



You have evaluated a place in your community and determined that:

- it is an eligible site-type;
- it is significant; and
- has sufficient integrity to communicate the significance

Congratulations, you have a historic place. You need a Statement of Significance before adding the site to the Municipal Heritage Inventory or designating it a Municipal Historic Resource.

## Purpose of Statements of Significance

You are writing a conservation document that the municipality will use to manage the historic place. A well written Statement of Significance:

- explains why conserving the place is important to the community;
- lists the physical elements that need to be conserved; and
- will be used, in conjunction with the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*, to evaluate the appropriateness of proposed interventions.

## Sections of a Statement of Significance (SoS):

Statements of Significance are divided into three sections:

- Description of Historic Place
- Heritage Value
- Character-Defining Elements

### Description of Historic Place

Where is it? What is it?

Paint the reader a picture of the historic resource with a few sentences. Explain where to find it, what a visitor will find there and how to distinguish it from neighbouring places.

Typical information includes:

- size (e.g. one city lot, 2 hectares of land, footprint of the building)
- components (e.g. 1 building, landscape features)
- location (e.g. downtown, along Whyte Avenue)
- prominent features (architecture, landscape elements)
- environment (e.g. on the north bank of the river, among industrial buildings)



## Heritage Value

Why is this place important to us?

Explain why the site is significant to the community. Explain why the municipality is conserving the place for future generations. Heritage values are the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance of a place.

The place could be valued for its association or relationship with:

- An event or activity;
- A person, group or institution;
- Its design, style or construction;
- Its information potential;
- Landmark or symbolic value; and
- Or anything else the community values that can be interpreted in the physical form of the place.

Value statements must:

- describe how the place—as it exists today—exhibits these values; and
- speak of values, not facts (such as events or people) and only discusses people, events or organizations in the context of how they physically affected the place.

## Character-Defining Elements

Which elements must be preserved for the value to be retained?

List the main features of the historic place that communicate its heritage value. Character-defining elements are the materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, cultural associations or meanings that communicate the heritage value of the resource.

Typical information included:

- the elements that cannot be lost if the place is to continue communicating its value; and
- must be limited to elements located on the site described in the description section

CDEs may be found in:

- style, massing, scale or composition;
- features related to the site's function or use;
- interior spatial configurations or the exterior layout;
- materials and craftsmanship; and
- relationship between the resource and its broader setting.

CDEs DO NOT include:

- features that do not contribute to the resource's significance;
- elements that have been removed or destroyed;
- elements that were planned, but never executed; and
- elements that have been reconstructed.