



HERITAGE PLANNING

Statement of Significance (SOS)

According to Canada's Historic Places "a SOS is a succinct way of expressing heritage value, workable for the many jurisdictions across the country that are engaged in recognizing heritage value. It ensures that heritage values are communicated in an effective and consistent manner that bridges the differences between jurisdictions.

"The three-part SOS contains:

- a brief description of the historic place
- an identification of the key heritage values assigned to the historic place, and
- a list of its principal character-defining elements."

While brief, the SOS is the primary planning document and should be completed first. The articulation of heritage values and the character-defining elements that reflect those values will inform all other planning.

Condition Assessment

A condition assessment evaluates and documents the current condition of a historic place. It should include documentation such as photographs and measurements. It may be based on a visual survey or more in-depth methods such as testing samples or making scans.

Conservation Plan

A conservation plan lays out the work that guides the conservation of historic places and their character-defining elements, identifying priorities and recommended treatment methods. It should be based on the SOS and Condition Assessment and it should be in line with the best practices laid out in the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. ([This document](#) can be found on Heritage BC's website, along with a number of other helpful resources.)

While there are many other planning documents that may be useful for different historic places, these three are foundational. Many grant programs ask for them or require them. They allow the manager of a historic place to make informed maintenance and conservation decisions. A heritage consultant can write all three in tandem.

Please visit Heritage BC's [website](#) for further resources and guides.

