

Frequently Asked Questions

Non-Designated Municipal Heritage Register

1. What is the Municipal Heritage Register?

Every municipality in Ontario, under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, is required to maintain a register of properties that are of cultural heritage value or interest in the municipality.

The municipal register of heritage properties must list all properties in the municipality that are designated under Part IV (individual property designation) and Part V (within a designated heritage conservation district) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The *Ontario Heritage Act* also allows a municipality to include properties of cultural heritage value or interest in its municipal register that have not been designated.

The current identification of Non-Designated properties in St. Marys can be found in Schedule D of the Town's Official Plan.

2. Where can the Municipal Heritage Register be viewed?

The Town of St. Marys' *Municipal Register of Heritage Properties* is available on the Town of St. Marys website: www.townofstmarys.com/heritage.

3. Why include Non-Designated properties in the municipal register?

A comprehensive register of cultural heritage properties:

- Recognizes properties of cultural heritage value or interest in the community.
- Enhances knowledge and understanding of the community's cultural heritage.
- Demonstrates a municipal council's commitment to conserve cultural heritage resources.
- Provides a database of properties of cultural heritage value or interest for land use planners, property owners, developers, the tourism industry, educators and the general public.
- Is a resource for municipal decision makers when reviewing development proposals or permit applications.
- Provides interim protection from demolition.

The inclusion of Non-Designated properties in the Municipal Register is meant to be a celebration of St. Marys' heritage and is a means to identify properties that have cultural heritage value or interest to the community. The Municipal Register is also an important tool in planning for the conservation of heritage properties and provides interim protection from demolition.

The owner of a Non-Designated property on the Municipal Register is legally required to give the Town 60 days' written notice of intention to demolish. This notice period allows the Town to make a well informed decision about whether long term protection of the property should be sought through the formal designation process.

4. Does being on the Non-Designated section of the Municipal Register affect any renovations or maintenance of my property?

No. The process for renovating a building has not changed. As with any home renovation, a building permit may be required. Listing a non-designated property on the Heritage Register places absolutely no restrictions on it, until such time as an application is made by the owner to demolish part or all of any building on the property. The owner of a non-designated property on the Municipal Register is legally required to give the Town 60 days' written notice of intention to demolish.

Including non-designated properties in the municipal register does not:

- Have a heritage designation by-law registered on title.
- Impose restrictions or obligations with regard to obtaining heritage approvals. This means property owners are **not** subject to the heritage-permit process or Heritage Committee review. They are not required to obtain Town Council approval to make alterations to their properties (demolition excluded).

5. What if I want my property removed from the draft Non-Designated section of the Municipal Register?

If you wish to have your property removed from the draft Non-Designated section of the Municipal Register you must submit a *Non-Designated Property – Correct/Remove Application Form* to the municipality stating that you would like your property removed. This form is available at www.townofstmarys.com/heritage. As per the *Ontario Heritage Act*, Council will confer with the heritage committee before a property is removed.

6. What if my property is not included in the Municipal Register but I think it should be?

If you think your property should be included in the Municipal Register please contact the Town. Your property will undergo an assessment of its cultural heritage value or interest by the Heritage Committee and may be recommended to Council for inclusion on the Municipal Register.

For questions or further information please contact:

Trisha McKibbin
Director of Corporate Services/Deputy Clerk, Town of St. Marys
Town Hall – Lower Level
175 Church Queen Street E., P.O. Box 998
St. Marys, ON N4X 1B6
Phone: 519-284-2340, ext. 241
Email: tmckibbin@town.stmarys.on.ca