

February 17, 2025

Call for voluntary heritage designation

As the owner and steward of a heritage building in our community, Heritage Planning staff and the Heritage Advisory Committee wish to inform you that changes to planning and heritage legislation made by the Province of Ontario are putting historic properties like yours at risk of demolition in the future. Effective January 2027, the City of Guelph's Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Properties shall only contain designated (i.e. protected) heritage properties.

All currently listed but not designated heritage properties will be removed from the heritage register in less than two years. As a result, over 1900 properties in Guelph risk losing any form of heritage protection under the Act.

Your property is one of the listed but not designated heritage properties in Guelph. As a valued caretaker of a historic property, we invite you to consider the benefits of voluntary designation.

Why should I consider designating my property?

Heritage designation is designed to help protect the rich cultural heritage and identity of our city. It helps maintain a collection of architecturally, culturally, and historically significant buildings so that you and the community can continue to enjoy and learn from them.

In short, Heritage Designation will:

1. Recognize the importance of your historical property in our community
2. Encourage good stewardship and conservation of community history
3. Recognize and document the historical value of your property
4. Ensure that the character-defining elements of your building are protected in the future.

Heritage Designation will not:

1. Prevent changes to a property
2. Apply to building interiors, unless requested by the owner
3. Permit public access to a property
4. Decrease property value

How do I designate my historic property voluntarily?

There are no fees associated with a heritage designation. Heritage Planning staff will research and evaluate your property based on provincial criteria for designation. If your property meets the criteria for designation, Heritage Planning staff will prepare a statement of significance to identify the cultural heritage value of your property, and present a recommendation to Council to issue a Notice of Intention to

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Designate. If Council agrees, a Notice of Intention to Designate will be published. Council may then pass a by-law designating the property. The entire process will take approximately four to six months to complete.

If interested in volunteering your property to be evaluated for designation, please email heritageplanning@guelph.ca. Please indicate your name, the address of your property, and any historical or architectural background information you have about your property.

Sincerely,

Heritage Planning staff and the Heritage Advisory Committee