# COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTER:

## A RESOURCE GUIDE

The Community Heritage Register is an important component of a local government's heritage program, as it is a recognized method to identify, acknowledge, and record local heritage.

By establishing and maintaining a list of heritage buildings, sites, and structures, the Community Heritage Register process helps the local government to understand and identify the significance and heritage value of its community.

The Community Heritage Register is one of several heritage conservation tools found in the *Local Government Act*. While the legislation provides local governments with the authority to adopt a Community Heritage Register, the Act does not detail the formation and function of the register.

The goal of this guide is to support the establishment and ongoing development of the Community Heritage Register through research, guidelines, and standards, and to address the challenges of interpretation and implementation. By understanding best practices and lessons-learned, a consistent interpretation and implementation of the Community Heritage Register can be successfully adopted by all local governments and regional districts.

### HeritageBC

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COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTER:
# CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION

As something that tells a layered and rich story about a community, heritage can be unique to each area. What is important or significant to one community is not necessarily as important or significant to another.

"The spirit and character of Crowsnest Pass is largely defined by its unique history and heritage. Historic places tell the story of the land, the people, and the buildings of communities." (source)

Describing the value of heritage is key to identification, retention, conservation, and recognition. By describing the value of heritage, it is possible to identify the importance and significance of heritage for past, present or future generations.

Each local government needs to understand what is important to the community it serves. Following is a list of ideas and approaches that can be used as a starting point when developing criteria for identifying and describing the importance and significance of local heritage.

Heritage should not be equated only with age and appearance. Instead, the assessment of heritage should be based on a set of values that are important to the community. Each local government should develop criteria that allows heritage to reflect the community.

An established practice of describing heritage value is to follow the five categories identified in the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. (source)

- Aesthetic: refers to the sensory qualities of a historic place (seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting) in the context of broader categories of design and tradition.
- Historic or cultural: refers to the associations that a place has with past events and historical themes, as well as its capacity to evoke a way of life or a memory of the past.
- Scientific: refers to the capacity of a historic place to provide evidence that can advance our understanding and appreciation of a culture. The evidence is found in the form, materials, design and/or experience of the place.
- Social: considers the meanings attached to a place by a community in the present time. It differs from historical or cultural value in that the value may not have an obvious basis in history or tradition, and relates almost entirely to the present time.
- Spiritual is ascribed to places with religious or spiritual meanings for a community or a group of people.

These five values are the basis for the Statement of Significance, which "is a succinct way of expressing heritage value, workable for the many jurisdictions across." (source) A Statement of Significant can be prepared by anyone with sufficient interest and time, but a heritage professional is recommended. For a list of heritage professionals, please visit BC Association of Heritage Professionals or contact Heritage BC. Information about Statements of Significance can be found on Heritage BC's webinar-on-demand (link).

"A site's heritage value may lie as much in the information contained in the elements as in their evocative force, as vestiges of past histories." (source)

Other considerations include:

- The materials used (the 'fabric')
- The general design and configuration of a building or buildings
- The setting or context; the location
- The use(s) and association(s) with people, activities, traditions, rituals
- The importance to local cultural or natural history
- The meanings of a place; evolution of the community
- Intangible qualities that are described in stories and traditions
- Cultural practices, activities, and events
- Significant person(s) associated with the place
- Characteristic architectural styles; artistic qualities
- Craftmanship and technical achievement
- Relationship to the community's history and development
- Local identity and the degree to which the site contributes to the historic character of an area
- Landmark status in the community
- Contribution to an understanding of a community or culture
- Archaeological significance

This process of identifying heritage values should also explore values that pre-date what is being described. Examples include:

- a pre-existing structure (e.g. an existing structure built on the site of an earlier structure);
- earlier use/feature of land (e.g. a diverted river; an early, but abandoned farm);
- and, importantly, connections of Indigenous people and other distinct cultures. Describing Indigenous and culture connections is very important to developing a richer story with a deeper depth of time.

The Nova Scotia government has provided a helpful list of questions to consider (source):

## Age

- Is the property comparatively old in the context of the community or province?
- Does it reflect a particular historical period or event?
- Is it similar in age to surrounding buildings and therefore contributes to the continuity of the streetscape or heritage district?

## Architect/Builder

- Was the property designed and/or built by a locally, provincially or nationally renowned architect?
- Did the property's architect/designer make a significant contribution to the community or province?

## Historic Associations

- Was the property owned or resided in by a person who is significant to the community or province?
- Did a significant person visit or stay there?
- Was the property used by a significant person?
- Did a significant event occur at the property?
- Is the property related to a significant event? (Significant historic events frequently include WWI, WWII, the Halifax Explosion, sinking of the Titanic, arrival of the Loyalists, etc.)

## Architectural Style

- Is the property an outstanding example of a specific architectural style?
- Is it an uncommon/rare or unique architectural style for the area/province?
- Does the architectural style contribute to the streetscape or district?

## Construction Method

- Is the property a good or excellent example of a method of construction?
- Is it an uncommon/rare or unique method for the area/province?
- Does the method reveal important details about the builders?
- Has the place maintained its integrity, without substantial alterations or renovations?
- Is the craftsmanship particularly impressive or unique?

The City of Vancouver has developed a set of five themes to guide nominations to the Vancouver Heritage Register. (source)

- Theme 1: Settling Vancouver (First Nations; Coastal Geography; the Developing City)
- Theme 2: Resource Economy (Terminal City, Resource Extractions and Industrial Production; Infrastructure and Transportation; and Labour)
- Theme 3: Community Life and Neighbourhoods (Community Associations; Fraternal Associations; Social Movements; Religious Institutions; Education; Health Care; and City of Neighbourhoods)
- Theme 4: Governing the City (Civic Institutions; Provincial and Federal Connections; Planning the City; and Law, Order, and Security)
- Theme 5: Building a Coastal Culture (Arts and Culture; Architecture; Philosophy and Spirituality; Leisure and Tourism; and Media)

COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTER:

# REGISTER VERSUS DESIGNATION

It is important to understand the differences between a Community Heritage Register and designation. Each provides a means to recognize heritage value and character, and property may be listed on a heritage register, or have heritage designation, or both. But a Community Heritage Register does not provide the same legal protections as a designation.

The Province of BC describes the basic differences as (source):

| Heritage Designation | Community Heritage Register |
|---|---|
| Provides permanent legal protection for a historic place. | Identifies a historic place that the community deems to have heritage value |
| Changes require a Heritage Alteration Permit. | Does not provide permanent legal protection. |
| Is enacted by bylaw. | Is enacted by local government through a resolution |

*Heritage Conservation, A Technical Guide for Local Governments* expands on this by contrasting the legislation:

> A designated property is legally protected by the local government. Designation offers long-term protection and allows a government to regulate alterations and demolition. If the designation of a property causes a reduction in the market value of the property at the time of designation, the local government must compensate the owner. Compensation can be in either monetary or some other form.

> A property included in a Community Heritage Register is not designated (unless it has been separately designated by bylaw) and therefore is not eligible for any financial incentive or compensation from the local government. The registration of a property does not offer permanent heritage protection. A registered property, however, is eligible for special provisions in the BC Building Code Heritage Building Supplement.

The same document also provides a helpful chart:

| | Designation | CHR |
|---|---|---|
| Legal Protection? | Yes | No |
| Permanent Protection? | Yes | No |
| Compensation? | Yes | No |
| Official List? | Yes | Yes |
| Withhold Approval? | Yes | Yes |
| Withhold Demolition? | Yes | Yes |
| Impact Assessment? | Yes | No |
| Heritage Inspection? | Yes | Yes |
| Temporary Protection? | Yes | Yes |
| Public Hearing Before? | Yes | No |
| Affects Land Title? | Yes | No |
| Building Code Provisions? | Yes | Yes |

# PROCESS

*Heritage Conservation: A Community Guide* (1995) and *Establishing Community Heritage Registers* offer step-by-step guidance to establishing and maintaining a Community Heritage Register (CHR).

A CHR is a cornerstone to a local government's community heritage program. It should be implemented as part of a carefully planned heritage program to achieve clearly stated community goals.

1.  Through a process of planning and research, community heritage issues and needs are assessed and a vision for the community's heritage resources is developed. This process will support the identification of heritage values, which are used to establish identification criteria.

2.  The local government establishes eligibility criteria for the CHR (as described in a previous chapter).

3.  Community heritage resources (e.g. houses, barns, trees, impressions on land) are researched and identified. Obtain or develop the required documentation; this includes Statements of Significance for each property.

4.  A preliminary Community Heritage Register list of resources is created by local government staff, members of the community heritage commission, or by a group appointed by a city council or local government. Review the list to ensure it reflects the community's heritage values.

5.  The local government consults with property owners (e.g. explanatory letters followed by personal meetings) and anticipates the continuing need to provide information and to raise awareness, by such means as:
    *   preparing clear and simple information packages (local governments may wish to explain that registry status is not the same as designation status);
    *   preparing a map of heritage properties;
    *   assembling available information (e.g. before and after restoration photos, maps, archival material, inventories, etc.);
    *   holding review meetings or workshops;
    *   explaining eligibility criteria for financial assistance for conservation;
            and/or
    *   offering technical assistance (e.g. design advice or rehabilitation standards).

6.  The local government reviews, and, if necessary, revises the proposed Community Heritage Register.

7.  By resolution, a council or regional district board establishes or adds to a Community Heritage Register. See Recommendations and Resolution for more information.

8.  Develop a database of CHR records and/or post list of records on website.

9.  Within 30 days of including a property on the heritage register, the local government will provide notice to the Heritage Branch for inclusion on the BC Register of Historic Places. Historic places that are fully documented, including a Statement of Significance, are added to the Canadian Register of Historic Places by the BC Registrar at the Heritage Branch. (Learn more about submitting records to the Heritage Branch)

10. Regularly maintain, review, and add to the CHR. Properties may be added to, or deleted from, the Community Heritage Register by resolution of the council or regional district board.

*Heritage Conservation: A Community Guide* provides two scenarios:

## Scenario 1

A community undertakes a process of planning in its downtown commercial core which identifies five individual buildings of heritage value to the community. Three of the buildings are privately owned. The local government consults with the property owners, who are advised that no legal protection will result from inclusion on the register but that their properties will be flagged on the local government's property file system. The local government a) passes a resolution which establishes the register, and, b) notifies both the property owners and the minister responsible for heritage conservation.

## Scenario 2

A local government plans to draft a local area plan for a residential neighbourhood. As a part of the planning process it decides to establish a Community Heritage Register for the neighbourhood. The research is completed, and residents and property owners are invited to a meeting to discuss the proposed register. Following the meeting, where most of the residents indicate their support for the register, council passes a resolution to establish the register and notifies the property owners and the minister responsible for heritage conservation.

*Heritage Conservation, A Technical Guide for Local Governments* includes the following advice for establishing a CHR:

- Ideally, a Community Heritage Register is implemented comprehensively; realistically, it is implemented incrementally. If a community has a number of neighbourhoods or development permit zones, it can implement a register for each zone during the creation or revision of the neighbourhood plan.
- Inform the council or regional district early in the process about the meaning and potential benefits of a Community Heritage Register.
- Educate the general public early in the process about the benefits of a Community Heritage Register. Benefits are described in this resource guide.
- Consult with property owners prior to the inclusion of their properties in a register, even though the legislation does not require this action. If consultation does not occur, the political ramifications could be problematic.
- Encourage council to offer financial incentives for those who agree to have their property registered. These incentives should facilitate public acceptance.
- Create other incentives, such as the fast-tracking of development permit applications, relaxation of parking regulations, zoning relaxations, etc.
- Be aware that an extensive list of prospective properties being recommended at the same time for inclusion in a register may each require lengthy discussions with owners and council. Allow enough time as this process may be slow.
- Compile a manageable list of properties with a guarantee of success. Cooperative property owners and popular sites can help establish a successful track record.
- For the first list of registered properties, concentrate on the same kinds of buildings, such as churches or houses, etc. Promote common heritage characteristics. Encourage the council to lead the way by registering all of the valued municipally-owned buildings.
- It is important that a register be carried out in concert with a neighbourhood plan or other land use plans (e.g. density, zoning, land use). Planning tools should not send different messages to the community and the developers. For example, do not expect to protect single-family heritage homes by including them in a Community Heritage Register if the zoning for that neighbourhood allows for high-density development.

**COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTER:**

# REAL PROPERTY

According to the *Local Government Act (LGA)*, a Community Heritage Register identifies "real property" that possesses heritage value and character. The term "real property" is not easily understood and this sometimes results in a restricted interpretation or a narrow implementation of a Community Heritage Register. The following examples illustrate that there is more breadth to the definition of "real property" than is sometimes understood.

The *LGA* includes a definition that reads: "real property includes buildings, structures and other improvements affixed to the land."

The *Community Charter* offers this definition: "real property means land, with or without improvements so affixed to the land as to make them in fact and law a part of it."

Real property is a subset of Canadian property law, which also includes personal property. The Canadian Encyclopedia addresses both types, "Real property (or realty) is land, any buildings on that land, any mineral rights under the land, and anything that is attached to the land or buildings that can be considered permanent. Personal property (sometimes known as chattels) includes any property that is not real property." ([source](#))

A University of Toronto resource guide says real property "refers to real estate or realty law, [and] deals with immovable property in the form of land, buildings, fixtures, etc." ([source](#))

The Province of British Columbia describes real property in a tax bulletin ([source](#)): "Real property is land and anything that is attached to the land so it becomes part of real property after installation (i.e. ceases to be personal property at common law). This would normally include buildings, structures, and things, such as machinery or equipment, that are attached to the land (or to buildings or structures) by some means other than their own weight."

This bulletin also offers examples:

- Buildings and integral components of buildings or land, such as windows, doors, plumbing, electrical and heating systems
- Structures affixed to land, including concrete driveways and sidewalks
- Topsoil, sod, gravel and other materials that have been installed (e.g. spread) on real property
- Certain very large machinery or equipment that is constructed on site, such as machinery used in sawmills, pulp mills or other industrial locations, that is specifically excluded from the definition of affixed machinery.

While the bulletin was prepared for a specific purpose (provincial tax application by real property contractors), it nevertheless helps to provide further clarity.

Finally, the example of watercraft can provide further clarity. Based on the preceding information, a vessel cannot be considered real property if it is still in the water, as it is not fixed to the land and it is moveable. However, if the vessel is permanently dry-docked, and therefore immovable, it can be considered real property. Assuming the vessel meets other criteria, a vessel that is displayed on land is now eligible for heritage consideration according to the *LGA*.

This is, in fact, the case for the S.S. Moyie, which is on display on the shore of the Kootenay Lake and is included on the provincial and national registers.

In addition to many man-made structures, the BC Register of Historic Places includes other types of heritage resources, such as parks, watercraft, rivers, and trees. (The map of the BC Register of Historic Places can be found here.) Examples of recognized heritage assets that have met *LGA* requirements are:

**Parks**

- Piper Park, Nanaimo
- Dewdney Trail, Manning Park
- Sinclair Park, New Westminster

**Vessels**

- S. Naramata
- S. Sicamous
- S. Moyie

**Natural Environment**

- Tsolum River Garry Oak Ecosystem, an area that features over a hundred Garry oak trees, as well as numerous species of mature trees and vegetation.
- Rock Tree, a native mature Western Red Cedar located in Surrey and growing out of a split glacial erratic boulder that is approximately two metres by three metres in size.
- Catalpa tree, estimated to be about 100 years old and included on the Nanaimo's list of heritage trees

**Industrial Features**

- The Ditch, a concrete canal in the southern Okanagan.
- Courtenay Riverway, which forms from its source at the confluence of the Puntledge and Tsolum Rivers and flows through the City of Courtenay before draining into Comox Bay

Please note, Heritage BC is not proposing a legal definition of the term "real property" or providing advice. Our aim is to support local governments in developing Community Heritage Registers and understanding the breadth of implementation. Local governments should seek legal advice as required.

# COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTER:
# IMPLICATIONS AND BENEFITS

It is not unusual for owners of heritage properties to be anxious about inclusion on the Community Heritage Register (CHR). There are probably several reasons for this, including a perception of local government interference, but Heritage BC believes part of the problem is due to poor communication of the legislation and an unclear portrayal of the local government's authority.

The the implications of a Community Heritage Register should be very clearly explained so that a property owner can feel protected and even encouraged to participate in the CHR program. This material should be written from the point of view of the property owner and anticipating their questions and concerns. A focus on the local government's authority is likely unhelpful at the initiation of a relationship with an inexperienced property owner.

"If your property is listed on the Heritage Register, it is not legally protected. However, it means that the property has been recognized by the City as having heritage value to the community.  As the owner of a heritage building in New Westminster, you are encouraged to work with City Staff to retain and protect your structure, while ensuring its use, density and function are the best they can be." (source)

The legislation does not give the local government the authority to automatically prevent the owner of a heritage property from developing, redeveloping, or demolishing that property. However, when a local government implements a Community Heritage Register program, it does have access to additional management tools:

- The local government (heritage) planner has the option to discuss proposed alterations and available options;
- Building or development approvals may be temporarily delayed until the next council meeting;
- Demolition permits may be temporarily delayed until the next council meeting or until a building permit and any other necessary approvals have been issued with respect to the alteration or redevelopment of the site;
- An impact assessment may be required if a proposed development might have a negative impact on a heritage resource.


These management tools cannot extend beyond 60 days, which provides time to collect information and to conduct an inspection of the heritage features of the property. Local government staff then prepares a report to Council outlining conservation options for consideration before the temporary protection period expires.

The management tools cannot be used for the same property more than once in a two-year period.

For the heritage property owner, the *LGA* does not provide local governments with authorities that are significantly different from those applied to owners of non-heritage properties. Of course, designating a property is very different from registering a property, as the local government has the option to set specific restrictions in a council-approved bylaw.

# Benefits

Local governments may offer benefits to property owners as an incentive to participate in the Community Heritage Register program. Benefits typically assist owners who wish to retain and upgrade their buildings as part of a development proposal.

Benefit programs adopted by local governments may include:

- Access to special "equivalency" provisions contained in the BC Building Code Heritage Building Supplement or the Vancouver Building Bylaw
- Eligibility for municipal grants (where available)
- Access to non-monetary incentives, such as land-use regulations relaxation, tax exemption, or development bonuses
- Access to programs that support façade rehabilitation and seismic upgrades
- Inclusion on awareness-building materials (maps, webpages, brochures)
- Profile in the community from protecting community identity

# WORDING FOR FORMS AND REPORTS

## Following is sample wording for a nomination form:

Thank you for nominating a heritage site for the Community Heritage Register.

Heritage sites and features can be anything that has heritage value, including buildings, structures, landscapes, industrial sites, trees, streetscapes, and community events.

The information you provide will allow us to consider the heritage site for inclusion on the heritage register.

1. Name and location of the heritage site/feature:Description of the heritage site/feature; this can include age, construction and material, scale and style, and condition:

2. Description of the heritage site/feature's significance; this can include its setting; its history and cultural associations with people, groups or events; its architectural and aesthetic elements:

3. Who is the owner of the site?

4. What does this heritage site/feature mean to you and the community?

5. Please provide photographs and other supporting information.


Thank you for your submission of the Community Heritage Register. We look forward to reviewing your information as we consider your nomination for inclusion on the Community Heritage Register.

Please return this form to _____.


Name of nominator, address and contact information.


Date of submission

# Recommendation and Resolution

Local government staff may use the following language for a recommendation when preparing a report to mayor and council. The report may include (but not limited to) background information about the Community Heritage Register, consent information from the property owners, policy analysis, strategic priorities, and summary.

Recommendation(s)

1.  THAT the following properties, as identified by the [local government] Community Heritage Commission, be added to the [local government] Community Heritage Register:

    1.  Property 1
    2.  Property 2
    3.  Property 3... and so on

2.  THAT Council authorize Administration to proceed with the legislated notification in accordance with Section 598 of the *Local Government Act*.

The following sample wording may be used by a council to establish a Community Heritage Register or to add to the register:

THAT the [local government] Community Heritage Register, including the statements of significance, be adopted by Council pursuant to Section 598 of the *Local Government Act*.

AND THAT staff be authorized to submit all the required documentation to BC Heritage Branch.

Certified correct in accordance with the Community Charter.

_____

City Clerk

Confirmed on the _____Day of _____ [year].

_____

Mayor

# LEGISLATION

Following is the legislation as it is found in the *Local Government Act (LGA)*, plus an accompanying commentary. Further details follow in other sections of the guide.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Community Heritage Register (s. 598)** | By including "community" in the name, it can be understood this form of heritage recognition is done on behalf of the community. Because the Community Heritage Commission typically oversees the register, it is reasonable to say the recognition of local heritage should be by and for the community. |
| **1.** A local government may, by resolution, establish a Community Heritage Register that identifies real property that is considered by the local government to be heritage property. | While the local government will make resolutions to establish a register and to approve additions and deletions to the list, the oversight of the register is often responsibility of the Community Heritage Commission (see our guide on CHCs).<br><br>Because "real property" is a phrase that is not easily understood, it is described in detail in a separate section of this guide. |
| **2.** A Community Heritage Register<br><br>a. must indicate the reasons why property included in the Community Heritage Register is considered to have heritage value or heritage character, and | The description of heritage value and character is typically contained in a Statement of Significance (SoS). All entries on a Community Heritage Register should have an up-to-date SoS.<br><br>Information about Statement of Significance can be found here and here. |
| b. may distinguish between heritage properties of differing degrees and kinds of heritage value or heritage character. | It is possible to develop a recognition program that ranks heritage sites according to differing values and characters or "degrees" of heritage. Some local governments have developed such a system (e.g. Vancouver), while other local governments established heritage registers without any form of grading or classification (e.g. New Westminster). There have been situations where a grading system was simplified, so that the CHR would be less confusing and would better serve heritage recognition (e.g. City of North Vancouver). |
| **3.** Within 30 days after including property in a Community Heritage Register or deleting property from a Community Heritage Register, the local government must give notice of this<br><br>a. to the owner of the heritage property in accordance with section 592, and<br><br>b. to the heritage minister in accordance with section 595. | Section 595 of the *LGA* requires local governments to notify the provincial government when an addition (or deletion) is made to their Community Heritage Register. Information on submitting a new entry to the Province can be found here and the form to submit a new entry can be found here. The new information is entered onto the BC Register of Historic Places. The Heritage Branch (Province of BC) then provides the information to the Canadian Register of Historic Places. An interactive map showing all registered and designated heritage sites in BC can be found here. Canada's Historic Places can be found here.<br><br>It is possible to add a property to a CHR prior to notifying the owner, however it is likely a better practice to work with the property owner during the assessment phase. |
| **4.** The protection of heritage property is not affected by an error or omission in a Community Heritage Register. | Please refer to the Implications and Benefits section. (link) |

## Further Background

Along with other heritage conservation tools, the Community Heritage Register (CHR) originates in the *Local Government Act* (*LGA*). In response to the then new *LGA*, the *Heritage Conservation: A Community Guide* (1995) was written to provide a helpful starting point for interpretation. Comments have been added for further clarity (right-hand column).

| | |
|---|---|
| By resolution, local government can establish an official listing of properties identified as having heritage character or heritage value to the community. A Community Heritage Register: | Examples of a recommendation and resolution can be found in this guide. |
| • facilitates integration of heritage considerations with community planning; | The CHR provides a local government with the means to identify, acknowledge and recognize local heritage assets and resources that have heritage value and heritage character. Inclusion in the Official Community Plan and land use planning, to name two examples, indicate a community vision related to heritage awareness and conservation. |
| • enables monitoring of properties through licensing and permit application processes; | All homeowners, including owners of heritage properties, are required to seek licenses and permits before making alterations to their properties; in the case of heritage properties, the cumulative effect of the alterations can be better understood when a list of heritage properties has already been established. While the local government is able to monitor alterations to CHR-listed properties, the local government does not have the authority to impose separate restrictions on heritage properties that it could not impose on other types of (non-listed) properties. However, the local government does have access to heritage-related management tools; see Implications and Benefits for more information.  (Note, this is not the case for properties that have been designated. Please refer to the resource guide on Designation.) |
| • informs property owners and prospective buyers of property's heritage value; | The Community Heritage Register can be a means to raise awareness of heritage values and characteristics that the community, through the local government, considers to be important. See Implications and Benefits for more information. |
| • in itself does not provide heritage protection. | Inclusion of a property on a Community Heritage Register does not confer protection and does not create any financial liability for the local government. The implications of inclusion on the CHR are commonly misunderstood; see Implications and Benefits for more information. |

# Heritage Inventory

Some local governments have developed heritage inventories, a less rigorous process than the Community Heritage Register. In some cases, the inventories have become static in favour of the CHR.

While a property on an inventory is not automatically placed on the CHR, it should not be assumed that the any property not on the CHR does not have heritage value.

Properties are regularly added to CHRs, often on the initiative of the property owner.

BC Register of Historic Places ([source](#))

The BC Register of Historic Places is part of the provincial heritage register of historic and archaeological sites that exists as a statutory requirement of the *Heritage Conservation Act*. The BC Register of Historic Places is a subset of the records on the provincial heritage register database, and is the province's official list of post-1846 historic places that have been formally recognized by the Province or by a local government.

The BC Register of Historic Places supports land use decisions, heritage conservation projects, and public awareness initiatives. The database contains over 4,600 entries representing the diversity of historic places across the province.

Canadian Register of Historic Places [(source)](#)

The Canadian Register of Historic Places is a searchable database of historic places across Canada that have been recognized for their heritage value by local, provincial, territorial and federal governments. The database and website are hosted by Parks Canada on behalf of all the participating jurisdictions.

Historic places from the BC Register that are fully documented, including a Statement of Significance, are added to the Canadian Register of Historic Places by the BC Registrar at the Heritage Branch. Listing on the Canadian Register supports celebration of Canada's historic places, public education and tourism development, but does not provide additional protection or National Historic Site status.

# COMMUNITY HERITAGE REGISTERS: RESOURCE GUIDE

This resource guide is part of a series describing the heritage conservation tools that are available through BC's *Local Government Act*. The other guides are:

Community Heritage Commissions

Heritage Designation

Heritage Conservation Areas

Heritage Revitalization Agreements

Heritage Impact Assessment

Heritage Covenant

Temporary Heritage Protections

All guides are available at heritagebc.ca.

## A NOTE TO READER

Please contact Heritage BC if this guide did not provide answers to your questions. Let us know how we can help, and we will find the information you need.

It is intended this guide will develop through community input. If you have best practices and case studies that would benefit this guide, please contact Heritage BC.

The resource guides provide overviews through research and commentary. Application of the heritage conservation tools are not prescriptive, as they can be adapted to each situation. Local governments and regional districts wanting to implement the heritage conservation tools should seek legal counsel as required.

## ABOUT HERITAGE BC

Heritage BC supports all people of British Columbia who champion the preservation and conservation of all forms of cultural heritage, developing awareness, appreciation and respect for B.C.'s built and intangible traditions.

Heritage BC is a charitable not-for-profit supporting heritage conservation across British Columbia through education, training and skills development, capacity building in heritage planning and funding through the Heritage Legacy Fund.

As an organization of provincial scope, Heritage BC recognizes that its members, and the local history and heritage they seek to preserve, occupy the lands and territories of B.C.'s Indigenous peoples. Heritage BC asks its members to reflect on the places where they reside and work, and to respect the diversity of cultures and experiences that form the richness of our provincial heritage.

## HeritageBC

heritagebc.ca