

How does a property acquire Heritage Designation?

The Ontario Heritage Act sets out the criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest. A property may be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. **Design or Physical Value:** The property may be a rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method. It could also display a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic method, as well as demonstrating a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.
2. **Historical or Associative Value:** The property may have direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community. It could also demonstrate or reflect the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community.
3. **Contextual Value:** The property may be important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area. It could also include the property being physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings, or it is identified as a landmark.

Anyone can recommend that a property be designated, and although it is not required, it is preferable that the property owner supports the designation and works with City staff throughout the designation process.

The first step in the process is to contact City staff or a member of the Municipal Heritage Committee who will talk with you about your property and forward an Application for Heritage Designation.