

Alberta

Government  
of Alberta ■

**RETROactive**  
Blogging Alberta's Historic Places

[www.albertahistoricplaces.ca](http://www.albertahistoricplaces.ca)

# Municipal Historic Resource Designation

how, why  
and municipal responsibilities

why designate?

“ ... no person shall: destroy, disturb, alter, restore or repair an historic resource ... or; remove any historic object from an historic resource ... without the written approval of the council or a person appointed by the council...”

Section 26(6)

- i.purpose of designation
- ii.how to give alteration permits
- iii.Incentives to encourage conservation

Municipal Historic Resource?

a tool to protect historic places



designation = legal interest in land

designation  $\neq$  expropriation

Designation is NOT a form of ownership

cannot be altered without permission

only works when you understand  
what is being preserved and why

statement of significance









i. designation—the process

# 1. Notice of Intention

< wait 60 days >

## 2. Bylaw

3. register bylaw against title
4. served on the registered owner

So, what did we just protect?

you want permission to do what?

is the alteration appropriate?



i(b) Designation

1. understand the site's value

2. what are you trying to preserve?

character-defining elements

3. define a boundary

4. write a statement of significance

statement of significance:  
basis of the designation

statement of significance:  
key to informed decision making



5. owner consent

can veto alterations

cannot compel maintenance

compensation agreement

If designation “decreases the economic value of a building, structure or land that is within the area designated by the bylaw, the council shall by bylaw provide the owner ... with compensation for the decrease in economic value.” Section 28.

6. council

is designation in the public interest?

4. council issues notice of intention



< 60 day waiting period >

write the designation bylaw

legal description  
statement of designation

delegate power to authorize alteration  
reference standards and guidelines  
statement of significance

5. council considers the bylaw

6. serve bylaw on registered owner

7. register the bylaw

# Alberta Register of Historic Places



Designation:  
a means, not an end

designation is a toolkit

permission to alter

standardized application form

- what is proposed
- why
- effected character-defining elements

is the proposed work appropriate?

The Standards and Guidelines  
For The  
Conservation of Historic Places  
in Canada

please delegate approval authority



review process







- approve
- approve, conditionally
- reject

“A person who contravenes this Act ...  
is guilty of an offence and liable to a  
fine of not more than \$50,000 or to  
imprisonment for a term of not more  
than one year ...”

incentive program

incentives encourage conservation

- grants
- tax abatements
- services
- zoning



incentives = community support

< thank you >