

You wanted to know about the... Local Historic Places Register

Q. What is a Local Historic Places Register?

A. A Local Historic Places Register is a list of properties in a community which have been formally recognized by the local authority having jurisdiction, as being an historic place. Communities across Canada are developing local registers as part of a project called the *Historic Places Initiative*. The establishment of Fredericton's Local Historic Places Register was approved by City Council in August 2003.

Q. What is the *Historic Places Initiative*?

A. The *Historic Places Initiative* was conceived by the Government of Canada and developed collaboratively by federal, provincial and territorial governments. It is designed to promote the conservation of places of archaeological, historical, cultural or architectural importance. "Historic places" can include buildings of all kinds, bridges and other engineering works, landscapes and open spaces, archaeological and sacred sites, cemeteries, and even districts.

The Historic Places Initiative consists of two key conservation tools:

- 1) The *Canadian Register of Historic Places*, a national on-line listing of all formally recognized historic places in Canada, including those on local and provincial registers; and
- 2) *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, a nation-wide "benchmark" of conservation principles and practice.

→For more information on Canada's Historic Places Initiative, please see the web site:
www.historicplaces.ca

Q. Who is responsible for the Local Historic Places Register in Fredericton?

A. The City of Fredericton's Preservation Review Board is responsible for the Local Register. A special *Register Subcommittee*, with the assistance of City staff, oversees the nomination process, including any required research on specific historic places.

Q. How is a property nominated to the Local Register of Historic Places and the Canadian Register?

A. In most instances, a written or verbal inquiry from a property owner is received. The owner may be presented with a "consent form" prior to conducting any research and evaluation. If the proposed site is considered to be of local heritage value, appropriate nomination materials are drawn up, submitted to the Preservation Review Board and then to Council. Upon Council's formal recognition of the property as an historic place, the documentation is sent to the Province of New Brunswick for registration. There, the documentation is checked to meet the required standards, and is forwarded to the Canadian Register in Ottawa. The information will also reside in a Provincial Register in Fredericton.

Q. What determines whether a site or building is an historic place?

A. The site or building must have local "heritage value." Heritage value refers to the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social, or spiritual importance or significance for

past, present or future generations. The heritage value of an historic place is embodied in its character-defining materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings.

Q. Can the property become listed without the property owner's consent?

A. No. Owner consent is needed because the historical and architectural information on the property will be public information, visible on Provincial website and on Canada's Historic Places website. However, property owner information will not appear on these websites.

Q. How can a property be removed from the Register?

A. A written request by the property owner to the local authority having jurisdiction is all that is required to have the property removed from the register.

Q. Is there a cost to be listed, remain, or be removed from the Register?

A. No.

Q. Are there added controls on a listed historic place?

A. There are no controls over and above those that might already exist, such as through land use or preservation by-laws. The purpose of the Register is to encourage and assist communities across Canada to conserve historic places, to increase awareness and to ensure that their heritage is passed on to future generations. They are key tools to help identify, promote and celebrate historic places in Canada.

Q. Are there any financial benefits to being listed on the Register?

A. At the present time, the Government of Canada has put in place the *Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund*. This fund will contribute, to approved projects, 20% of total eligible costs to a maximum of \$1 million. To qualify, projects must have an existing or new commercial purpose and the listed property must be owned by a taxable Canadian corporation. This contribution program has been established to encourage private sector investment in the conservation of built heritage.

➔For more information on the Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund, please visit the web site: www.pc.gc.ca and follow the link on the main page.

Questions?

Contact City staff:

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