



BY-LAW NO. 2025-0069

A By-law to designate the Hornby School, located at 13029 Steeles Avenue 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 13029 Steeles Avenue, Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton, and known as the Hornby School, 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 the Hornby School, at 13029 Steeles Avenue, and upon the Ontario Heritage Trust, Notice of Intention to Designate the property and has caused Notice of Intention to be published on the Town's website per the Town's "Ontario Heritage Act – Alternate Notice Policy";

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

AND WHEREAS on June 16, 2025, Council for the Town of Halton Hills approved Report No. PD-2025-028 dated May 27, 2025, 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 the Hornby School located at 13029 Steeles Avenue, 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 25th day of August, 2025.

Originally Signed By:

MAYOR – ANN LAWLOR

Originally Signed By:

TOWN CLERK – VALERIE PETRYNIAK

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. 2025-0069
LEGAL DESCRIPTION

PT LT 1, CON 8 ESQ, AS IN 234043; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING

PIN: 250250054

SCHEDULE "B" TO BY-LAW NO. 2025-0069

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION

Description of Property

The subject property is located along the northwest side of Steeles Avenue in the community of Hornby within the Town of Halton Hills. The property contains a one-and-a-half-storey rural one-room schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival architectural style, and is legally described as "PT LT 1, CON 8 ESQ, AS IN 234043; HALTON HILLS/ESQUESING".

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest

The Hornby School at 13029 Steeles Avenue has physical and design value as a rare and representative example of an Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse in the Gothic Revival architectural style, in the community of Hornby, within the Town of Halton Hills. The one-and-a-half-storey schoolhouse features design elements such as dichromatic brickwork, a gable roof, central entrance, two windows along the front elevation with multiple windows along the side elevations, brick buttresses, dichromatic brickwork, buff-brick quoins, and a date stone inscribed Erected "A.D. 1870". The use of dichromatic brickwork, such as the buff brick quoins, lintels, and brick patterns on the front elevation, displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit.

The Hornby School at 13029 Steeles Avenue has historical and associative value due to its associations with the early educational system in the community of Hornby. The student population began to grow with the establishment of the *Common School Act* and the *Ontario School Act*, which introduced rates levied to support and construct new schools and later abolished the former fees for public schools and made attendance compulsory for children ages 7 to 12. These legislative changes provided government funds to construct and operate more schools for the growing school populations.

The property has associations with Dr. Frank Oliver Gilbert, who attended Hornby School, and later graduated from the University of Toronto in the early 1890s. Dr. Gilbert briefly established a medical practice in Hornby before dedicating himself to serving impoverished rural communities across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. In the 1940s, Dr. Gilbert established a travelling medical practice on a houseboat, providing essential medical care to isolated and rural Indigenous communities.

The property is also associated with the Halton Opportunities Enterprise (HOPE) Workshop, who established the Adult Rehabilitation Centre to provide work opportunities and support for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This organization helped individuals become involved in various work programs and encouraged them to participate in community service initiatives.

The Hornby School at 13029 Steeles Avenue has contextual value as it serves to maintain and support the rural character of the surrounding area in the historic Hornby community in the Town of Halton Hills. The former Hornby School is physically, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings as an early schoolhouse that serviced School Section No. AE in Hornby until 1962.

The heritage attributes of the property at 13029 Steeles Avenue, Hornby, are identified as follows:

- The setback, location, and orientation of the schoolhouse along Steeles Avenue in

the community of Hornby within the Town of Halton Hills;

- The scale, form, and massing of the c.1870 one-and-a-half-storey schoolhouse, running bond brick pattern, buff brick foundation and quoins, gable roof, brick chimney, and dichromatic brick detailing;
- Materials including red and buff brick, and stone;
- Front (southeast) elevation:
 - Projecting former bell tower with datestone inscribed “Erected A.D. 1870”;
 - Flatheaded window openings with limestone keystones, soldier course lintels, and projecting limestone sills;
 - Buff brick banding;
- Side (southwest) elevation:
 - Flatheaded window openings with limestone keystones, soldier course lintels, and projecting limestone sills;
 - Four-bay design with three buff brick buttresses;
 - Buff brick banding;
- Side (northeast) elevation:
 - Flatheaded window opening with limestone keystone, soldier course lintel, and projecting limestone sill;
 - Doorway with limestone keystone and soldier course lintel;
 - Two buff brick buttresses; and,
 - Buff brick banding.

The identified heritage attribute of the property at 13029 Steeles Avenue, Hornby, that contributes to its historical and associative value includes:

- The legibility of the existing property as a late-nineteenth-century, Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse along Steeles Avenue within the community of Hornby in the Town of Halton Hills.

The identified heritage attributes of the property at 13029 Steeles Avenue, Hornby, that contribute to its contextual value include:

- The legibility of the existing property as a late-nineteenth-century, Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse along Steeles Avenue within the community of Hornby in the Town of Halton Hills;
- The setback, location, and orientation of the c.1870s Hornby School on the northwest side of Steeles Avenue in the community of Hornby; and,
- The scale, form, and massing of the one-and-a-half-storey Ontario rural one-room schoolhouse.