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**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE UNDER THE
ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT**

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT AND IN THE MATTER OF the lands in the Town of Halton Hills known municipally as 2 Mill Street East, Acton, legally described as “LT 1, BLK 14, PL 31, ALSO SHOWN ON PL 227 & MUP 1098; HALTON HILLS”, Regional Municipality of Halton, and known as the Secord-Starkman Block.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Halton Hills intends to designate the property at 2 Mill Street East, Acton under Section 29(1), Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter O.18.

Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest:

The property at 2 Mill Street East possesses significant physical and design value, serving as a representative example of an early twentieth-century vernacular commercial architecture within the community of Acton, particularly on Mill Street, the heart of Acton’s commercial center. The property retains key features from the c.1920s Starkman renovations, particularly on the north-west and south-west elevations. These include the original brickwork, stone sills and lintels, flat roof, decorative parapets, and storefront configurations. The building exemplifies the design principles of its era, demonstrating both historical continuity and the aesthetic qualities associated with late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial structures. The building at 2 Mill Street East serves as a physical reminder of Acton’s early commercial development and character.

The property at 2 Mill Street East holds significant historical and associative value, reflecting the early settlement and subsequent growth of the Acton community during the mid-nineteenth century. Its continuous use and association with key figures in Acton’s history further emphasize its importance in the town’s commercial and economic development. Originally constructed by Sarah Secord, a prominent early settler of Acton, the building was later acquired and renovated by Abraham Louis Starkman, one of the most influential businessmen and community leaders of the twentieth century. Although the facade underwent substantial renovation in 1922, altering its original appearance, the property's function has remained consistent for nearly 150 years. This continuity, particularly its century-long service in its current form, demonstrates the building's enduring role in supporting local businesses and the community from the 1880s through the 1920s and into the present day.



The property at 2 Mill Street East holds significant contextual value as it plays a crucial role in defining and maintaining the character of the area along Mill Street East in Acton. Situated at its original location on the corner of Main Street and Mill Street, the building is intrinsically connected to its surroundings—physically, functionally, visually, and historically—as a commercial structure. Architecturally, it aligns with the styles of other contemporary commercial buildings along Mill Street, such as the Leishman Block at 3 Mill Street East, and the structures at 8, 10, 25 (Warren Block), 27, and 29 Mill Street East, several of which were also renovated by Starkman. As a prominent landmark, the building anchors the corner of the busiest intersection in Acton, contributing significantly to the fabric of early twentieth-century commercial architecture that characterizes the town's downtown core.

Further information respecting the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest and proposed designation of 2 Mill Street East, Acton (refer to Report PD-2024-080) is available by contacting Laura Loney, Manager of Heritage Planning for the Town of Halton Hills at 905-873-2600 x 2358 or by email at lloney@haltonhills.ca

Any person may, by January 12, 2025 (within 30 days after the date of the publication of this notice) serve written notice of objection to the proposed designation with Laura Loney together with a statement for the objection and all relevant facts.

Dated at the Town of Halton Hills this 13th day of December 2024.

Laura Loney, Manager of Heritage Planning, Planning and Development, The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Halton Hills, ON L7G 5G2.

