

to maintain and protect their significance. Remember: Designation is for the long haul – it is an ongoing commitment to steward the community's heritage.

The Fringe Benefits

- As a Municipal Heritage Site, you will be eligible to apply for funding under grant programs. Contact the Historic Resources Branch for current information regarding these programs.
- You will have access to technical conservation advice through the Historic Resources Branch.
- Economic research shows designated heritage buildings tend to appreciate in value and perform better on the real estate market.
- Heritage properties can usually be insured with no greater risk for the insurance company than any other building.
- Conserving your site is one of the greenest things you can do. Rehabilitating a heritage building, compared to building a new one, saves energy and reduces construction waste and greenhouse gases.
- The Historic Resources Branch will ask if you'd like to have your site included on the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP). This places no restrictions on your property and is completely voluntary. The CRHP is an

online, public database of heritage sites across Canada used to promote and learn about historic places. Visit: www.historicplaces.ca

The Fine Print

As an owner of a heritage site, designation will mean:

- A notice will be added to the title of your property identifying it is a heritage site. This is not a caveat and will not impede the sale or use of the property. Owners of designated heritage sites are required to advise the municipality if the site is sold. The legal protection of the site remains with the property.
- You must apply for a heritage permit from the municipality before doing any work that significantly alters, or could otherwise affect, the heritage character of your property (including demolition). This is in addition to securing any other necessary permits, such as building permits. Requiring these permits does not mean your site cannot be changed. It does mean, however, that the heritage value and character of the building will be considered before making changes.
- You are not required to open your property to the public. You might be asked if you would like to receive visitors, or have your site included on a walking/driving, or in an annual open house event. Participation in these types of activities is voluntary.



Schwartz House, Altona

- Basic information about the site (site name, owner's name, legal description of the site, etc.) will be kept on a municipal heritage register and/or on a provincial heritage register. No sensitive or personal information is included on these registers and they may be viewed by the public.

The Path to Designation

So you've decided you would like to seek municipal designation.

Designation packages, nomination forms and more information are available from your local municipal office or online at: www.manitoba.ca/heritage

In Winnipeg:

Department of Planning, Property and Development
Planning and Land Use Division
15 – 30 Fort Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4X5
Phone: 204-986-5390
Fax: 204-986-7524
Website: www.winnipeg.ca/historicalbuildings

Outside Winnipeg – use the toll free number below:

Historic Resources Branch
Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport
Main Floor, 213 Notre Dame Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1N3
Phone: 1-204-945-2118 or toll free:
1-800-282-8069, ext. 2118
Fax: 1-204-948-2384
Website: www.manitoba.ca/heritage

For information on your local Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC), please contact your local municipal office or Community Heritage Manitoba at: info@communityheritagemanitoba.ca.

Cover photos (clockwise) of three Municipal Heritage Sites: Fannystelle School, Fannystelle; Timber Truss Bridge, Gardenton; Arborg Unitarian Church, Arborg

MAKE HISTORY.

Preserve Manitoba's Past.



MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION:
Recognizing historic places that matter



Canada's
Historic Places

Lieux patrimoniaux
du Canada

Manitoba 

Is Municipal Designation Right For You/Your Community?

Did you know there are nearly 700 designated heritage sites in Manitoba? Or that they describe a wide range of places – from ancient sites and burial grounds to houses, churches, bridges, farms, businesses, warehouses and parks?

These designated heritage sites play an essential role in Manitoba's identity. They have earned this classification through their connection and ongoing reflection of past events that have helped shape the communities around them. They include sites associated with early settlements as well as Aboriginal peoples' use of the land. Important developments in government, agriculture, religion, education, transportation, architecture, engineering, science and many other themes are also represented.

A heritage site is a vital piece of the past. It has meaning for the entire community and is a source of local pride. If you are thinking about municipal designation for your property, you should know, however, that designation is

more than just a label. It signifies that you are taking responsibility for the historic place on behalf of future generations.

The information in this brochure will help you decide whether municipal heritage designation is a course you want to pursue. Included are the basic steps to follow on your path to designation.

Important or Interesting

What makes a place significant?

A heritage site (also called a historic place) is not like other places, all of which may be interesting – it is a rare and special place that is **significant** for the entire community. Historic places often represent an important aspect of your community's history. Designation is not just for churches and grand houses though – it is for any place that tells the story of the people living in the community. Modest houses, utilitarian commercial buildings, industrial sites, bridges, parks, farmsteads, and even modern buildings are just a few examples of places that can be considered for designation.

There are many reasons a place can be significant, including being associated with an important person, an event or theme in the community's history, or a notable architectural style or tradition. Perhaps the site is regarded

as a landmark, or is connected to the practical or spiritual lives of residents.

The Historic Resources Branch can help you understand the significance of your site, and provide you with a list of questions to help you determine whether the place you're considering is significant to your entire community. As well, talking to neighbours and other community members about why the site is important to them may also give you some of the answers you're seeking.

What Is Municipal Heritage Designation?

Recognition

Municipal heritage designation is a legal recognition by a municipality, through a by-law passed under the authority of **The Heritage Resources Act**, that a site has significance to the community. It is important that you and your community think carefully about what merits designation. After all, these sites are special places that define your community. They sum up, more than others, the themes, issues, events and people that have made your place what it is today.

Protection

Designation implies protection. Although it can be acceptable to make changes to historic places, it is important to conserve and protect qualities and features that make the place important to your community. This is why many municipalities have a requirement

that owners of heritage sites obtain a heritage permit before undertaking any major alterations.

Regular maintenance is the easiest and cheapest form of protection – for both the owner and the place. Some governments, and other groups, provide grants and other funding to help site stewards and owners conserve designated sites.

Commitment

Designation is about the long-term commitment by the heritage site owner and the community to conserve the historic place for future generations. The municipality acknowledges the importance of the site to the community and takes a stake in recognizing and protecting it, usually through heritage permits. Those who own sites, or are in charge of looking after them, agree



Overstoneville Independent Cemetery, near Tolstoi



Historic Downtown Carberry

What else do I need to think about before I designate?

The following are just a few of the questions you need to ask yourself before proceeding with designation:

- Is the place in good condition? Have there been major alterations?
- Can you maintain the original function of the building? If not, have you thought about other appropriate long-term uses for the historic place?
- Have you considered the financial implication of a long-term commitment to conservation?
- Have you thought about how you will physically maintain this place into the future?
- Do you have the people or support to take care of this place into the future?
- If you are not the legal owner, is the owner sympathetic to your proposal?