

Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada

Committee of the Whole
September 1, 2020



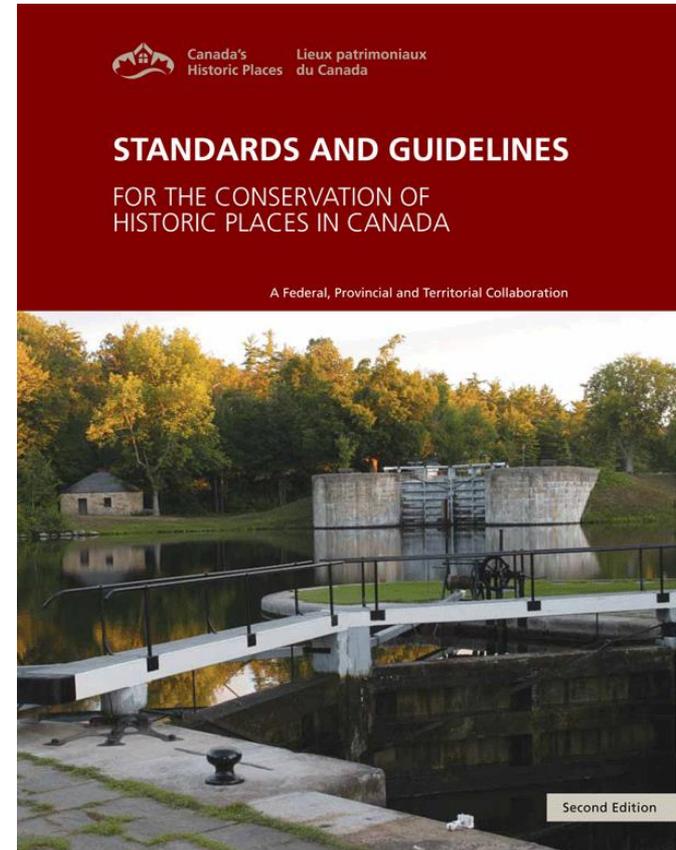
Objectives

- The scope of the document
- Role of the Standards and Guidelines in the conservation process
- Standards and Guidelines in the municipal and Kawartha Lakes context



What are the Standards and Guidelines?

- Federal document developed by Parks Canada in 2003 and revised in 2010
- Pan-Canadian benchmark for heritage conservation



What are the Standards and Guidelines?

- General principles and practice advice **to guide decision making** for planning interventions on an historic place
- An approach based on the conservation of the historic values of a place and its character defining elements
- A set of guidelines and processes as opposed to a technical manual or prescriptive instructions



Usage

- The Standards and Guidelines are used by the federal government and agencies with regard to their own historic properties
- Adopted and endorsed by most provinces and provincial bodies
- Adopted by many municipalities across Canada
- Used by professionals across the heritage sector to help guide their decision making processes



Conservation Phases

The conservation process has three phases:

- Understanding
- Planning
- Intervening

The Standards and Guidelines speak primarily to the Planning phase, while other policies, legislation and guidelines inform understanding and intervening



Understanding

- Refer to character defining elements and historic value
- Investigate and document conditions

Achieved through historical studies, condition assessments, etc.



Planning

- Maintain or select an appropriate or sustainable use
- Identify project requirements
- **Determine the primary treatment**
- **Review the standards**
- **Follow the guidelines**



Intervening

- Undertake the project work
- Carry out regular maintenance



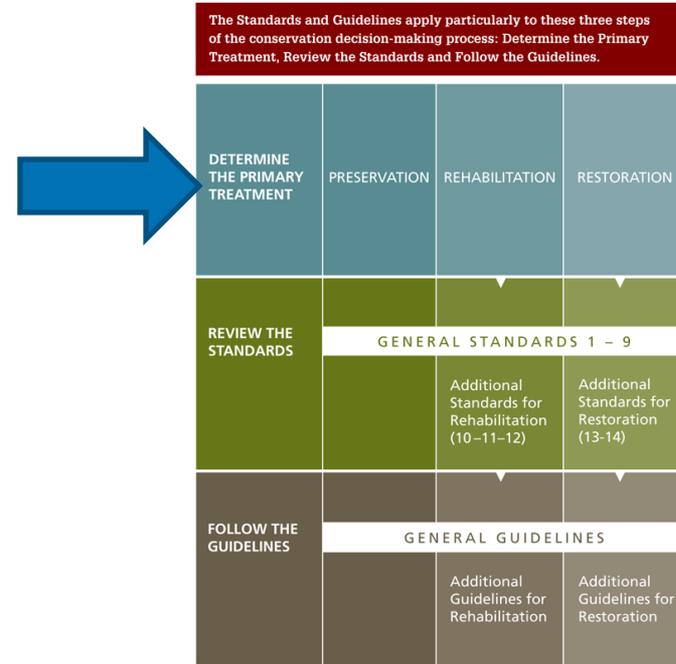
The Standards and Guidelines apply particularly to these three steps of the conservation decision-making process: Determine the Primary Treatment, Review the Standards and Follow the Guidelines.

Conservation Decision-making Process

DETERMINE THE PRIMARY TREATMENT	PRESERVATION	REHABILITATION	RESTORATION
REVIEW THE STANDARDS	GENERAL STANDARDS 1 – 9		
		Additional Standards for Rehabilitation (10–11–12)	Additional Standards for Restoration (13-14)
FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES	GENERAL GUIDELINES		
		Additional Guidelines for Rehabilitation	Additional Guidelines for Restoration

Determine the Primary Treatment

- What is the primary goal of the conservation project?
- Projects may include a combination of preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration
- Most major contemporary projects are rehabilitation projects that involve upgrading older buildings and/or giving them a new, sustainable use



Conservation

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graph TD; Conservation[Conservation] --> Past[Past]; Conservation --> Present[Present]; Conservation --> Future[Future]; Past --> Restoration[Restoration]; Present --> Preservation[Preservation]; Future --> Rehabilitation[Rehabilitation];
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Past

Restoration

Action or process of accurately revealing, recovering, or representing the state of a historic place or of an individual component as it appeared at a particular period in its history while protecting its heritage value

Present

Preservation

Action or process of protecting, maintaining, and/or stabilizing the existing materials, form and integrity of a historic place or of an individual component while protecting its heritage value

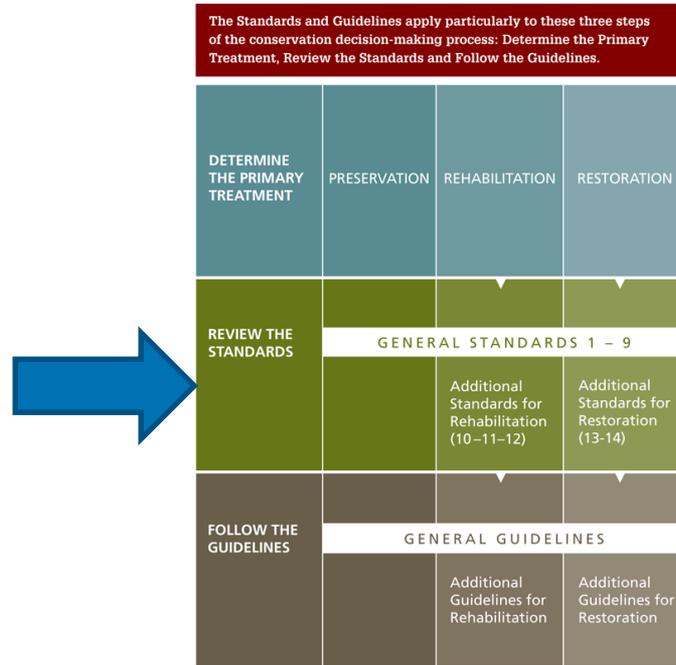
Future

Rehabilitation

Action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of a historic place or an individual component while protecting its heritage value

Review the Standards

- Conservation principles based on internationally accepted charters
- High-level standards intended to conserve the heritage values of historic places
- 9 general standards which should be applied to all projects
- 3 additional standards for rehabilitation
- 2 additional standards for restoration



The Standards: Examples

Standard 1

- Conserve the heritage value of an historic place
- Do not remove, replace, or substantially alter its intact or repairable character defining elements
- Do not move a part of an historic place if its current location is a character defining element



The Standards: Examples

Standard 5

- Find a use for an historic place that requires minimal or no change to its character defining elements



The Standards: Examples

Standard 11

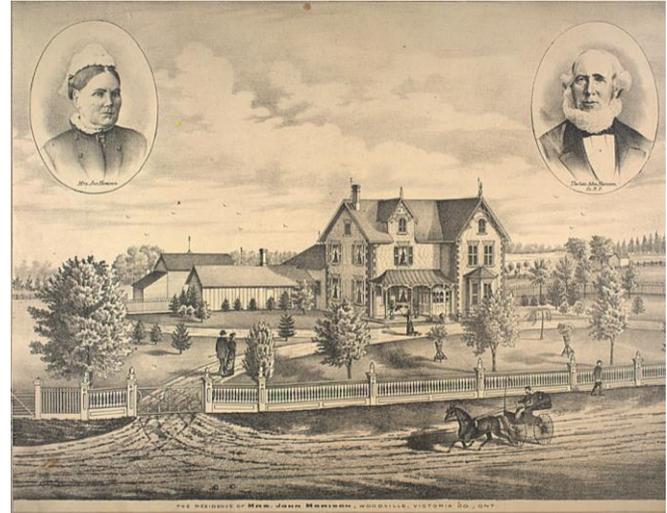
- Conserve the heritage value and character defining elements when creating new additions to an historic place
- Make the new work physically and visually compatible with, subordinate to and distinguishable from the historic place



The Standards: Examples

Standard 14

- Replace missing features from the restoration period with new features whose forms, materials, and detailing are based on sufficient documentary and/or oral evidence



General Standards

1. Conserve the values
2. Conserve changes
3. Minimal intervention
4. No false impressions
5. Find an appropriate use
6. Stabilize, protect archaeological resources
7. Evaluate condition
8. Maintain and repair
9. Identifiable interventions

Additional Standards for Rehabilitation

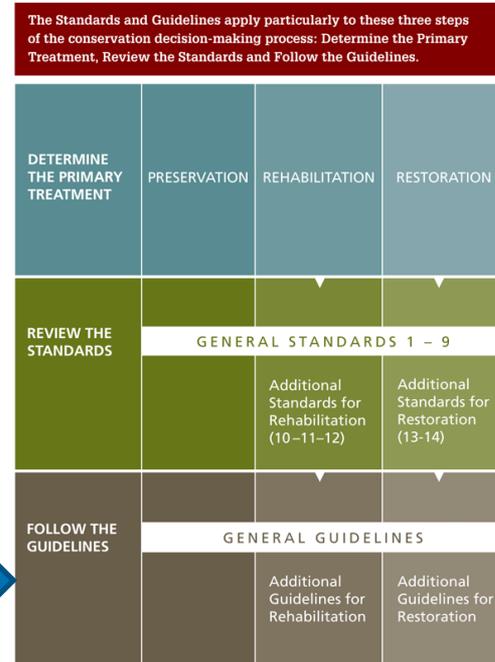
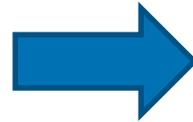
10. Repair or replace deteriorated features
11. Compatible, distinguishable, subordinate additions
12. Reversible additions

Additional Standards for Restoration

13. Replace deteriorated features
14. Recreate missing features

Follow the Guidelines

- Guidelines offer guidance on how to plan interventions
- Identifies **Recommended** and **Not Recommended** interventions
- They do not suggest specific methods/products as these continually change and must also be tailored to site specific needs



Cultural Landscapes

- Evidence of land use
- Evidence of traditional practice
- Land patterns
- Spatial organizations
- Visual relationships
- Circulation
- Ecological features
- Vegetation
- Landforms
- Water Features
- Built Features



Archaeological Sites

- Archaeological sites
- Sites in urban environments
- Industrial sites
- Sites in cultural landscapes
- Sites in protected natural areas
- Sites underwater
- Rock art and culturally-modified trees
- Culturally-sensitive places



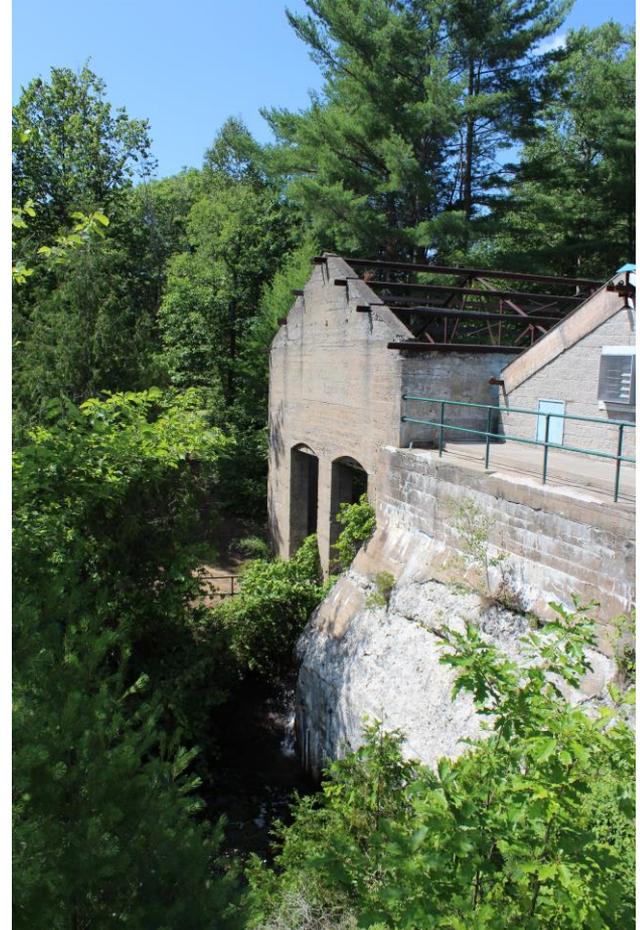
Buildings

- Exterior form
- Interior arrangement
- Roofs
- Exterior walls
- Windows, doors, and storefronts
- Entrances, porches, and balconies
- Interior features
- Structural systems
- Mechanical and electrical systems



Engineering Works

- Constructed elements
- Functional arrangement



Materials

- All materials
- Wood and wood products
- Masonry
- Concrete
- Architectural and structural materials
- Glass and glass products
- Plaster and stucco
- Miscellaneous materials



Case Study: Accessibility Upgrades

- Most historic buildings are not accessible by today's standards (stairs, heavy doors, small washrooms, etc.)
- Upgrading historic properties to be accessible increases inclusivity in our communities
- Upgrades should be sympathetic in design, use compatible materials, minimize visual impact, have minimal impact on existing materials
- Visual compatibility



Case Study: Historic Property Redevelopment

- Redeveloping historic properties can add new density, create new and positive uses for old buildings
- Promotion of visually compatible and subordinate additions
- Distinguishable from the heritage properties
- Preservation and restoration of heritage features



Municipal Use

- Guide decision making processes on municipal heritage properties
- Used as an standard for evaluation of applications
- Supporting document for policy development
- Adopted formally by many municipalities on Ontario as the benchmark document for conservation practice



Operational Impacts

- Municipal projects effectively follow guidelines already
- Use of guidelines for evaluating permit and development applications already in place
- Adoption of guidelines provides a framework for demonstrating how we make decisions as opposed to changing how we make decisions
- Supports the development of policies/studies to guide heritage conservation in the municipality

Evaluation of Applications

- Provides a clear decision-making framework for evaluation incoming applications regarding heritage properties
- Particularly important for heritage impact assessments
- Benchmark for funding heritage-related projects



Why adopt the Guidelines?

- Transparency in decision-making
- Alignment with federal standards
- Adoption of a municipal best practice
- Supports current policies and long-term proactive policy development

Thank you