

What is the Municipal Heritage Register?

The Municipal Heritage Register is the official list or record of cultural heritage properties that have been identified as being important to the community.

Prior to 2005, only designated heritage buildings were recorded on the registry. In 2005, the Ontario Heritage Act was amended to allow properties that have not been designated, but that the municipal council believes to be of cultural heritage value or interest, to be placed on the register.

Non-designated properties added to the Municipal Heritage Register are referred to as “listed properties”.



Why Protect Properties Of Cultural Heritage Value Or Interest?

Listing properties on the Municipal Heritage Register is an important tool in managing the conservation of the city’s cultural heritage resources.

A Register of Cultural Heritage Properties:

- Recognizes properties of cultural heritage value in a community
- Fosters civic identity and pride by promoting knowledge and enhancing an understanding of a community’s cultural heritage
- Provides easily accessible information about cultural heritage value for property owners, land-use planners, developers, the tourism industry, educators and the general public
- Is a key component of any municipal heritage conservation strategy



What Is The Impact Of Having My Property Listed On The Municipal Heritage Register?

Listing properties on the Municipal Heritage Register is an administrative process rather than a legal process. It serves to formally identify that certain properties are of cultural heritage value or interest to the municipality.

Listing your property:

- does not provide any protection under the Ontario Heritage Act
- does not impose restrictions or obligations with regard to obtaining heritage approvals

Property owners:

- are not subject to the Heritage Permit process or Heritage Kitchener review; and
- are not required to obtain Council approval to make alterations to their property.

Listing your property:

- does increase the amount of time municipalities have to process demolition applications made under the Ontario Building Code (from 10 to 60 business days depending on the type of building) to provide sufficient time to evaluate whether the property merits some form of protection such as designation under the Ontario Heritage Act, which is subject to a separate formal legal process.
- does have implications relating to Planning Act Applications (such as Site Plans and Plans of Subdivision) and the Provincial Policy Statement, regarding conservation issues that may be addressed by preparing a Conservation Plan or a Heritage Impact Assessment.



City of Kitchener Municipal Heritage Register



For more information on the Municipal Heritage Register or on cultural heritage planning in the City of Kitchener, please visit www.kitchener.ca or contact Heritage Planning staff at 519-741-2426 or at planning@kitchener.ca



City of Kitchener Role in Heritage Conservation

Municipalities have a responsibility to identify, evaluate and conserve resources that have lasting cultural heritage value or interest in their community.

Listing a property is the very first step a municipality should take in the identification and evaluation of a property that may warrant some form of heritage conservation, recognition and/or long term protection. Part of taking stock is deciding as a community which resources are most important to conserve today and for future generations.



How Are Properties Evaluated?

Recent amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act and the Planning Act have made listing property an important tool in the ongoing effort to conserve our cultural heritage. Kitchener City Council has approved a 4-step listing process that serves to standardize the selection criteria and methodology used to evaluate cultural heritage resources by introducing consistency and objectivity to the process; property owner consultation and notification; and several levels of review before recommendations are considered by City Council.



Heritage properties are evaluated for inclusion on the municipal heritage register using a set of criteria that measures architectural, contextual and historical significance including:

Architectural Significance:

- Style & type
- Design
- Construction
- Interior
- Integrity

Contextual Significance:

- Continuity
- Setting
- Completeness

Historical and/or Associative Significance or Value:

- Association with person, event, activity
- Previous or present use



The 4 Steps In The Listing Process

The City's 4-step listing process was carefully developed to ensure thorough and objective evaluation of each property and involves the following:

1. Initial evaluation by a recorder through completion of a survey form and taking photographs (only where properties are visible from the public realm).
2. Short listing of properties following a review of the recorder's survey form and photographs; undertaken by an evaluation sub-committee comprised of City Staff and Heritage Kitchener Committee members.

Heritage Planning staff prepare a 'statement of significance' for each short-listed property and notify the property owner of the heritage interest in the property. Property owners are invited to make comment and to attend the Heritage Kitchener meeting where their property will be discussed and considered for possible listing on the Municipal Heritage Register.

3. The City's Heritage Kitchener Committee reviews the merits of the short listed properties; considers the comments of the property owner (if made); and makes a recommendation to City Council.

4. City Council makes a decision on whether or not to list the properties on the Municipal Heritage Register as "non-designated property of cultural heritage value or interest".

