

What is the purpose of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and how does it help protect heritage properties?

The Ontario Heritage Act, in effect since 1975, enables local municipalities to protect and manage Ontario's cultural heritage resources. Part IV of the Act provides for municipal designation of individual properties identified as having cultural heritage value.

Properties are designated by municipal by-law, which contains the property location, defines its cultural heritage value or significance through a list of heritage attributes.

What are some examples of heritage attributes?

- Building style, massing, scale, or composition
- Features of a property related to its function or design
- Features related to a property's historical associations
- Materials and craftsmanship
- The relationship between a property and its broader setting.

For more information contact:

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HERITAGE DESIGNATION

*What does it
mean?*

Criteria for evaluating the heritage value or significance of a property

A property may be designated under Part IV, Section 29 of the Act if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. The property has design value or physical value.
2. The property has historical value or associative value.
3. The property has contextual value.

How are requests for designation initiated and processed?

Designation may be initiated by: City Council, the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee, City staff, the owner of the property or a third party (e.g. a community member or organization).

The designation process follows numerous steps including research and evaluation, which can take several years to complete depending on priority.



*Restoration and preservation
can be costly - there are options!*

Funding programs available

City grant and loan programs are available to assist with the conservation, rehabilitation, and/or restoration of the heritage features of properties designated under the act. Examples of projects that may be eligible for funding include: structural repairs; restoration of original materials; the repair or reconstruction of original elements, such as doors, windows and decorative trim; and, masonry repairs.

The following funding programs are available for designated properties:

1. Hamilton Community Heritage Fund (HCHF)
2. Commercial Heritage Improvement and Restoration Program (CHIRP)
3. Hamilton Heritage Property Grant Program (HHPGP)

More information on these financial incentive programs can be found online.



Property Owner Responsibilities

Once a property is designated under the Act, the owner of the property cannot alter the property or permit the alteration of the property if the alteration affects or is likely to affect the property's heritage attributes, without first obtaining consent from the City. Similarly, the owner cannot demolish or remove a building or structure on a designated property without Council approval.

In Hamilton, this consent comes in the form of a Heritage Permit. For more on the Heritage Permit application process, visit the City's website:

www.hamilton.ca/heritageplanning

The owner of the designated property should maintain the property and its heritage features in the interest of preserving a piece of cultural heritage.