

Brampton Heritage Register



Identifying Properties of Cultural Heritage Value



BRAMPTON
Flower City

WHAT IS THE CITY OF BRAMPTON HERITAGE REGISTER?

The Heritage Register is a City-wide record of properties that hold significant cultural heritage value. The Register is used to identify and document Brampton's heritage resources and to encourage their ongoing preservation and enjoyment. The Register is updated on an ongoing basis to ensure it remains current and complete. To date, well over 400 properties are represented.

WHY DID THE CITY ESTABLISH THE HERITAGE REGISTER?

Before a heritage resource can be protected it must first be identified. The Heritage Register was originally launched in the 1990s to address growing public concern that Brampton's historically and architecturally significant buildings and sites were vulnerable to neglect, unsympathetic alteration and demolition. It was also hoped that the Register would promote awareness of the importance of the City's stock of built heritage and cultural resources and encourage property owners to actively participate in heritage preservation.

HOW DOES A PROPERTY GET LISTED IN THE HERITAGE REGISTER?

Heritage staff identify, research and evaluate all candidate properties for inclusion in the Heritage Register. The City also welcomes candidate suggestions from the general public. The Brampton Heritage Board must then formally recommend each new addition or "listing" to the Register, pending confirmation by the Planning, Design and Development Committee and Brampton City Council.

HOW ARE HERITAGE RESOURCES EVALUATED FOR INCLUSION IN THE REGISTER

Heritage properties are evaluated using a set of provincially regulated criteria that measure historical, design and contextual heritage value.

Specific elements of the criteria include:

HISTORICAL VALUE

- associations with a significant person, institution or organization
 - associations with a significant event or activity
 - represents a significant trend, theme or belief
 - contributes to an understanding of a community
 - reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist

DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE

- design, style, materials or construction methods
 - craftsmanship or artistic merit
- physical integrity, rarity, aesthetic qualities

CONTEXTUAL VALUE

- landmark
 - linked to its surroundings
- important in defining character of an area

If a property is deemed locally significant under even one of these three broad categories, inclusion in the Heritage Register is warranted.





WHY PROTECT OUR HERITAGE RESOURCES?

The City wants to protect distinctive heritage properties and sites. Heritage resources link the present and the past, enrich our environment, provide special character and identity and generate economic benefits. Protecting them is an important aspect of sustaining and promoting attractive communities and quality of life in Brampton.

HOW DOES THE CITY USE THE HERITAGE REGISTER?

The Register is a planning and administrative tool used to help manage, promote and coordinate heritage preservation in Brampton. City heritage staff review all development applications (e.g. rezoning, site plan applications, plans of subdivision) along with requests for building and demolition permits concerning properties on the Heritage Register. City staff will work with development applicants to ensure that proposed developments do not have a negative impact on heritage resources. Depending on the importance of a given property, the development applicant may be required to undertake a heritage impact assessment. The Register is also used by Urban Design staff when assessing built form, streetscapes and areas of the City that contribute to Brampton's character and identity. The Register has been used extensively in planning studies focusing on Main Street North, portions of the Queen Street West corridor and in downtown Heritage Conservation District feasibility studies.



HOW DOES HERITAGE REGISTER LISTING DIFFER FROM HERITAGE DESIGNATION?

Register listing is not heritage designation. Listing is primarily an administrative process and designation is a legal process. Heritage designation is enabled by a municipal by-law passed by City Council on the recommendation of the Brampton Heritage Board. Alterations likely to affect the heritage attributes of a designated property cannot proceed without the consent of Council. Council can indefinitely control the demolition of a designated heritage property. Interim demolition control of up to 60 days can be applied to listed properties.

Owners of designated heritage properties can be eligible for preservation grants, tax relief, interest-free loans and other financial incentives that become available from time to time. Owners of listed properties are not eligible for any heritage incentives. Owners of both designated and listed properties can receive wall-mounted heritage plaques.

THE FUTURE OF THE HERITAGE REGISTER

The City is committed to maintaining this vital record of heritage resources. Efforts to update and review the Heritage Register are ongoing. City staff and the Brampton Heritage Board are continually assessing additional properties for possible inclusion.

The Heritage Register has also been broadened to include a wider range of heritage resources such as bridges, barns, modern heritage, cemeteries, cultural landscapes, monuments and potential archaeological sites.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, or if you want to suggest a property for inclusion in the Heritage Register, contact a City Heritage Coordinator at 905.874.3825 or 905.874.3744. Heritage staff can also provide information on heritage preservation and land use planning, the heritage designation process, researching the history of a property and on the Ontario Heritage Act and other relevant legislation.

Additional information regarding our Heritage Program can be found at www.brampton.ca

