

Background Information on the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources in Edmonton

A historic resource in Edmonton is identified in two ways: the structure is either listed on the Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton, or it is a fully-protected designated Municipal Historic Resource, and is listed on the Register of Historic Resources in Edmonton.

The Inventory of Historic Resources is a listing of historic structures/resources in Edmonton that merit conservation and are eligible for designation as Municipal Historic Resources. Resources are placed on the Inventory because they have historical, architectural or social significance to the development of Edmonton or its neighbourhoods. Historic resources on the Inventory can include single-detached dwellings, multi-unit dwellings, or institutional, commercial or industrial buildings. The Inventory also identifies buildings at Fort Edmonton Park, some landscapes and trees, cemeteries and monuments, street furnishings, and architectural fragments.

Existing zoning, development rights and regulations that may be in place continue to apply to any property identified on the Inventory. Properties on the Inventory are not afforded any legal protection from demolition. All properties on the Inventory are considered Edmonton's most historically-significant structures, and all qualify for designation as Municipal Historic Resources. At present, there are approximately 950 structures or other historic elements identified on the Inventory. Of these, 552 are single detached dwellings, and 304 are commercial, institutional, industrial or multi-family structures. The balance of the Inventory is populated by resources at Fort Edmonton, landscape elements, such as trees, groups of trees, or City parks, cemeteries or monuments, street furnishings, and architectural fragments.

The Inventory is an ever-evolving list of historic structures. There is no specified limit to the number of properties that could be added, as time progresses and buildings continue to age. Every year, additional properties meet the minimum 50-year old requirement (as established by Alberta Culture and Tourism) to be considered as a historic resource. Properties are added to the Inventory through a detailed review process with the Edmonton Historical Board, which provides recommendations to Administration based on a building's historic eligibility, historic significance and historic integrity (evaluation criteria developed by Alberta Culture and Tourism).

For example, Administration has recently completed a Historic Resources Inventory project for the Glenora neighbourhood. Through the process, which included evaluation of 125 historic Places of Interest in the neighbourhood by the

Edmonton Historical Board, a total of 116 properties were added to the Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton. Of these 112 were heritage homes. This process also identified three potential heritage conservation areas south of Stony Plain Road.

Properties listed on the Inventory can be potentially removed from the Inventory at the owner's request. However, this would involve the owner presenting information to the Edmonton Historical Board that outlines why the historic resource is no longer eligible, no longer has historic significance or no longer has historic integrity. The Edmonton Historical Board would consider this information, and make a recommendation to Administration. It should be noted that this process is rarely undertaken for a proposed demolition of a property listed on the Inventory.

The "Register of Historic Resources in Edmonton" is the official list of all resources on the Inventory that have been designated as Municipal Historic Resources. Municipal Historic Resources are legally protected by bylaw from demolition and inappropriate alterations. A structure must first be listed on the Inventory of Historic Resources before it can be considered for designation. The designation bylaw and the associated rehabilitation incentive and maintenance agreement for the structure are registered as an instrument on the title of the subject parcel. The designation process provides financial assistance for rehabilitation and on-going maintenance through the provisions of City Policy C450B – Policy to Encourage the Designation and Rehabilitation of Municipal Historic Resources in Edmonton. At present, there are 148 designated Municipal Historic Resources in Edmonton. Of these, 63 are single detached dwelling structures.