

## Edmonton's Heritage Program

Edmonton's Heritage Program was established in 1981 in response to the loss of a number of key historic resources in Downtown. In the time since the Heritage Program was established, Administration has identified significant properties through the following methods.

1. Targeting specific properties - the Heritage Program initially focused on identifying and protecting historic high-profile resources within the Downtown and surrounding neighbourhoods – many of these areas were fully developed by the time of the Great Depression and contain a substantial inventory of potential resources and areas. The identification of these properties was largely undertaken through the City-wide inventory in 1993. Under this method, once a property is included on the Inventory of Historic Resources, Administration approaches an owner or owners to determine interest in designation and the application of site specific Direct Development Control Provisions.

2. Volunteer Owner Participation – individual and groups of owners may approach Administration to apply site specific and area-based Direct Development Control Provisions to individual properties as part of a designation, or to a group of properties to address interest in historic preservation in a community. Over the years, individuals and communities have become increasingly aware of the Program and pursued Administration's assistance either by incentives or through professional advice. The interest of a number of owners in the Newton, Calder and Glenora Neighbourhoods to undertake heritage inventories of their communities are recent examples of this circumstance.

3. Area Redevelopment Plans - many of Edmonton's existing Area Redevelopment Plans were initially put in place in the late 1970s and early 1980s and at a time when addressing the protection of area character and managing transition were central to the development of the Plan. A number of the earlier Area Redevelopment Plans did not address the potential protection of specific historic resources or character areas – other than to leave the existing zoning (e.g. Single Detached Residential Zone RF1) in place. In part, this was due to the absence of a program to manage an associated process. In some cases, this vintage of Plan substantially up-zoned heritage and character areas, which facilitated their eventual removal/erosion and redevelopment for then contemporary (and sometimes unsympathetic) forms of infill. After the Heritage Program was established and as existing Area Redevelopment Plans were refreshed and new ones were adopted, Administration worked with community groups who advocated for the retention of specific structures and/or clusters and areas of historic resources. Public awareness of this aspect of Area Redevelopment Plans has generated interest in applying Plans specifically for this purpose. Administration is undertaking a high-level review of the Jasper

Place area for possible nodes of heritage character, as part of the Area Redevelopment Plan for the subject communities.

4. Heritage and Character Inventories – Administration proactively and progressively inventories select Edmonton neighbourhoods to build the Register and Inventory of Historic Resources. This process identifies properties potentially eligible for designation, and offers a measure of protection in that they are monitored for potential alteration/removal through the development review process. This monitoring also informs as to areas that are subject to risk and the schedules of inventories.

Administration's approach in undertaking inventories is to generally work outward from the core of the city and those former municipalities absorbed by Edmonton (e.g., main street areas in Strathcona), monitor and adjust for areas of potential risk, and respond to the interests of individuals and community groups as they arise.