A", is hereby designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as being of cultural heritage value or interest for the reasons set out in Schedule "B" attached to and forming part of this By-law;
2. THAT a copy of this By-law together with reasons for the designation be registered against the property and served in accordance with Section 29 of the Act;
3. THAT a notice of this By-law be published in accordance with Section 29 of the Act.

BY-LAW read and passed by the Council for the Town of Halton Hills this 17th day of June, 2024.

Originally Signed By:

MAYOR – ANN LAWLOR

Originally Signed By:

TOWN CLERK – VALERIE PETRYNIAK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. 2024-0045

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PIN: 250330135

LTS 7 & 8 & PT LTS 43 & 44, PL 27, AKA YOUNG AND BARBER'S SURVEY, AS IN
G10564; HALTON HILLS

SCHEDULE “B” TO BY-LAW NO. 2024-0045

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Description of Property

The property at 116 Main Street South is located at the intersection of Church Street and Main Street South in the community of Georgetown, Ontario. The property includes a one-storey stone church building with a raised basement in the Gothic Revival style. The church is set back from Main Street South and accessed by a paved walkway extended from the sidewalk and features a large, grassed area south of the church building along Main Street South.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The property at 116 Main Street South has physical and design value as a representative example of a Gothic Revival Church within the community of Georgetown. The existing church building has retained its original features and architectural detailing throughout the exterior that contribute to its Gothic Revival style, including lancet windows, tracery, asymmetrical elevation, string courses, mouldings, surrounds, steeply-pitched gable roof, dormers, oversize towers, and rock-faced stone walls, in addition to detailed tracery within the stained glass windows extant throughout, including the Hugh McKay memorial window, c.1887, that survived the church fire in 1901. Knox Presbyterian Church demonstrates a high degree of craftsmanship in its construction, and of specific note are the stained-glass windows and wooden tracery within window openings throughout, as well as the bells manufactured by the significant bellfoundry of London, Taylors of Loughborough.

The property at 116 Main Street South has significant value to its associations with early Protestant Christian communities in Georgetown and the surrounding area, with linkages to Limehouse Presbyterian Church, and a long-standing association with the Georgetown community. In 1960, the congregation of Knox Presbyterian Church celebrated its centennial. By that time, thirteen ministers had served the church congregation, with Reverend Alex Calder currently serving as the minister. Knox Presbyterian Church has connections to the Lawson family, particularly H.P. Lawson and his wife, Mrs. Lawson. H.P. was a prominent member of the Georgetown community, known as the provider of Georgetown’s first hydropower, earliest entrepreneur in the sawmill and lumber business, an extensive landholder in Esquesing, and a helpful member providing financial assistance for those in need when purchasing or constructing a home. A dedication service was held at the Church for the carillon of eight bells in memory of H.P. Lawson upon his death in 1920. A plaque hangs in the church to Mrs. Lawson’s memory upon her death in 1926.

The property at 116 Main Street South has contextual value as a significant landmark within Georgetown at the corner of Church Street and Main Street South. A church building has been extant in this location since the late 1860s, with the current church having been extant since 1887. Knox Presbyterian Church helps to define, maintain, and support the character of Downtown Georgetown in its position on a slight rise above Main Street South within an open space. Together with the Georgetown Library and Cultural Centre at 9 Church Street to the west, Knox Presbyterian Church serves as an historic anchor in the community at the southern end of the commercial core along Main Street South in Georgetown, linked physically, functionally, visually, and historically to its surroundings within the community.

Heritage Attributes

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 116 Main Street South that contribute to its physical and design value include:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing 1887 church building;

- The scale, form, and massing of the one-storey church building with raised basement;
- The gable roof with dormers on the northwest and southeast slopes;
- The materials, including rock-faced and smooth stone walls and detailing, wooden window and door surrounds and architectural detailing throughout; lancet window openings throughout with wooden tracery;
- The Hugh McKay memorial window, c.1887;
- On the front (northeast) elevation:
 - The double towers, with stone buttresses, stone courses and all stone detailing, lancet door and window entrances with stone detailing and surrounds, triangular window openings, lancet louvred window openings, castellated parapets, and basement-level flat-headed openings with stone lintels, and wooden tracery within window openings throughout;
 - The central entrance within projecting stone surround, including the paired wooden doors, stone detailing, and engraved stone reading “Presbyterian 1887” above;
 - The central lancet-arched window opening with wooden tracery and detailing, stone surrounds, and lintel;
 - The round window openings beneath the gable peak;
- On the side (southeast and northwest) elevations:
 - The projecting, gable roofed bay with stone buttresses, louvred window beneath the gable peak, and lancet window opening with wooden tracery, stone sill, and surrounds;
 - The paired lancet window openings with stone sills and surrounds and wooden tracery;
 - At the basement level, flat-headed window openings with stone lintels and surrounds;
- At the rear (southwest) elevation:
 - The paired stone chimneys, circular window opening with trefoil tracery, and lancet window opening below.
- The church bells, manufactured by the significant bellfoundry of London, Taylors of Loughborough.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 116 Main Street South that contribute to its historical and associative value include:

- The property’s legibility as a late-nineteenth-century Gothic Revival church building within the community of Georgetown.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 116 Main Street South that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The property’s legibility as a late-nineteenth-century Gothic Revival church building within the community of Georgetown;
- The setback, location, and orientation of the existing 1887 church building; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-storey church building with raised basement.