



## Canadian Register of Historic Places

## Writing Statements of Significance



Canada's  
Historic Places

Lieux patrimoniaux  
du Canada

Historic Places Program Branch  
National Historic Sites Directorate  
Parks Canada

Winnipeg Exchange District, Winnipeg, MB  
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November 2006

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## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Historic Places Initiative**

The Historic Places Initiative (HPI) is a federal, provincial and territorial collaboration designed to conserve historic places in Canada and to foster a culture of conservation across the country. Two main tools have been introduced to achieve these goals: the Canadian Register of Historic Places and the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

The Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP) is a national, searchable, online database of historic places formally recognized by federal, provincial, territorial and local governments. Since the official launch of the CRHP in May 2004, federal, provincial and territorial registrars have been nominating formally recognized historic places from their respective jurisdictions to the CRHP. A key element in the required documentation for listing on HPI's CRHP is a Statement of Significance (SOS).

*Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* describe fundamental and sound principles and practices that can safeguard historic places. A SOS for the historic place is a key document in determining goals, standards and techniques that are appropriate for conserving the historic places in to the future.

#### **The Statement of Significance and the Historic Places Initiative**

A SOS is a succinct way of expressing heritage value, workable for the many jurisdictions across the country that are engaged in recognizing heritage value. It ensures that heritage values are communicated in an effective and consistent manner that bridges the differences between jurisdictions.

The three-part SOS contains:

- a brief description of the historic place
- an identification of the key heritage values assigned to the historic place, and
- a list of its principal character-defining elements.

Some Canadian jurisdictions have been using similar documents for many years as part of the formal process of documenting recognitions.

#### **Purpose of the Guidelines**

The guidelines for writing SOSs have been developed to assist anyone preparing a SOS for the CRHP. They will also help provincial, territorial and federal registrars who are responsible for approving nominations and data standards (including the SOS) for the CRHP.

For HPI purposes, the guidelines help ensure that SOSs are written in a consistent format, that essential information is clearly communicated, and that the minimum requirements of the CRHP are met. For the broader goal of heritage conservation, the guidelines are also intended to maximize the usefulness of the SOS as an identification, monitoring and communication tool for heritage conservation.

#### **Content of the General Guidelines**

*Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines* provides advice on how to write SOSs for historic places to be nominated to the CRHP. The advice is organized around the three sections

of the SOS, but it begins with a discussion of the purpose of a SOS and the documentation that the SOS writer will need to begin the writing process.

### **Special Guidelines**

In addition to the general guidelines for writing SOSs, a series of complementary documents relating to specific resource types are available. These are:

- [\*Writing Statements of Significance: Guidelines for Heritage Districts\*](#)
- [\*Writing Statements of Significance: Guidelines for Archaeological Sites and Places with an Archaeological Component\*](#)

## WHAT IS A HISTORIC PLACE?

For the purposes of the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP), a historic place is any physical place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value by a local, provincial, territorial and/or federal authority.

A historic place can be a building, an engineering structure, a landscape, an archaeological site or any place that combines some or all of those elements. It can be a hospital complex, a farmer's field, a village, or an urban shopping district. It can be a bridge, a road, a park, a school, or a house. Sometimes the historic place will be an isolated feature, such as a railway station building. Other times, it will encompass the land and outbuildings around a central feature. A historic place may combine features that are old with those that are more recent. Historic places are not necessarily museums or tourist attractions – they also include places where people continue to live, work, play and worship. While some historic places are preserved to reflect a particular point in time, many historic places continue to change and be affected by new construction and new uses.

A historic place may be officially recognized by more than one authority and different communities of people may ascribe different values to the same place.

Each authority will have its own criteria for determining whether a place should be formally recognized. Only places that have already been formally recognized or designated by a municipal, provincial, territorial or federal authority can be listed on the CRHP.

## UNDERSTANDING THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### **What is a Statement of Significance?**

A Statement of Significance (SOS) is a declaration of value that briefly explains what a historic place is and why it is important. The SOS identifies key aspects of the place that must be protected in order for the historic place to continue to be important. The SOS is composed of three sections.

- *Description of Historic Place* explains what the place consists of in physical terms, where it is located, and what are its physical limits.
- *Heritage Value* explains why the place is of value to the community, province, territory or nation.
- *Character-defining Elements* sets out the key features that must be conserved in order for the place to continue to have value.

### **Purpose of a Statement of Significance**

As part of the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP), a SOS helps to increase public awareness about the depth and breadth of Canada's network of historic places. It also provides useful information for individuals interested in learning about or visiting a historic place.

Typically a SOS flows out of the assessment phase of the formal recognition process, whereby potential historic places are identified and significant historic places are selected. The SOS provides a link between the reasons for the formal recognition of a historic place and its conservation. It summarizes the heritage values ascribed to a historic place and the key attributes/elements that embody those values.

As a planning and property management tool, the SOS can be the first step in developing a conservation plan for the ongoing management of a historic place. The SOS communicates to property owners and managers where value lies within the historic place to help to ensure that its heritage value continues. The SOS also provides guidance to architects, designers and project managers designing repairs or alterations to historic places to ensure that existing heritage values will not be destroyed or diminished.

The SOS written for the CRHP is not intended to replace existing policy and planning documents, but can be used in conjunction with them.

### **The Statement of Significance and Values-based Conservation**

The SOS supports a values-based approach to heritage conservation. For many years, heritage conservation primarily was focused on the preservation of historic fabric. The values-based approach focuses on the values and meanings that make a historic place significant. Preserving fabric continues to be important, but now in so far as it expresses those values and meanings.

Analyzing how these play out at a site can be challenging. The SOS identifies the values that make the place significant, and then describes the features of the place, tangible and intangible, that express those values. It allows property managers, architects and others charged with responsibility for the historic place to know why the place is important, and which features are important to preserving that importance. Value-based SOSs or their equivalents, are now in use in many countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, Ireland, England and Canada (federally and provincially.)

### **The Statement of Significance and the CRHP**

A SOS is a mandatory part of every listing on the CRHP. The SOS written for the CRHP states the *core* heritage values of a historic place and clearly identifies the *principal* features that need to be protected in order to retain significance.

The CRHP imposes certain technical limits on the SOS. The CRHP requires that the Description of Historic Place and Heritage Value sections be written in narrative form and that the Character-defining Elements section be written in point form. The CRHP requires that each of the three sections of the SOS cannot exceed 4000 characters in length (about 1.5 pages of text).

## **PREPARING TO WRITE A STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE CANADIAN REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

### **Has the Historic Place been formally recognized?**

Only historic places that have been already formally recognized as significant by a local, provincial, territorial or federal government authority may be listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP). Places without formal recognition must go through the appropriate process for recognition by a local, provincial, territorial or federal authority. The Statement of Significance (SOS) forms part of the information submitted to the CRHP for listing of officially recognized historic places.

### **Can I use an existing Statement of Significance?**

There are several instances in which a Statement of Significance or similar document may already exist for a historic place.

A draft SOS may have been prepared by a researcher as part of the material submitted to the government authority for recognition of the place. Once the official recognition has taken place the draft SOS should be reviewed to ensure that it accurately reflects the reasons for the actual recognition, or whether revision is necessary.

A draft SOS or similar document may have been prepared at the time of recognition for purposes other than listing on the CRHP. For instance, some governments prepare heritage statements to assist in the management and conservation of heritage resources. The SOS writer will need to determine the extent to which heritage statements prepared for other purposes need to be adapted to conform to the writing guidelines and technical limits of the CRHP.

A historic place that has been recognized by more than one authority (for example, a historic place that is a National Historic Site *and* a municipal heritage building) will be listed more than once on the CRHP. In many cases, the historic place will be recognized for different reasons by each authority. A separate SOS must be written for each listing to reflect the specific reasons for that recognition as a historic place. In the few cases where the reasons for recognition are identical, it might be acceptable to use nearly identical SOSs for separate listings of the same place.

### **Assembling Documents**

Before beginning to write a SOS, the writer needs to assemble key information about the formal recognition of the place and about the place itself.

#### **Formal Recognition**

The writer should locate all details concerning the formal recognition of the place. Details may be found in a formal report, minutes of an evaluation meeting or the designation by-law.

In some cases, a document that is similar to a SOS (such as a statement of cultural heritage value, a heritage character statement or a commemorative integrity statement) may already have been written as part of the recognition process. The writer should obtain a copy of any existing summary of significance and assess whether it meets all or part of the requirements for a SOS.

#### **Existing Documentation**

The writer should obtain copies of any research reports written in preparation for the formal recognition of the place. When reviewing existing documents, the SOS writer should consider whether they contain sufficient information to support the writing of the SOS. Additional research

or even a site visit may be necessary to supplement information provided in other documentation. A site visit can also help the writer identify principal character-defining elements relating to heritage value and determine whether all the elements identified in existing reports and in the formal recognition document are still in existence.

If the information on which the formal recognition is based is contradicted by the current state of the historic place, this should be reported to the recognizing authority. If additional heritage values have been discovered during research, this should also be reported to the recognizing authority who may find it necessary to re-issue the formal recognition based on the new information. It will be important to do this before submitting the place for inclusion on the CRHP.

## Checklist for preparing Statements of Significance

### 1. Has the Historic Place been formally recognized?

Places without formal recognition must go through the appropriate process for recognition by a local, provincial, territorial or federal authority.

### 2. Assemble and review existing documents.

Locate all details concerning the formal recognition of the place. Locate and review any existing summaries of significance and research reports.

### 3. Conduct additional research as necessary.

Additional research or a site visit may be necessary to supplement or confirm information contained in the formal recognition or in existing research reports.

### 4. Write the “Description of Historic Place” section.

Write a brief description of the historic place as it exists today, answering the questions: What is it? Where is it? What is in it? and What are its boundaries.

### 5. Write the “Heritage Value” section.

Describe the heritage values associated with the historic place as referred to in the formal recognition, answering the question: Why is this place important?

### 6. Write the “Character-defining Elements” section.

Identify the principal features of the historic place that contribute to its heritage value, answering the question: What features must be preserved in order to maintain its heritage value?

### 7. Review

Research the Statement of Significance to ensure that the three sections work together.

### 8. Approval

Submit the completed Statement of Significance for approval by the formal recognition authority.

## WRITING A STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE CANADIAN REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

### **General guidelines for writing a Statement of Significance**

The Statement of Significance (SOS) is a summary document written as a narrative. It should be clear, concise and brief. Writers should use simple language and avoid technical terms.

The SOS should be written for a broad audience that could include researchers, tourists, property owners and managers, architects, designers and funding administrators. Writers should assume that the audience does not know the historic place. At the same time, the SOS is not a complete history of the place. Its purpose is to communicate heritage value; everything in it should contribute to that goal.

### **Description of Historic Place**

#### **What is the purpose of the Description of Historic Place?**

The Description of Historic Place provides the reader with an introduction to the historic place. It describes the physical character and principal resources of the place that has been formally recognized by a government authority.

The Description of Historic Place should answer the question: "What has been formally recognized?"

#### **What is a historic place?**

A historic place is any physical place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value by local, provincial, territorial or federal authorities. Each authority will have its own criteria for determining whether a place can be formally recognized for its heritage value.

The range of types of historic places is endless. While many historic places are buildings, historic places can also be engineering structures, such as bridges or power generating devices, a single landscape feature such as a path or a tree, or an entire landscape comprised of multiple buildings, structures, roads and plantings. Villages, cultural districts, prison complexes, and army bases can all be historic places.

Each historic place will be comprised of principal resources that express heritage value. The extent of the historic place will be circumscribed by certain boundaries that take in those principal resources. The location of those boundaries can be important for making conservation decisions about the historic place. The geographic context of the historic place may also be important in determining its overall character. The formal recognition of the historic place should provide an indication of its principal resources and the extent of its boundaries.

#### **Writing the Description of Historic Place section**

The Description of Historic Place section is a brief description of what exists today at the site. It should paint a picture of the historic place that conveys its extent and its principal contributing resources, and situates the place within its broader geographic context.

The Description of Historic Place should answer four main questions: *What is it? Where is it? What is in it?* and *What are its boundaries?* Depending on the nature and extent of the historic place, there may be some overlap between the answers to these questions.

- *What is it?* The answer should name the type of historic place and its main era of origin or construction. Where the historic place is extensive, the answer may indicate the size or scale of the place.
- *Where is it?* The answer should briefly describe the surrounding environment of the historic place to give the reader a sense of its geographic context.
- *What is in it?* The answer should briefly indicate the principal resources of the historic place that contribute to its heritage value (buildings, structures, landscape features, and archaeological sites). More detail on these resources will be provided in the Character-defining Elements section.
- *What are its boundaries?* The answer should indicate the extent of the formal recognition to give the reader a sense of what is included and what is not.

The Description of Historic Place is not a chronology of the evolution of the site. However, it may be helpful to indicate the main time period(s) of construction and to refer briefly to historical or current uses of the site, where these assist in describing the physical character of the place.

In most cases, the Description can be provided in three or four sentences. For historic places with multiple resources, the description may be longer. The technical limit for the Description of Historic Place, imposed by the database structure of the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP) is 4000 characters (about 1.5 pages of *text*).

#### **Examples of Description of Historic Place sections:**



[Warkentin Blacksmith Shop](#), St. Francois Xavier, Manitoba. For full text see SOS 1, page 19.



[Alton Mill](#), Caledon, Ontario. For full text see SOS 2, page 20.



[Tankville School](#), Moncton, New Brunswick. For full text see SOS 3, page 19.

## **Heritage Value**

### **What is the Purpose of the Heritage Value Section?**

The Heritage Value section seeks to identify what matters and why. It explains why a historic place is important to the community that formally recognized it. Naming the heritage values of a place makes it possible to identify the character-defining elements that express its values. It helps determine what aspects of the place need to be conserved and why.

The Heritage Value section should answer the question: Why is this historic place considered to be important?

### **What is heritage value?**

Heritage value is what makes a historic place significant to a community of people. It is comprised of the many meanings and values that people attach to a place. Traditionally, historic places have been valued mainly for their historical associations or architectural importance. Today, historic places are valued for a broader range of meanings including social value, spiritual value and cultural associations.

A single place may have more than one heritage value. It may be valued for different reasons by different communities of people. The heritage values associated with a place may also change over time as the understanding of its history develops and the needs and context of the community change.

The heritage value of a place should be assessed within the context of that value and in relation to comparable places. Certain places are more highly valued than others. A place might be valued because it is the oldest place of its kind, the only place of its kind, or a rare surviving example of a place of its kind. It might be valued because it is an excellent example of a certain type of place or the work of a certain individual. It might be valued because it is a good illustration of a certain activity or phase in the history of a community, or because it plays an important role in the current social or spiritual life of a community.

Heritage value reflects the reason for recognition of the historic place. Usually, only places with significant heritage value will be formally recognized by an authority. Each authority will have its own criteria for evaluating heritage value and determining the level of significance required for the official recognition of a historic place.

### **Types of Heritage Value**

The need to categorize heritage value by type sometimes arises during the evaluation of the historic place when an authority must decide how to define heritage value and how to determine if heritage value is significant enough to warrant a formal recognition. Such categories are simply convenient ways of grouping similar kinds of heritage value. Categories encourage an authority to think about the different ways in which heritage value could arise. In a cumulative scoring evaluation system, categories can also ensure that values are weighted properly.

There are an infinite number of ways to categorize heritage value. The categories used by a particular authority tend to reflect the perspective of that authority or the community they are representing.

The Historic Places Initiative (HPI) defines heritage value as: “the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance or significance for past, present or future generations.” The HPI definition is based on the definition for cultural significance (or heritage value) set out in the Burra Charter. The Burra Charter is an internationally accepted statement of principles that provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance. The HPI definition is not an exhaustive list of different types of heritage values but broadly identifies some of the key areas in which heritage values may be found. The HPI categories are intended to assist in thinking about the broad spectrum of ways in which heritage value could arise. It is not necessary to name the HPI type when writing about heritage value in the SOS.

*Aesthetic value* refers to the sensory qualities of a historic place (seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting) in the context of broader categories of design and tradition. A place may have aesthetic significance because it evokes a positive sensory response, or because it epitomizes a defined architectural style or landscape concept. Visual aesthetic value is typically expressed through form, colour, texture or materials. It is possible for historic places to have other aesthetic values as well, such as auditory ones. Historic places with aesthetic significance may reflect a particular style or period of construction or craftsmanship, or represent the work of a well-known architect, planner, engineer or builder.

**Example of Historic Place with aesthetic value:**



[Château Frontenac](#), Québec, Quebec. For full text see SOS 4, page 24.

*Historical or cultural value* refers to the associations that a place has with past events and historical themes, as well as its capacity to evoke a way of life or a memory of the past. Historical or cultural value may lie in the age of a heritage district, its association with important events, activities, people or traditions; its role in the development of a community, region, province, territory or nation; or its patterns of use. Historical or cultural value can lie in natural or ecological features of the place, as well as in built features.

**Example of Historic Place with historical value:**



[Warkentin Blacksmith Shop](#), St. Francois Xavier, Manitoba. For full text see SOS 1, page 19.

*Scientific value* refers to the capacity of a historic place to provide evidence that can advance our understanding and appreciation of a culture. The evidence is found in the form, materials, design and/or experience of the place. Scientific value can derive from various factors, such as age, quality, completeness, complexity or rarity. Scientific value may also be present when the place itself supplements other types of evidence such as written sources, such as in archaeological sites.

**Example of Historic Place with scientific value:**



[Opimihaw](#), Saskatchewan. For full text see SOS 5, page 26.

*Social value* considers the meanings attached to a place by a community in the present time. It differs from historical or cultural value in that the value may not have an obvious basis in history

or tradition, and relates almost entirely to the present time. Social value may be ascribed to places that perform a key role within communities, support community activities or traditions, or contribute to the community's sense of identity. Places with social value include sites that bring the community together and create a sense of shared identity and belonging.

**Example of Historic Place with social value:**



[Halifax Public Gardens](#), Halifax Nova Scotia. For full text see SOS 6, page 27.

*Spiritual value* is ascribed to places with religious or spiritual meanings for a community or a group of people. Sacred and spiritual places could include places of mythological significance, landscape features associated with myth and legends, burial sites, rock cairns and alignments, fasting/vision quest sites etc., places representing particular belief system(s) or places associated with sacred traditions, ceremonial practices or rituals of a community/group of people.

**Example of Historic Place with spiritual value:**



[Arvia'juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk](#), Arviat, Sentry Island, Nunavut. For full text see SOS 7, page 29.

**Writing the Heritage Value section**

The Heritage Value section should be written as a narrative. The description of each heritage value should include a statement of the value followed by an explanation that sets out the comparative context and the reason why the historic place is significant within that context. If more than one significant heritage value has been identified, all the values should be stated in an introductory paragraph, followed by separate paragraphs for each value explaining the context and significance of the place.

Heritage Value should include only the significant values associated with the formal recognition of a place. In most cases, only significant heritage values are identified during the recognition process and all should be included in Heritage Value. If additional values are identified during the preparation of the SOS, these should be approved by the formal recognition authority to ensure that they are in keeping with the intent of the formal recognition.

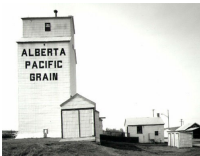
The Heritage Value section is not a detailed history of the historic place. The Heritage Value section is a statement of value, not a statement of fact. The Heritage Value section should not include any information that does not relate to the heritage value of the place. For instance, the current use of the historic place should not be included unless the current use is one of its heritage values.

Heritage Value should conclude with a reference to the source document that provides the official record of the recognition and heritage value of the place. A source document may be the formal

recognition or designation report, minutes of the evaluation meeting, the designation by-law, or an approved statement of cultural heritage value or heritage character statement. Writers may include more than one source document where necessary.

In most cases, the Heritage Value can be explained in two paragraphs. Where there are multiple heritage values, the Heritage Value section may be longer. The technical limit imposed by the CRHP for Heritage Value is 4000 characters (about 1.5 pages of text).

**Examples of Heritage Value sections:**



[Alberta Pacific Grain Elevator Site](#), Meeting Creek, Alberta. For full text see SOS 8, page 31.



[Halifax Public Gardens](#), Halifax, Nova Scotia. For full text see SOS 6, page 27.



[King George V Building](#), St. John's, Newfoundland. For full text see SOS 9, page 33.

## **Character-defining elements**

### **What is the purpose of the Character-defining Elements section?**

The Character-defining Elements section identifies the principal features of the historic place that contribute to its heritage value. It gives a concrete form to the heritage value of the historic place. It provides guidance to property owners and to managers, planners, architects, designers and others involved in the conservation or management of the historic place.

The Character-defining Elements section is intended to answer the question: What features of the historic place must be preserved in order to maintain its heritage value?

### **What are Character-defining Elements?**

A character-defining element is any tangible or intangible feature that expresses the heritage values associated with the historic place. The HPI defines character-defining elements as: the materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the heritage value of a historic place, and which must be retained in order to preserve heritage value. Character-defining elements include both tangible features (materials, forms, location and spatial configurations) and intangible features (uses and cultural associations or meanings).

Character-defining elements are those features which most clearly convey the meanings and importance of the place. If they were removed, it would no longer be possible to understand the importance of the place. The heritage value of the place is dependent on its character-defining elements.

### **Types of Character-defining Elements**

There are an infinite number of ways to categorize character-defining elements. Categories are simply convenient ways of grouping similar kinds of elements. Categorizing character-defining elements by type may assist the writer in capturing all the different aspects of the historic place that contribute to its heritage value. Categorizing character-defining elements by type may also make it easier for the property manager or architect to use the SOS in guiding conservation decisions about the historic place.

The categories used for a particular historic place will be determined by the nature of the heritage values associated with that place. Character-defining elements fall within the following categories:

- style, scale, massing and composition
- interior layout or exterior spatial configuration
- functional features
- materials and craftsmanship
- the relationship between the historic place and its broader setting
- the ways in which people use the historic place
- customs and traditions that were or continue to be associated with a historic place

### **Writing the Character-defining Elements section**

The Character-defining Elements section should be written in point-form. Where a historic place has multiple values or multiple resources, it may be clearer to divide the elements into sections. For instance, where a place has more than one heritage value, the elements associated with each value could be listed separately under a heading naming that value. Alternately, where a

place has multiple resources, the elements relating to the place as a whole, and the elements relating to each of the principle resources within the place, may be listed separately under headings naming each resource. Character-defining elements may be further grouped by type as suggested above.

The description of character-defining elements should provide a clear link between the heritage value of the place and its existing features. It is more than a list of property features: each element must directly relate to a heritage value. Only the principal character-defining elements that embody the heritage value of a historic place should be stated. Features that do not contribute to the heritage value of the place should not be included. Features that no longer exist should not be included.

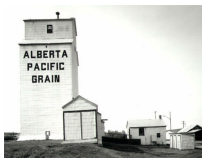
The Character-defining Elements section is not a detailed description of the historic place. It is not a definitive list of elements and the failure to name particular features does not mean that they are not included. The challenge in writing the Character-defining Elements section is to achieve a balance between being too specific and being too general. Rather than listing all elements, the Character-defining Elements section should point readers towards where value is embodied. The writer can identify broad categories and sub-categories of elements, followed by inclusive language (“including,” “such as,” “as illustrated by,” “as expressed in,” or “for example,”) and a list of sample elements.

The accuracy of the information provided in the Character-defining Elements section is critical if SOSs are to be used as tools in the conservation of a historic place. Site visits are important in confirming that elements mentioned in the Character-defining Elements section actually exist on site.

Conservation advice does not belong in the Character-defining Elements section. Advice on what should be retained, protected or replaced at a historic place belongs in a conservation plan.

The technical limit imposed by the CRHP for the Character-defining Elements section is 4000 characters (about 1.5 pages of text).

**Examples of Character-defining Elements sections:**



[Alberta Pacific Grain Elevator Site Complex](#), Meeting Creek, Alberta. For full text see SOS 8, page 31.



[Alton Mill](#), Caledon, Ontario. For full text see SOS 2, page 20.



[Arvia'juag and Qikiqtaarjuk](#), Arviat, Sentry Island, Nunavut. For full text see SOS 7, page 29



[Dacotah Store](#), Cartier, Manitoba. For full text see SOS 10, page 35.



[Halifax Public Gardens](#), Halifax, Nova Scotia. For full text see SOS 6, page 27.

## **COMPLETING THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Am I finished writing the Statement of Significance?**

Writers should ask themselves these questions to ensure the draft Statement of Significance (SOS) is complete:

Do the three sections of the SOS work together? Is each section consistent with the other two?

Do the Heritage Value and Character-defining Elements sections refer to the historic place as it is described in the Description of Historic Place?

Do the Character-defining Elements relate directly to the heritage values explained in Heritage Value section?

Do the Character-defining Elements accurately reflect the features that currently exist at the site?

Is each of the three sections of the SOS within the 4000-character limit imposed by the CRHP?

### **Approval of the Statement of Significance**

A SOS written for the CRHP will be reviewed by the federal, provincial or territorial registrar responsible for the listing of the historic place before it is submitted to the CRHP. SOSs that do not comply with the writing guidelines or the technical limits for the CRHP may be returned to the SOS writer for further work.



## SOS 1: FORMER WARKENTIN BLACKSMITH SHOP

### Description of Historic Place

The Warkentin Blacksmith Shop, a simple wood-frame structure constructed in 1931, is a municipally designated site. The building is situated in an open grassed area on a well-treed river lot, adjacent to a rural highway that passes through a landscape of large open fields in the St. Francois Xavier area. The recognition applies to the shop and a three-metre buffer zone of land surrounding it.

### Heritage Value

The Warkentin Blacksmith Shop is a rare tangible reminder and important example in Manitoba of the kind of small commercial establishments that served rural farming areas before the advent of welding shops and sophisticated farm machinery. Shifted onto a concrete pad beside its original location, the utilitarian shop recalls the simple vernacular building traditions, construction materials and small open-space floor area that characterized this building type. The shop was built by Henry Warkentin, who served the St. Francois Xavier area for over 30 years and was renowned beyond the district for his craftsmanship in repairing farm machinery.

Source: Rural Municipality of St. Francois Xavier By-law No. 37-93, February 10, 1994

### Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of the site include:

- the placement of the shop on an open grassed area, with dense bush to the rear of the building, north-facing exposure to the highway and a nearby driveway to the west

Key elements that define the heritage character of the building's exterior include:

- the simple rectangular form, with gable roof and tin chimney, cedar shingles, horizontal tongue-and-groove fir siding painted red-brown with white window trim and window openings with clear glass panes on four elevations
- the large double doors with cross-bracing that swing open on the north and south elevations, including the iron hardware made by Henry Warkentin
- the simple wooden sign on the north-facing roof that reads "General Blacksmith"

Key internal elements that define the shop's basic construction and functional character include:

- the hand-built frame, with exposed wall surfaces and fir roofing
- the unobstructed open-space floor plan, with the forge stack suspended from the roof and a small opening in the lower west wall used to remove ashes from the forge



## SOS 2: ALTON MILL

### Description of Historic Place

The Alton Mill is a late 19th century industrial stone complex located on the bank of Shaw's Creek in the heart of the village of Alton in the rural Town of Caledon. The 3.4 hectare site comprises the main two-storey stone mill building and three-storey water tower, a brick chimney stack, a stone livery, the remains of the stone wool warehouse, and the adjacent mill pond and dam.

The Alton Mills Complex has been recognized for its heritage value by the Town of Caledon, By-law number 2004-201.

### Heritage Value

The Alton Mill is one of only two late 19th century industrial stone complexes remaining in the once-thriving industrial village of Alton. Established in 1881 as the Beaver Knitting Mill by industrialist and 'Free Thinker' William Algie, it was renowned nation-wide for the production of fleece-lined long underwear. The mill, often referred to as the 'Lower Mill', was subsequently owned by two other leading local industrialists, John Dods of the Dods Knitting Company and Frederick N. Stubbs of the Western Rubber Company. Stubbs purchased and converted the mill for the manufacture of rubber products in the mid-1930s.

The mill complex represents the longest-running water-powered mill on the upper Credit River system, remaining in operation until 1982. Built between 1881 and 1913, the existing mill buildings are typical of industrial stone construction of the late 19th century, and reflect alterations, changes in use and the effects of flood and fire over a century of industrial operation.

Situated in the heart of the village amidst residential buildings of a similar age, the Alton Mill complex is a well-known local landmark that has defined the industrial character and history of the village of Alton since its construction.

Sources: Town of Caledon Alton Mill Complex heritage designation criteria report, November, 2004.

Town of Caledon Alton Mill Complex heritage designation by-law 2004-201, December 7, 2004.

### Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that express the value of the mill complex as an example of late 19th century industrial style that reflects alterations, changes in use and the effects of flood and fire throughout a century of operation include its:

- plain but imposing design of rectangular buildings of coursed stone construction
- varied ashlar renderings and symmetrical fenestration patterns associated with different period additions

- interior features of the main mill building including steel fire doors and hardware, plank flooring, interior wood columns and steel tie-rod support systems, office paneling and glazing and remnant industrial machinery
- ancillary features including a square stone water tower with brick quoins and a hipped roof, a brick chimney stack, a remnant stone wool warehouse; a stone livery; the mill pond and associated dam and mill race.

Key elements that express the value of the mill complex as a landmark that continues to define the industrial character and history of the village include its:

- location in the village core adjacent to the mill pond and creek in the heart of the village, which forms significant vistas from Queen Street, a principal road running parallel to the creek and mill pond, and the 'Pinnacle', a prominent landform directly north of the mill
- relationship to surrounding residential buildings dating from the same late 19th century era



## SOS 3: TANKVILLE SCHOOL

### Description of Historic Place

Tankville School is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century schoolhouse built in the New England meetinghouse style. This wooden, one-room, schoolhouse is located adjacent to the Irishtown Nature Park near Moncton's northeastern most boundary.

### Heritage Value

Tankville School was designated as a local historic place because it is a rare example of the one-room common school house design mandated by the Province in 1871.

The rectangular, single room, pitched roof style of the New England meetinghouse was a prevalent school design until a province wide consolidation in 1967 saw to the closure of most of the remaining rural schools of this type. In 1957, an extension was added to the east, nearly doubling the size of the school. The fact that it is the only one-room school house in the Province to have been restored on its original site makes it all the more rare.

Tankville School was also designated for its significance in the educational and social history of the communities of Tankville and Irishtown.

In the early years of Tankville, this school was the only public building in the area. It remained an active schoolhouse for this region until the consolidation of schools in 1967.

Source: Moncton Museum, Moncton, New Brunswick - second floor files - "1665 Elmwood".

### Character-Defining Elements

The character-defining elements relating to Tankville School's recognition for its common school house design include:

- Common School House No. 2 design (New England meetinghouse) layout with features such as rectangular massing, a steeply pitch roof, symmetrical fenestration;
- detailing such as returned moulded eaves, wide fascia boards and entablatures over door and window openings, and clapboard siding with corner boards;
- 4/4 windows and 2/2 windows and plain wooden sills;
- interior elements such as plain door trim, lath wainscoting on walls and ceiling, the restored/replicated wide plank wood floor, moulded window aprons with continuous chair rail.

Character-defining elements relating to Tankville School's recognition because of its significance in the educational and social history of Tankville and Irishtown include:

- original location;
- the pedal organ from local church;
- original exterior "Tankville" sign;

- vintage chalkboard with moulded ledge;
- period central wood stove;
- period teacher's desk, bell, pupil benches and desks.



## SOS 4: CHÂTEAU FRONTENAC NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

### Description of Historic Place

In the chateau style, Château Frontenac is an imposing hotel with five brick and stone wings and a central tower erected in seven stages between 1892 and 1993. It is prominently located on a cliff overlooking the St. Lawrence River, within the Québec historic district. The recognition refers to the building on its footprint in 1981 (the date of recognition).

### Heritage Value

The Château Frontenac was designated a national historic site because it is an excellent example of a Chateau-style hotel.

The Château Frontenac was the first of a series of Chateau-style hotels built by Canadian railway companies in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to encourage tourists to travel on their railways. Popular with the travelling public for their elaborate décor and comfortable elegance, these hotels quickly became national symbols of quality accommodation.

The Château Frontenac was the prototype for the Chateau-style railway hotels that followed, and remained the purest expression of the Chateau style among the group. Its fortress-like design, derived from the medieval chateaux of France's Loire Valley and enhanced by its dramatic cliff-top location, expressed the prevailing romantic view of Quebec as a French medieval city. The hotel's picturesque eclecticism and rich polychromatic surfaces reflected popular taste in Victorian architecture. Construction began in 1892-93 for the Canadian Pacific Railway to designs by architect Bruce Price. The hotel was enlarged in 1908-09 to designs by W.S. Painter, in 1920-24 to designs by Edward and W.S. Maxwell, and in the 1990s by the Arcop Group.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minute, January 1981; Commemorative Integrity Statement.

### Character-defining Elements

The key elements that relate to the heritage value of the Château Frontenac include:

- its prominent location and imposing presence on a cliff, overlooking the St. Lawrence River;
- its massive scale and fortress-like appearance;
- its plan around an inner court;
- its asymmetrical profile and irregular massing;
- its Chateau style, evident in: its steeply pitched roofs; massive circular and polygonal towers and turrets; ornate gables and dormers; tall chimneys; the row of machicolations above the fourth-storey windows; its high-quality materials; and its dramatic setting;
- its fortress-like solidity, expressed in its broad, flat wall surfaces and heavy tower forms;

- its strong horizontal emphasis, expressed in its ashlar base and string coursing;
- its steel frame construction;
- its grey, ashlar stone base and string courses; and the orange, Glenboig brick wall cladding;
- volumes of original interior public spaces;
- the fine original finishes of the main public spaces, including mahogany panelling, marble staircases, carved stone and wrought-iron decorative elements, glass roundels with historical subjects by Edward Maxwell, coffered ceilings.



## SOS 5: OPIMIHAW

### Description of Historic Place

Opimihaw is a Provincial Heritage Property located in the Opimihaw Creek valley where the creek meets the South Saskatchewan River northeast of Saskatoon. The 58 hectare property contains at least 14 precontact archaeological sites, including a medicine wheel, tipi rings, rock cairns, campsites and bison kills. The designated property is located within the bounds of Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

### Heritage Value

The heritage value of Opimihaw resides in its outstanding collection of archaeological sites and in the information these sites reveal regarding precontact First Nations culture. Periodic flooding has resulted in exceptional preservation of the valley's cultural and organic remains in a sequence of discrete clay layers. The excellent preservation and the property's broad range of site types provide a rare opportunity for the study of human adaptations on the Northern Plains over the past 5,000 years.

First Nations value Opimihaw as a place of great spiritual significance, and for its associations with the survival and continuity of First Nations culture. The site is also important for its educational value. Located near a major population centre, the site has high potential for interpreting First Nations culture and promoting greater inter-cultural understanding.

Sources: Province of Saskatchewan, Notice of Intention to Designate as Provincial Heritage Property under The Heritage Property Act, November 23, 1983.

Province of Saskatchewan, Order to Designate as Provincial Heritage Property under The Heritage Property Act, February 20, 1984.

### Character-Defining Elements

The heritage value of Opimihaw resides in the following character-defining elements:

- elements that reflect precontact use of the site, such as the undisturbed cultural stratigraphy and numerous archaeological remains, including artifacts, bone, hearths, stone constructions or other cultural features, especially any cultural material in its original context;
- the sequence of natural soil layers with their contained organic remains that are evidence of the site's past environments;
- elements that express the site's spiritual and cultural significance, such as use of the site by First Nations for traditional ceremonies;
- the site's natural environment and historic vistas that evoke a sense of stepping back in time, allowing visitors to readily imagine the experience of ancient visitors to the site.



## SOS 6: HALIFAX PUBLIC GARDENS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

### Description of Historic Place

The Halifax Public Gardens National Historic Site of Canada is one of the rare surviving Victorian gardens in Canada. Located in the heart of downtown Halifax, Nova Scotia, it is a favourite place for Haligonians and visitors to stroll and relax. Despite natural changes and occasional storm damage, the original nineteenth century design remains essentially intact, including bedding patterns, exotic foliage, favourite Victorian flowers, subtropical species and tree specimens, serpentine paths, geometric beds, commemorative statuary, and a bandstand that continue the traditions of the era.

### Heritage Value

Halifax Public Gardens was designated a national historic site of Canada as a rare surviving example of a Victorian public garden. The heritage value of this site resides in its continued use as a public park and in its illustration of Victorian "Gardenesque" landscape design and planting traditions.

The Halifax Public Gardens was established in 1874 by the amalgamation of two older gardens, the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society Garden (laid out in 1837) and an adjacent public park (opened in 1866). In 1872, Robert Power was hired as the park's superintendent. He introduced an axially symmetrical plan which governs the overall design of the site. Over the years, he oversaw the introduction of the bandstand (designed by architect Henry Busch), fountains, statues, and wrought iron gates as well as establishing the bedding out of annuals in highly designed carpet beds, redesigned Griffin's Pond and introduced water fowl. He also initiated specimen planting, including many exotic and semi-tropical species. The whole was united by a system of gently curving gravel pathways within a perimeter of mature trees and wide sidewalks acting as buffers between the park and the surrounding city.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minutes, November 1983; Commemorative Integrity Statement 1999.

### Character-Defining Elements

Key elements contributing to the heritage value of this site include:

- the integrity of the boundaries and siting between Spring Garden Road, South Park Street, Summer Street and Sackville Street, including the marking of the boundaries by surrounding streets, sidewalks, fencing and perimeter trees;
- the balanced and clearly ordered Victorian landscape design according to Gardenesque principles with an overall axially symmetrical plan elaborated with discrete areas featuring individual specimens set amongst groomed lawns, geometric, serpentine and scroll flower beds, linked by a network of curving gravel paths within a firm perimeter line;

- the wide variety of species planting including domestic, exotic, semi-tropical, flowering, and variegated foliage, set against well-groomed lawns;
- the High Victorian taste in bedding plants of contrasting texture and primary colours in curving, floating, and carpet beds, as well as rock gardens including cacti and alpine plants;
- water features such as Griffin's Pond and the watercourse with its gates and walls, the waterfowl house and model lighthouse, enlivened through the presence of waterfowl;
- the limited inclusion of specific building types including the Horticultural Hall/Canteen/Tea Room with its original placement, modest scale and classical vernacular manner distinguished by its symmetrical three-bay street facade, gable roof, original heavy timber construction, and wood cladding;
- the Bandstand as the focal point of the park, in its central location, geometric shape, modest scale, gingerbread woodwork, and primary-colour paint scheme;
- the limited use of carefully placed hard elements including metal fountains, gates, fencing and lighting standards (the bronze Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Fountain, the cast-iron Boer War Memorial Fountain, the cast-iron Main Entrance Gates, Lamp Standards, the wrought-iron perimeter fence) in their placement, classically derived styles, high quality of design and workmanship;
- artificial stone and concrete features such as the six vases and three statues, grotto and concrete bridges, in their placement, design and materials;
- the use of rustic wooden fencing in its placement, design and material;
- the wide sidewalks with avenues of trees on Spring Garden Road and South Park Street in their role as a transitional zone between the gardens and the urban setting;
- continued health of the garden ecosystem through assurance of adequate sunlight, clean air and water;
- the park's continued accessibility to the public.



## SOS 7: ARVIA'JUAQ AND QIKIQTAAARJUK NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

### Description of Historic Place

This national historic site is comprised of two portions: Arvia'Juaq and Qikiqtaaruk. Arvia'Juaq is a traditional summer camp of the Paallirmiut Inuit. It is a 5-km long island with two sections joined by an isthmus, and is located 8 km from the Hamlet of Arviat on the western shore of Hudson Bay. Situated in an area rich in marine wildlife resources, the island contains many ritual and spiritual sites.

Qikiqtaarjuk is a point of land projecting into Hudson Bay from the mainland immediately opposite Arvia'Juaq. It was once a small island and is now joined to the mainland by a narrow strip of land. Rich in evidence of human habitation, it contains tent rings, food caches, kayak stands and graves from the summer occupancy of generations of Paallirmiut. A sacred site associated with the legend of Kiviuq is located at the end of the peninsula. The recognition refers to all these elements of both sites.

### Heritage Value

Arvia'Juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk was declared a national historic site in 1995 because Arvia'Juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk speak eloquently to the cultural, spiritual and economic life of the Inuit in the Arviat area, focusing on coastal activities.

The heritage value of Arvia'Juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk National Historic Site lies in the wholeness and completeness of this cultural landscape, in the continuity of human habitation that they witness, and in the rich cultural, spiritual and economic role they play in the lives of the Inuit of the Arviat area. Heritage value is embodied in the natural features and resources of the land, in all evidence of human habitation and patterns of Inuit occupancy, and in the ritual and spiritual properties of the many sacred sites.

For centuries the Inuit of the Arviat area have returned to Arvia'Juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk each summer to camp and harvest the abundant marine resources. These gatherings provided an opportunity to teach the young, celebrate life, and affirm and renew Inuit society. The oral histories, traditional knowledge and archaeological sites at Arvia'Juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk provide a cultural focus for future generations since they continue to be centres to celebrate, practise and rejuvenate Inuit culture. These sites have been designated on the recommendation of the people of Arviat.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minute, July 1995; Commemorative Integrity Statement, 1997

### Character-Defining Elements

Key elements which contribute to the heritage value of this site include:

- continued use of these sites for cultural, spiritual and economic purposes by the Inuit;
- the health and well-being of marine wildlife resources in and around the areas;
- the wholeness and completeness of the cultural landscape, including the physical features of the natural landscape and evidence of people in, on and about the natural landscape;
- the continuing presence of natural and archaeological sites, particularly those which are remembered and revealed in oral tradition;
- the continuing presence and lack of disruption of archaeological sites, particularly those which witness centuries of occupation;
- the undisturbed presence of grave sites;
- continuation of the beliefs, observances, proscriptions and unexplained forces associated with traditional Inuit use of the land;
- continual currency and respect for elders' knowledge of historic events, legends and Inuit life-ways associated with these sites;
- the health and well-being of the tundra on Arvia'Juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk;
- uninterrupted viewsapes between Arvia'Juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk;
- viewsapes from both sites to the waters of Hudson Bay.



## SOS 8: ALBERTA PACIFIC GRAIN ELEVATOR SITE COMPLEX

### Description of Historic Place

The Alberta Pacific Grain Elevator Site Complex is located on Railway Avenue at Main Street, beside an active railway line in the hamlet of Meeting Creek in central Alberta. The site consists of a pre-World War One grain elevator and an attached drive shed, an office/engine house, and a storage/fuel shed, located on one lot of 215 square metres. The adjacent rail line and train station are not included in the recognition.

### Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Alberta Pacific Grain Elevator Site Complex in Meeting Creek lies in its role in the grain trade which lay at the economic heart of this rural community and its hinterland from before World War One. It also represents a method of grain handling that predates the large cooperatives of the 1920s onward.

The construction of the Calgary and Edmonton and Canadian Northern Railways and the introduction of the sturdy strain of Marquis wheat in 1910 dramatically expanded agricultural settlement and wheat production in central and northern Alberta in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Meeting Creek was one such settlement, established in 1911 in the centre of what would become a rich agricultural hinterland north of Buffalo Lake. The Alberta Pacific Grain Company erected the hamlet's first grain elevator next to the rail line sometime between 1914 and 1917.

Very few elevators of this period have survived in Alberta, and the buildings on the site follow standard plans common throughout the province at the time. The Alberta Pacific Grain Elevator Site Complex is an excellent, rare example of an early grain elevator, and demonstrates the central role of elevators in Alberta's rural communities. It represents an all-wood Prairie Vernacular style of industrial building designed to grade, weigh, store and ship grain, in this case with a 26, 000 bushel capacity and typical crib construction. The site retains original grain handling artifacts that demonstrate the workings of the elevator, and its historic relationship with the Canadian Northern railway station and rail line.

Source: Alberta Community Development, Heritage Resource Management Branch (File: Des. 1864)

### Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of this site include:

- the form, scale, and massing of the grain elevator and its ancillary structures, the drive shed, office-engine house and fuel shed; and the unaltered spatial relationship between the structures;
- the tall rectangular design expressing its grain handling function, with wooden crib construction, exposed structural members, sloping shoulder design, wood framing, and cupola;

- pressed metal (tin) covering of elevator;
- in situ components of the grain handling system, such as the elevator leg and distributor, weigh scale and hopper scale, control wheel and levers, electric motors, bins, hopper, belts and pulleys for the vertical conveyor belt, wood bins and chutes, air pressurized hoist system, man-lift;
- post and beam construction of drive shed;
- fenestration pattern;
- prominent corporate signage;
- the external visual relationship between the site, rail line and railway station.



## SOS 9: KING GEORGE V BUILDING

### Description of Historic Place

The King George V Institute is a four storey neoclassical rectangular building. It is located on Water Street East diagonally across the street from the Newfoundland National War Memorial. The recognition is confined to the footprint of the building.

### Heritage Value

The King George V Building has been designated as a municipal heritage building because of its historical, aesthetic and cultural values.

This building is significant because of its association with the life, work, and cultural contributions of the medical missionary Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell, one of Newfoundland and Labrador's great cultural heroes.

The building is historically important because of its long historical associations with the military and maritime history of Newfoundland and Labrador. It was originally constructed for the welfare of seamen and working outport girls, a hostel for the crews of allied warships and merchant ships, and was known as the Caribou Hut, after the emblem of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Aesthetically, the King George V Building is a noteworthy example of the neo-classical public buildings designed by the American architectural partnership of Williams Adams Delano and Chester H. Aldrich. The building is constructed with the typical Delano and Aldrich materials of brick and limestone, and the clarity and simplicity of the design is representative of the firm's work.

The King George V Building has great cultural value to community and to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, associated as it is with the public works of the Grenfell Mission. The building has a great deal of local sentimental value, and serves as an unofficial memorial to the great sealing disaster of 1914. Following the disaster, the frozen bodies of dead sealers from S.S. Newfoundland were thawed in vats of hot water in the basement of the building.

An important historical side note of the place is that the cornerstone of the building was laid, on land donated by Sir Edgar Rennie Bowring, by King George V on his coronation day, June 22, 1911, through the agency of an electronic current from Buckingham Palace with Governor Sir Ralph Williams completing the laying of the stone on His Majesty's behalf. At the time, it was believed to be the first laying of a cornerstone anywhere in the world by remote control.

Source: Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador property file #1500 St. John's - King George V Institute.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

All elements related to the establishment of the King George V Institute, including:

- original paired entrance doors, originally used as male and female entrances;
- original stone banding reading "KING GEORGE THE FIFTH INSTITUTE";
- all historical stone and bronze tablets and plaques (interior and exterior) with inscriptions marking the contributions of the Grenfell Mission and the Bowring family;
- the original foundation stone laid by King George V by remote control from Buckingham Palace.

All elements related to the construction and neo-classical design of the building by the firm of Delano and Aldrich, including:

- masonry foundation, brick walls, and stone detailing;
- stone detailing around and surmounting the main entranceways;
- brick course detailing at the top of the first storey on main facade;
- brick and stone entablature/cornice at the roofline on main facade;
- original stone banding and carved medallions between third and fourth storeys on the main facade;
- original cast iron fencing along the public sidewalk on the northwest corner of the property;
- those interior features (staircases, mantel pieces, etc) that are reflective of the original neo-classical design of the building;
- window size, style, and placement;
- building height, massing and general dimensions.



## SOS 10: DACOTAH STORE

### Description of Historic Place

The Qually Brothers Store looks beyond the gravel road that passes it by to railway tracks just metres away. Built in 1936, the modest wooden retail establishment in the Elie-area hamlet of Dacotah still seems poised to accept shipments from trains that intermittently thunder by, but no longer stop. The site's municipal recognition applies to the store and the parcel of land on which it sits.

### Heritage Value

The Qually Brothers Store is an excellent representative of the many unpretentious commercial establishments that sprang up across rural Manitoba to serve the needs of growing communities in the early twentieth century. A modest and utilitarian outlet employing vernacular traditions and local construction materials and finishes, the store provided a variety of goods in a straightforward, simple manner. Run by brothers and prominent local farmers, Billiam and Oscar Qually, the business also functioned as a mail-order distributor of International Harvester farming implements, an Imperial Oil outlet, the office of a local 'farmer's line' telephone system and an informal community gathering spot. It is now the last commercial structure on Dacotah's main street.

Source: Rural Municipality of Cartier By-law No. 1530-01, February 12, 2001

### Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the site's heritage character include:

- the store's location on the north side of Qually Road, with telling proximity to the railway line to the south of the street.

Key elements that define the building's external heritage character include:

- the simple rectangular form, modest one-storey height and gable roof with deep projecting eaves, supported by utilitarian brackets, to cover the open porch on the front façade;
- the practical building approach as seen in the wood-frame construction, use of wood siding, and main entry door centrally placed and flanked by large rectangular windows with wooden frames.

Key elements that define the building's function as a store run by the Quallys include:

- the informal plan, with the entrance opening into the largest room and two smaller rooms on the east side;
- the utilitarian finishes throughout, such as rough, sealed, but unpainted wooden plank flooring, double-hung windows and no-frills window coverings;
- a variety of shelving and stocking systems to facilitate retail operations, including continuous open shelving spanning the lengths of many walls, compartmentalized storage space for

smaller stock (such as nuts and bolts) and compartments built flush into walls with removable lids for bulk storage (for nails, etc.).

## GUIDELINES FOR HERITAGE DISTRICTS

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Background**

Heritage districts have specific characteristics and conservation needs that should be addressed in Statements of Significance (SOS) for the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP). Heritage districts tend to be relatively large, built areas with a complex set of values and character-defining elements that work together to create a discernable whole. Many Canadian jurisdictions have a separate recognition procedure for heritage districts that acknowledges the unique challenges raised by districts. The CRHP recognizes the role of each jurisdiction in defining heritage districts according to their own methodology.

#### **Purpose of the Guidelines**

These guidelines provide suggestions for writing effective SOSs for heritage districts nominated to the CRHP. The guidelines for heritage districts are intended as a supplement to the document [\*Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines\*](#).

The guidelines provide a set of best practices for writing SOSs. They are not intended as an alternative to the existing processes used by Canadian jurisdictions to identify heritage districts.

#### **Contents of the Guidelines**

The *Writing Statements of Significance: Guidelines for Heritage Districts* provides best practices on how to integrate the specific requirements of heritage districts into the general guidelines for writing SOSs for historic places to be nominated to the CRHP. The heritage districts guidelines cover the following topics:

- Understanding Heritage Districts
- Writing the Description of Historic Place for Heritage Districts
- Writing the Heritage Value section for Heritage Districts
- Writing the Character-defining Elements section for Heritage Districts

## UNDERSTANDING HERITAGE DISTRICTS

### **What is a Historic Place?**

For the purposes of the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP), a historic place is any structure, building, group of buildings, district, landscape, archaeological site or other place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value. Formal recognition of heritage value is provided by local, provincial, territorial and federal governments. For further information about Historic Place for the purposes of the CRHP, see the document [\*Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines\*](#).

### **What is a Heritage District?**

Different Canadian jurisdictions use different terms to identify this type of historic place, including: “historic area,” “historic district,” “heritage precinct,” “cultural landscape,” “heritage conservation area,” “secteur patrimonial” and “arrondissement historique” (French). Each jurisdiction provides its own definition of what constitutes this type of historic place.

The CRHP has adopted the generic terms “heritage district” (English) and “secteur patrimonial” (French) to describe all these places. The use of a pan-Canadian term by the CRHP does not restrict the continued use by each jurisdiction of its own defined term.

For purposes of the CRHP, a heritage district is more specifically defined as:

*a place comprising a group of buildings, structures, landscapes and/or archaeological sites and their spatial relationships where built forms are often the major defining features and where the collective identity has heritage value for a community, province, territory or the nation.*

Heritage districts resonate with memory and tradition. They form an integral part of our cultural heritage. They contribute to our appreciation and understanding of the past and assist in establishing a sense of place and cultural identity.

Heritage districts reflect some level of human settlement, occupation or use. As a consequence, they are recognizable for their concentration of built forms. However, the significance of heritage districts goes beyond their buildings, and includes other aspects of the environment such as view planes, streetscapes, gardens, landscape features and patterns of activity and use. Although natural landscapes tend to play a secondary role in districts, the interplay between cultural and natural resources can form an essential part of a district’s heritage value and character-defining elements.

Heritage districts vary in size. They may comprise only a few buildings or an entire community. The size of a district will reflect the extent of the resources that express its heritage value. Examples of heritage districts could include: a small grouping of buildings or structures on a site, such as an industrial complex, a railway yard, a harbour or a canal; a portion of an urban setting, such as a streetscape, a city block, a neighbourhood, or a downtown core; an entire community, such as a village, town or planned community; or scattered groups of buildings and their settings, linked by common heritage values.

In a heritage district, the whole is always greater than the sum of its parts. It is the combinations of and ways in which values and character-defining elements come together that give heritage districts their depth, richness and sense of time and place. A single place within a district may be highly valued, but the value of that place is often enhanced and contextualized by the values and character-defining elements of the entire district.

## Types of Heritage Districts

In writing a SOS for a heritage district, it may be helpful to think of the different types of districts. Understanding the type of district may assist in determining the heritage values of the district and the character-defining elements that express those values. The following categorization is based on the relationship between the use of a district and its consequent degree of change.

*Remnant Districts* are districts that are no longer inhabited. Examples could include a former aboriginal settlement, a ghost town, an industrial ruin, or a historic site complex.

*Preserved Districts* reflect a specific period of development or culture. They are almost wholly intact places that for various reasons ceased to evolve at a certain point. Examples could include a historic town centre or main street that has been bypassed by developments elsewhere, an ethno-cultural or religious community that has reached its maximum size, or a resource extraction town whose primary industry is in decline.

*Designed Districts* have been deliberately designed as a complete entity and are best understood in terms of their overall design. Examples could include a company town, a planned subdivision or a shopping centre.

*Evolving Districts* have integrated successive periods of construction so as to retain evidence of each period. Buildings, structures and spatial arrangements typify successive stages of district history. Examples could include town centres, neighbourhoods, villages and outports. In evolving districts the development process is cumulative rather than transformative.

*Historic Centres* are former town centres enclosed within modern communities. Examples could include a town's main street or its traditional centre.

*Discontinuous Districts* are isolated units that provide coherent evidence of the character of the district. Examples could include groupings of historic buildings surrounded by newer development, but connected by an historic street pattern. Often, what ties discontinuous districts together as a district is the historic spatial organization.

## Defining Boundaries

One of the challenges in recognizing heritage districts is defining the boundaries of the district. In general terms, the location of the boundary will be determined by the location of the significant heritage values associated with the district. The boundary will be defined so that all resources that express those values will be included in the district. However, the determination of boundaries may also be affected by social or political realities – it may be more convenient for management purposes to have the boundaries coincide with existing physical or political markers like roads, property lines or local government boundaries. Inevitably, the boundaries of a heritage district may also include some resources that do not contribute to heritage value. Factors to consider in defining boundaries can include the following:

*Historic factors* such as the boundaries of an original settlement or a planned community can provide convenient boundaries. Boundaries can also be drawn around groupings of resources of a particular type, for instance, 19<sup>th</sup> century houses, or early-20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings.

*Physical features* often form natural boundaries. These could include transportation corridors (roads, railways or paths), fixed barriers (fences and walls), shorelines and embankments, and limits of a settled area.

*Visual factors* can determine boundaries. Examples include changes in topography or architectural character, vistas that permit a view of the significant resources, and gateways formed by built or natural features.

*Legal and Political factors* can affect the determination of boundaries. It may be more efficient for management purposes to have boundaries coincide with existing property lines, rights-of-way, streets, or municipal limits.

*Social concepts* can be used to determine boundaries. Cognitive mapping by area users and residents can be used to determine the conceptual boundaries of a district.

## WRITING SOSs FOR THE CRHP FOR HERITAGE DISTRICTS

### **Description of Historic Place for Heritage Districts**

#### **What is the purpose of the Description of Historic Place?**

The Description of Historic Place is a brief description of what has been designated or formally recognized by the government authority. It identifies the principal resources of a place and paints a picture of its overall character. It provides the reader with an introduction to the place.

The Description of Historic Place should answer the question: “What has been designated or formally recognized?”

For further information about the Description of Historic Place for the purposes of the CRHP, see the document [Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines](#).

#### **Writing the Description of Historic Place Section for a Heritage District**

The Description of Historic Place for a heritage district should answer four main questions: *What is it? Where is it? What is in it?* and *What are its boundaries?*

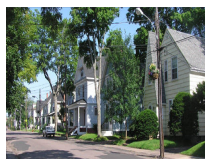
*What is it?* The answer should provide the name of the historic place and identify its use. Is it a residential neighbourhood, a theatre district, a religious precinct, an industrial site or a fishing village? Without providing a chronology of development, the writer should indicate the time period during which the significant resources of the district were created. The writer should also indicate the size or scale of the heritage district. Is it an entire town or is it limited to a particular street, block or core area within an urban setting?

*Where is it?* The answer should briefly describe the surrounding environment of the heritage district to give the reader a sense of its geographic context. Is it part of an urban or rural setting and what is the character of that setting?

*What is in it?* The answer should give a general indication of the principle kinds of resources within the heritage district that contribute to its heritage value. These could include buildings, structures, landscape features, spatial arrangements, transportation corridors and archaeological sites.

*What are its boundaries?* The answer should indicate the extent of the formal recognition to give the reader a sense of what is included and what is not. The boundaries of the heritage district should be described in general terms – this is not the place for detailed or legal boundary descriptions.

#### **Examples of Description of Historic Place:**



[Heritage Conservation District I](#), Truro, Nova Scotia. For full text see SOS 13 at page 52.



[Exchange District National Historic Site of Canada](#), Winnipeg, Manitoba. For full text see SOS 15 at page 55.



[St. John's Ecclesiastical District](#), St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.  
For full text see SOS 11 at page 46.

## Heritage Value for Heritage Districts

### What is the purpose of the Heritage Value Section?

The Heritage Value section of the Statement of Significance (SOS) seeks to identify what matters and why. It explains why a historic place is significant or important to the community that formally recognized it. Naming the heritage values of a place makes it possible to identify the character-defining elements that express its values. It helps determine what aspects of the place need to be conserved and why.

The Heritage Value section should answer the question: Why is this historic place considered to be important?

For further information about determining heritage values and writing the Heritage Value section of a SOS see the document [Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines](#).

### Writing the Heritage Value Section for a Heritage District

The Heritage Value section must be based on the reasons for formal recognition of the district. This section should outline, very succinctly, the core heritage values for which the district was formally recognized.

The Historic Places Initiative (HPI) defines heritage value as: “the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance or significance for past, present or future generations.” The HPI definition is not an exhaustive list of different types of heritage values, but broadly identifies some of the key areas in which heritage values may be found. The HPI categories are not mandatory. Rather, they are intended to assist the writer in thinking about the broad spectrum of ways in which heritage value could arise. It is not necessary to name the HPI type when writing about heritage value in the SOS.

Heritage values rarely exist in isolation from one another. They are better understood as a set of inter-related building blocks. The Heritage Value section should capture the interrelationship between different values.

*Aesthetic value* refers to feelings related to the senses – seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting. For heritage districts, a visual aesthetic value may be present in the materials, forms, textures and colour that make it significant or distinct from the surrounding area. The physical quality of coherence and connectedness is often one of the key visual characteristics of districts. It is possible for heritage districts to have other aesthetic values as well, especially auditory ones. Aesthetic value is generally understood from the perspective of the present, unless documentation or experience provides good evidence that the value was shared by the culture or community that created the place.

In heritage districts, aesthetic value may lie in: the representation of certain architectural types or styles; the cohesiveness achieved through design, setting, materials, workmanship or associations that distinguishes the district from its surroundings; the unique relationship of natural and human-built elements, including buildings, archaeological sites, monuments, public art, structures and natural and

designed landscapes; the illustration of work by significant architects, builders, designers, or planners; or the district's association with achievements in concept, design or technology.

*Historical or cultural value* refers to the associations that a place has with past events and historical themes, as well as its capacity to evoke a way of life or a memory of the past. Historical or cultural value may lie in the age of a heritage district, its association with important events, activities, people or traditions; its role in the development of a community, region, province, territory or nation; or its patterns of use. Historical or cultural value can lie in natural or ecological features of the place, as well as in built features.

*Scientific value* refers to the capacity of a historic place to provide evidence that can advance our understanding and appreciation of a culture. The evidence is found in the form, materials, design and/or experience of the place. Scientific value can derive from various factors, such as age, quality, completeness, complexity or rarity.

*Social value* considers the meanings attached to a place by a community in the present time. Social value may be ascribed to places that perform a key role within communities, support community activities or traditions, or contribute to the community's sense of identity. Places with social value include places that bring the community together and create a sense of shared identity and belonging.

*Spiritual value* lies in a district's association with religious, sacred, or symbolic meanings. Heritage districts with spiritual value are integral to the belief systems of a community of people. As much as possible, the writer of the SOS should use language to describe spiritual value that corresponds to the language used by any contemporary communities that value the site today. In some cases, the writer should also respect a community's decision to eliminate references to the spiritual value of a historic place.

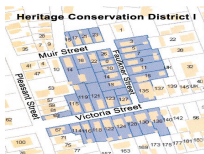
#### Examples of Heritage Value sections:



[Fort York Heritage Conservation District](#), Toronto, Ontario. For full text see SOS 16 at 57.



[Historic District of Montréal](#), Montréal, Quebec. For full text see SOS 12 at page 49.



[Heritage Conservation District I](#), Truro, Nova Scotia. For full text see SOS 13 at page 52.



[Negrych Homestead](#), Gilbert Plains, Manitoba. For full text see SOS 14 at page 53.

### Source Information

The determination of heritage value for heritage districts may be based on formal recognition documents or on the studies that were used to identify and select the site for recognition. A source document for heritage value may be a formal recognition report, the minutes of the evaluation meeting, a designation by-law or another value statement such as an existing statement of significance, a heritage character statement or a commemorative integrity statement. The Heritage Value section should conclude with a reference to the source document. Writers may include more than one source document where necessary.

### Character-Defining Elements for Heritage Districts

#### What is the purpose of the CDE section?

Character-defining elements (CDE) are the tangible or intangible features that embody the heritage values assigned to a historic place. They express heritage values.

The Historic Places Initiative (HPI) defines CDEs as: the materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the heritage value of a historic place, which must be retained in order to preserve its heritage value. CDEs include both tangible features (materials, forms, location and spatial configurations) and intangible features (uses and cultural associations or meanings).

For further information about CDEs and writing the CDE section of a SOS see the document [Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines](#).

#### Writing the Character-Defining Elements section for a Heritage District

For all historic places, including heritage districts, character-defining elements must stem from the heritage values defined for the site and be directly related to them. If an element is not related to the heritage values assigned to the site, it cannot be considered a character-defining element.

Character-defining elements of districts should relate to the entire district. Identification of character-defining elements is a selective process and only those characteristics that together reflect the core heritage values of the district should be included.

Given the large scale and multiple features of most heritage districts, it will not be possible to list all of a district's character-defining elements by name. It is therefore especially important, when working with districts, to describe elements by broad categories or types. Inclusive language should be used to suggest the elements belonging to that type, rather than to attempt to list all elements. It may also be helpful to group character-defining elements according to heritage value, or to geographic areas within the district. In all cases, writers should focus on those characteristics that they feel are most critical for the preservation of the heritage value of the district as a whole.

In the case of heritage districts, it is often the relationship between elements, as much as the elements themselves, which most clearly expresses the heritage value. For example, the clustering of buildings or structures of a certain type in one geographic location, or the relationship of streets to natural topographical features, or the use of all structures in one area for a common function.

Character-defining elements typical of heritage districts might include:

- the spatial configuration of key resources within the district, such as the arrangement of buildings and structures, streets and blocks, and plantings and landscape features;
- urban patterns within the district, including the street patterns, circulation systems and the relationship between open spaces and built-up areas;
- significant typologies of buildings and structures within the district;
- significant physical features of buildings and structures in the district, as defined by scale, form, design and detailing;
- predominant building materials, construction techniques and craftsmanship applied to buildings and structures in the district;
- significant plantings and landscape features within the district, including their typologies, physical features and materials;
- the natural topography of the district;
- landmarks or prominent features within the district, including entrance features;
- the spatial relationship between the district and its broader physical setting;
- the relationship between the district and its broader cultural setting;
- traditional functions and uses that continue to occur in the district;
- cultural associations or meanings manifested in the district.

**Examples of Character-Defining Elements sections:**



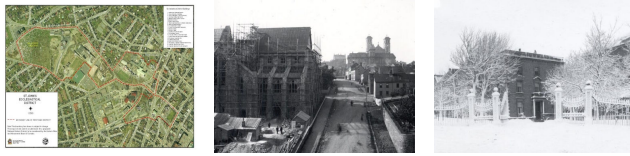
[Historic District of Montréal](#), Montréal, Quebec For full text see SOS 12 at page 49.



[St. John's Ecclesiastical District](#), St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. For full text see SOS 11 at page 46.



[Negrych Homestead](#), Gilbert Plains, Manitoba. For full text see SOS 14 at page 53.



## SOS 11: ST. JOHN'S ECCLESIASTICAL DISTRICT

### Description of Historic Place

The St. John's Ecclesiastical District is a large, linear shaped parcel of land located in the center of St. John's, in the one of the oldest sections of town. This district includes churches, convents, monasteries, schools, fraternal meeting houses and cemeteries and evokes a visual panorama of imposing masonry buildings of varying architectural styles. Within this organically patterned landscape and generous open spaces are some of the province's most important 19<sup>th</sup>-century "mother churches", including representatives from most major denominations prevalent in Newfoundland and Labrador. The buildings vary in size, scale and formality and the district exemplifies its strong educational thrust through the continued uses of many of the buildings for their intended purposes, such as the schools and churches. The district spans an area of more than 25 hectares. The natural evolution of the area is evident through its architecture and mature green space and newer buildings included within the district boundaries have been designed to be sympathetic to the styles of the original buildings. The recognition is purely commemorative and includes all buildings, lands, landscape features, structures and remains within the boundaries.

### Heritage Value

The St. John's Ecclesiastical District has a strong historic association with religion and education for Newfoundland and Labrador. The collection of ecclesiastical and fraternal buildings, which comprise the district, represents the pivotal role of the churches in St. John's society in matters spiritual, educational, charitable, political and recreational for more than 175 years. Although many of these historic functions have been taken over by the provincial government, the area continues to contribute strongly to the community through the various schools and the churches whose facilities serve many cultural and social needs and expressions. It is the spiritual center of St. John's and of the founding religions and it is used by many groups and faiths for ongoing cultural and social activities.

The St. John's Ecclesiastical District is also historically valuable because of its associations with the religious leaders who were the overseers of daily operations. In a town whose population was once divided along religious lines, individual buildings and clusters thereof are associated with personalities who sat in the seats of religious power and the people who found themselves under their guidance. The denominational clusters of buildings serve to emphasize both the differences and similarities of each religious group at the same time. The buildings remain as imposing, lasting reminders of the institutions responsible for their construction and the contribution of these religious institutions to the community, both positive and negative.

The St. John's Ecclesiastical District achieves aesthetic value through the formal styles, scales and placements of buildings, landscape features and structures, which show the roles and dominance of religion in the history and development of the capital city. The overall visual impact of the area is achieved through the uses of varying materials, architectural styles, open spaces and statuary whereas today areas like the Ecclesiastical District are no longer being built. Where religion played a crucial and

fundamental role in developing the community, these buildings stand as physical testaments to this influence. Also aesthetically valuable is the use of natural, enduring materials which dominate the district landscape. The buildings, constructed in stone and brick, reach skyward with their spires and towers, yet remain solidly firm on their well-built foundations. The varied ornamentations, statuary, grave markers, monuments and fencing, paired with the mature trees and generous use of green space, all combine in a cohesive and organic manner.

The St. John's Ecclesiastical District achieves environmental value in several ways. The district is a visual landmark for fishermen. Situated on upwards-sloping land the brick and granite buildings rise above the harbour, marking the way for fishermen returning from the fishing grounds as they enter St. John's harbour. This visual landmark continues to be used to this day, and the views of the district from the harbour, as well as the views of the harbour from the district are considered valuable to the community. Other environmental values include the footpaths, the close proximity of the buildings to each other and the back alleyways reminiscent of 19<sup>th</sup>-century St. John's; a trend that doesn't exist in newer parts of the city. The area was intentionally picked by early church leaders to emphasize the dominant position of the churches. The big stone churches held the leaders of society who, in their infinite wisdom, could peer down on the masses of common folk and pass down their laws and rules. The physical location of the church buildings deliberately forced the less-enlightened to look up to the church: a literal reaction to a figurative idea.

Source: St. John's Ecclesiastical District Ward 2, Recognition in the St. John's Municipal Plan, St. John's Municipal Plan Amendment No. 29, 2005 CD R2005-04-26/11

### **Character-Defining Elements**

All those elements that relate to the variety and the uses of formal architectural styles and designs often typical of each denomination, including but not limited to:

- Gothic Revival, Classic, Romanesque, Second Empire and Georgian masonry buildings;
- high quality of craftsmanship;
- the uses of architectural features typically found on specific architectural styles such as arched window and door openings on the Gothic Revival Anglican Cathedral and the Latin cross layout of the Romanesque Catholic Basilica;
- use of symbols and inscribed identifications such as those found on the BIS (Benevolent Irish Society) building in the forms of carved stonework and statuary on the exterior façade of the building;
- decorative elements which reflect the grandness of the buildings, including stained glass windows, towers, spires, belfries, the Basilica Arch and grand entryways with generous open green space;
- dominating nature of spires in an area where they stand out among primarily low buildings;
- various roof shapes, windows and door openings, massing, size and orientation.

All those elements that relate to the predominant use of high quality, durable materials, and to the variety of these materials, including:

- use of locally quarried granite and bluestone incorporated into masonry buildings;
- use of imported stone incorporated into masonry buildings;
- use of slate and other durable materials.

All those elements that relate to the physical location of the district, including:

- prominent location on a hill/ slope making it visible and symbolic;
- existing major views to and from the district;
- informal organic layout and the ability to read the natural land use patterns and circulation routes;
- relationship of major religious institutional buildings to their immediate setting and surroundings;
- inter-relationship of buildings and denominational clusters, such as the Roman Catholic cluster of its convent, monastery, church and school.

All unique and special elements that define the district's long and religious/educational history, including:

- formal landscape elements such as walls, fencing, statuary, grave markers, Basilica Arch and monuments;
- the interrelationship between buildings, such as the nearness of the Presentation Convent, the Basilica, the Monastery and St. Bon's School, and the ability to access each by footpaths marked out for more than 175 years, and through back doors and alleyways;
- non-formal and traditional treed footpaths and monuments, including unmarked trails through cemeteries;
- openness of landscape.

All those elements that reflect the continuing uses of the district, including:

- religious, educational and community uses for cultural purposes.



## SOS 12: HISTORIC DISTRICT OF MONTRÉAL

### Description of Historic Place

The historic district of Montréal, which was officially designated in 1964 and enlarged in 1995, stands on an urban site that covers approximately 1 400 metres from east to west and 800 metres from north to south. The district includes the old fortified city, some land from the old faubourgs, the Pointe à Callière sector, and the Old Port. The area is bounded by Saint-Antoine street to the north, the St. Lawrence River to the south, the Faubourg Québec with Saint-Hubert and Saint-André streets to the east, and the Faubourg des Récollets with McGill, Longueuil, and Soeurs-Grises streets to the west.

The district is located in the southern part of the Island of Montréal, downstream from the Lachine Rapids. The landscape features an elevated terrace along the river, with Saint-Louis hill in the background. More or less rectangular in shape, the system forms a network of narrow streets, with broader thoroughfares framing the public squares.

Characteristic features include the dense urban network, the imposing dimensions of the buildings, and the multifunctional nature of the area. There are 557 buildings and vestigial remains, constructed at various periods between the seventeenth and twentieth centuries. Warehouses, religious buildings, office buildings, banks, company headquarters, courthouses, and other institutional buildings form a diverse architectural landscape, unified by the omnipresent grey limestone.

The district includes many properties classified as cultural or recognized, with a number of archaeological sites that bear witness to successive occupation by Amerindians, Europeans, and Québécois.

### Heritage Value

The heritage value of this district reflects its historical importance. The cradle of Québec's economic and cultural metropolis, the site has a remarkable density of historic buildings due to its successive renewals, traces of which remain. Inhabited by Amerindians since prehistoric times, Montréal was founded in 1642 by Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve (1612-1676). Initially a missionary settlement, the city soon became the bridgehead of the fur trade thanks to its fortunate geographic position. The political upheavals of the eighteenth century, the development of the city's port, the Industrial Revolution, and the great progress in transportation that occurred during the nineteenth century made Old Montréal the heart of Canada's industrial and financial capital and a showcase for Canadian capitalism. The decline of Old Montréal began around the turn of the twentieth century and accelerated after World War II. The residential function, virtually abandoned for many years, is now attracting new attention. Over the years, concerted urban development has made this part of the city a magnet for cultural and social activities, as well as tourism.

The heritage value of the district also reflects the texture of the urban fabric and the way it was subdivided. The site retains its distinctive seventeenth- and eighteenth-century features, notably the remnants of the fortified colonial town, despite the many changes in the built environment. There were three major stages in its development. Sulpician Superior François Dollier de Casson (1636-1701) laid out the first streets in 1672 with notary and surveyor Bénigne Basset Des Lauriers (c. 1639-1699). The

territory was originally organized around three streets parallel to the river and seven perpendicular streets that formed a rough rectangle. The intendants' plans laid the foundation for how the street related to the buildings, determining how construction would be aligned. The commissioners' plan, which dates from 1804, left its mark by developing the riverside terrace, enlarging Champ-de-Mars, and creating wider thoroughfares. All in all, the district serves as a fine example of a well-preserved urban system.

The heritage value of the district is also based on its interesting architecture. The buildings, some of which were built as long ago as the seventeenth century, illustrate various functions and mutations. The most ancient buildings – homes and convents dating from the era of New France — feature stone masonry and gabled roofs. The many classically inspired buildings from the English Regime were constructed of grey limestone. The eclectic architecture of the nineteenth century can be seen in office buildings, banks, insurance company headquarters, and courthouses. The district also includes several interesting twentieth-century buildings, notably in the Art Deco style, that are both rationalist and functionalist.

The heritage value of the district is further reflected in its archaeological richness. The situation and topography of the site have attracted many settlers over the past 3 000 years, and the archaeology gives us a good idea of the ancient landscapes and how much the district has changed. The vestiges of the Amerindians show their interest in hunting and fishing, and the fact that the site was used for commercial events as far back as prehistoric times. From the remnants of European and Québécois settlements we can trace the district's commercial, religious, military, institutional, domestic, artisanal, and agricultural occupations since the seventeenth century.

Source: Québec Ministry of Culture and Communications, 2004.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

The key elements of the district in terms of historic and archaeological value include the following:

- the district's strategic location in the city of Montréal in a quadrilateral that includes the old fortified city, the Pointe à Callière sector, and the Old Port, along the St. Lawrence River downstream from the Lachine Rapids;
- the archaeological richness of the site, with traces of 3 000 years of human habitation, giving us a good idea of how the landscape looked in times past and how much the district has changed;
- the intact portions, which hold such great archaeological potential;
- the major urban functions represented in the district (residential, commercial, religious, military, institutional, industrial, domestic, artisanal, and agricultural).

The key elements of the district in terms of the urban fabric and how it was subdivided include the following:

- the network of roadways, forming a rough rectangle;
- the narrow public streets that run parallel or perpendicular to the river, as laid out by Dollier de Casson;
- the three major arteries (de la Commune, Saint-Antoine, and McGill streets) that mark the borders of the district to the south, north, and west, as detailed in the commissioners' plan;
- the alignment of the buildings in relation to the public thoroughfares;

- the high density of ground-level occupation;
- the party walls between buildings;
- the yards or small interior courtyards in certain sectors;
- the way in which certain administrative and public buildings are set back from the street;
- the relationship between land and street, as exemplified by the presence of stairways, portes cochères, railings, rights of way, and multiple entrances – one on each façade giving onto the street;
- the “places” dating from the French Regime, which became the public squares of the nineteenth century and in some cases were again reconfigured in the twentieth century.

The key elements of the district in terms of architectural value include the following:

- the rich and diversified architectural corpus linked to different construction periods, from the French Regime to the twentieth century;
- the broad range of building sizes and especially heights;
- the use of traditional materials, with grey limestone predominating until 1850, followed by various types of stone;
- the presence of buildings from the French Regime, generally low structures with one or two storeys, with double-sided or gently sloping roofs, rough fieldstone walls, chimneys extending from gable walls, firewalls, and wood-framed casement windows with small panes;
- the high proportion of classically inspired buildings dating from the English Regime, typically featuring freestone construction, symmetrical façades, and echoes of the classical orders (Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian), pediments, and corner wall ties;
- the imprint of eclectic nineteenth-century architecture, notably seen in commercial, industrial, institutional, and office buildings, with their recognizable mixed structure of wood, cast iron, and stone, large bay windows, flat roofs, thick highly decorated cornices, and the use of red brick;
- several twentieth-century buildings, notably in the Art Deco style, that are both rationalist and functionalist;
- the rich ornamentation and sculpture associated with prestigious buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.



## SOS 13: HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT I, TRURO, NOVA SCOTIA

### Description of Historic Place

Heritage Conservation District I consists of a neighbourhood of 34 Late-Victorian-style residences built between 1871 and 1938, located on Muir, Faulkner, Pleasant and Victoria Streets in the urban core of Truro, Nova Scotia. The Heritage Conservation District recognition includes all of the specified buildings and the properties on which they are situated. Four of the properties within the District are individually designated historic sites.

### Heritage Value

Heritage Conservation District I is valued as a representation of late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century Truro during its period of rapid growth as a railway and industrial centre. The District consists of residential buildings that were originally homes for railway workers, merchants and tradespeople. It preserves the historic street plan that was developed as the large properties in the centre of the town were divided into smaller lots in order to accommodate the need for housing near the railway yards. In many ways, the evolution of the District through the years and the history of the people who lived here mirror the evolution of the town and its economy.

The District is also valued as one of the best preserved 19<sup>th</sup>-century residential neighbourhoods in Nova Scotia. Built between 1871 and 1938, the homes display a wide variety of Late-Victorian architectural styles, while still maintaining a high degree of consistency in terms of scale, placement, materials and use. This consistency is evident in the later buildings in the District, as they were constructed to be in harmony with the older buildings.

Source: Planning Department, Town of Truro, file 10MNS0048

### Character-Defining Elements

Character Defining Elements of Truro's Heritage District I consist of a variety of elements that are important in the preserving the District's heritage value and include:

- historic street plan of the area;
- narrow street widths on Muir, Faulkner and the intersecting Arlington Streets;
- late Victorian residential buildings of 1½ and 2 storeys each, constructed of similar materials, scale, placement relative to the street, and architectural detail;
- distinctive street signs demarcating the District;
- all buildings compliant with the town's Heritage Conservation District Plan and By-Law.



## SOS 14: NEGRYCH HOMESTEAD

### Description of Historic Place

The secluded Negrych Homestead, developed between 1897 and 1910, sits on the northeast bank of the meandering Drifting River midway between Riding Mountain National Park and Duck Mountain Provincial Park. The farmstead is traversed by a trail long-used by Native peoples and subsequently by the area's Ukrainian settlers. The provincial recognition applies to the site's surviving 10 log structures, a small orchard and the large parcel of land they occupy.

### Heritage Value

The impressive Negrych Homestead, comprised of the family home, bunkhouse, barns, granaries and surrounding buildings, encompasses the most complete and well-preserved set of pioneer-era Ukrainian farm structures in Canada. It also contains the oldest known residence built in the Ukrainian vernacular tradition in Manitoba. Constructed almost exclusively of natural materials, the isolated homestead illustrates mixed traditions from several areas of Ukraine through features such as its loose grouping of buildings, traditional three-room house, mud plaster walls and examples of indigenous craftsmanship and design. The 1908 bunkhouse possesses the only known Manitoba example of a traditional Eastern European-style roof, as well as a rare example of a clay bake-oven or 'peech', distinctive of virtually all early Ukrainian homes. As well, a small orchard still supports a variety of fruit and herb plantings that vividly contribute to the knowledge of Ukrainian food culture. Run according to traditional practice and never introduced to modernization, the homestead was continuously occupied by Negrych family members until 1990, and since 1991 has been restored by local volunteers as a museum depicting the Ukrainian pioneer experience in Manitoba.

Source: Manitoba Heritage Council Minute, May 23, 1987

### Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Negrych Homestead site include:

- its placement beside the Drifting River within a mix of treed areas and clearings on the inside corner of a quarter section of land, accessed by a narrow trail, 21 kilometres northeast of Gilbert Plains;
- the loose organization of the farmstead, with buildings situated on both sides of the Drifting River Colonization Trail, including barns placed near the river;
- the orchard, completely enclosed by a rail fence, on a gentle south-facing slope;

Key elements that define the Ukrainian vernacular tradition of the site's pioneer-era buildings and equipment include:

- the structures' simple rectangular plans and box-like forms, most with medium-pitched gable roofs and distinctive proportions and fenestration, including single doors and small rectangular-shaped windows;
- the honest expression of materials, including the walls' uneven hand-hewn spruce and tamarack round logs with projecting saddle-notched corners, structural members such as the poles used for rafters,

coarsely cut boards, long vertical shingles in the gable ends, roofs with exposed eaves, simple joinery, etc.;

- the handmade clay, straw and animal dung plaster, used for chinking and finishes on some exterior and interior walls;
- the ingeniously handcrafted wooden door hinges, fastenings and locks, and handmade tools such as a scythe, flail and pounding tools.

Key elements that define the heritage character of the house, the focal point of the farmstead, include:

- the dwelling's orientation toward the south with front and east-end plastered walls;
- distinguishing exterior elements such as the long Carpathian-type shingles in the gable ends;
- the three-room plan with a central kitchen, small west room and large east bed-sitting room with a trap door to a root cellar;
- the interior finishes and materials, such as the exposed ceiling beams, white plaster walls and wooden floors;
- essential furnishings such as the iron cookstove (kitchen) and cast-iron stove (sitting room), an iron bed, rocking chair and extension table, the traditional east holy wall with three religious pictures, etc.

Key elements that define the heritage character of the 1908 bunkhouse include:

- the structure's traditional Eastern European-style roof, characterized by hand-split, metre-long wooden shingles designed to allow smoke to filter through in place of a chimney;
- the east-side porch/shelter, constructed from long vertical boards that lean from the ground up to the overhanging gable;
- the one large room with a floor of impacted clay;
- the furnishings, including the massive wood-and-clay bake-oven vented sideways through the porch, the handmade wooden bed, etc.

Key elements that define the heritage character of the well-built barns include:

- the structures' basic shelter requirements, including tightly fitted log walls, roughly constructed main-floor stalls, generous upper-level loft spaces, etc.
- the 1908 connected barn, two buildings simply joined by the extension of one's roof, with a common space for hay;
- the wooden door and hinge construction with pole edges that pivot in wooden sockets.



## SOS 15: EXCHANGE DISTRICT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

### Description of Historic Place

The Exchange District is a densely built, turn-of-the-century warehousing and business centre of some 150 buildings covering 20 city blocks. Most of the district was constructed from about 1880 to 1913, using the most up-to-date construction methods and architectural styles. The intact nature of its densely built grid plan with its many compact, masonry structures of limited height, the intensive occupation of the urban lots, and the use of relatively sophisticated turn-of-the-century architectural styles, gives this district a distinct identity within the surrounding city. The recognition refers to the contributing buildings and landscape within the district boundaries.

### Heritage Value

The Exchange District NHSC was designated because:

- it illustrates the city's key role as a centre of the grain and wholesale trade, finance and manufacturing in the historically important period in western development - between 1880 and 1913, the period during which Winnipeg grew to become the gateway to Canada's West and the region's metropolis;
- the district, which has clear boundaries and largely excludes post-1913 structures, contains a range of architecturally significant built resources which speak to the city's key economic role in the West and the collective character of these built resources is distinct and relatively intact.

The heritage value, as defined by the above reasons for recognition, resides in the district's illustration of a densely built, turn-of-the-century warehousing and business centre utilizing contemporary construction methods and architectural styles.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Minutes, September 1997; Commemorative Integrity Statement

### Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that contribute to the heritage value of this site include:

- relatively dense urban form based on the long lot system extending out from the Red River;
- intensive occupation of building lots with buildings constructed up to the sidewalks and corners;
- contiguous nature of buildings;
- the compact massing of most buildings (3 - 7 storeys high except for skyscrapers along main street);
- functional building types associated with warehousing, financing, the grain trade and manufacturing;
- popular turn-of-the-century architectural styles including the Richardsonian Romanesque, Italianate, Beaux-Arts, and the Chicago School style;
- predominance of elaborate cornices capping main facades, original windows and loading bays;
- advanced construction methods including steel frame and early fire-proofing materials;

- masonry construction materials, including local building materials such as buff brick and Tyndall limestone in addition to imported material such as terra cotta, red brick, granite and sandstone;
- lot sizes and configuration often dictating buildings oriented to more than one street.



## SOS 16: FORT YORK HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Description of Historic Place

Established in 1793 with the founding of York (Toronto), Fort York Heritage Conservation District (the Fort) is a large cultural landscape. It is located in downtown Toronto and is comprised of a perimeter system of early-19<sup>th</sup>-century military defences, a number of historic military structures and buildings, and open space outside of the Fort walls formerly comprising a portion of the garrison common reserve and fields of fire (glacis). Sited on a strategic triangle of land originally hemmed in by Lake Ontario to the south and Garrison Creek on the east and north, the modern landscape has changed radically since the Fort's founding.

Toronto City Council listed Fort York on the inaugural City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties in June 1973, and in 1985 the entire Fort York precinct was designated as a heritage conservation district. The district boundaries were expanded in 2004 to include more of the surrounding landscape and the Fort York Armoury, located outside the Fort walls. The district is bounded to the north by the Canadian National Railway lines, to the east by Bathurst Street, to the south by Fort York Boulevard and Fleet Street and to the west by Strachan Avenue, although portions of the district extend past Strachan Avenue and Bathurst Street on the east and west.

The district, together with the nearby Victoria Memorial Park, has also been recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as a National Historic Site.

Historic Fort York is owned and operated as a museum by the City of Toronto.

### Heritage Value

Fort York Heritage Conservation District (the Fort) is of heritage value due to its association with many local, national and international events, including the birth of Toronto, which occurred when York was designated as the provincial capital and a garrison was established at the present site of the Fort.

It was the most important military and harbour defence in the Toronto area for over 90 years, and is associated with the Old Northwest Frontier Crisis (1787-96) and the Mississauga Crisis (1796-8). The Fort was the site of two major military actions during the war of 1812 and is of international significance as a relatively undisturbed historic battlefield and cemetery. The destruction of Government House, built at the Fort as the centre of executive authority in the province, and the sacking of York led to the retaliatory raid on Washington, the sacking of the U.S. Capital and the burning of the Whitehouse.

The Fort is associated with a number of significant historical organizations and persons from this period, including the Queens Rangers (constructed Fort), Lt. Governor John Graves Simcoe (founded York, built Fort), Elizabeth Simcoe, Major General Isaac Brock (improved fortifications), American Brigadier General Zebulon Pike (killed at Battle of York), Col Roger Sheaffe (commander of Fort at Battle of York), Bishop John Strachan and the British military engineer Lt. Colonel Ralph Bruyeres (rebuilt Fort).

In the years that followed, the Fort was strengthened at times of crisis, such as in 1838 following the civil

unrest, during the Fenian Raids and during the Anglo-American tensions of the 1860s. In later years, it was an enlistment site for recruits during the Boer War and WWI. The architecturally significant Fort York Armoury, built outside the Fort walls by Marani, Lawson & Morris in 1933, is associated with several Canadian military regiments who saw active service during 20th century conflicts, including the Queens York Rangers, the Toronto Scottish Regiment and the Royal Regiment of Canada.

Beyond its military significance the Fort is of value due to its association with the development of Toronto. The presence of the Garrison at the Fort in the 19th century played a significant economic and cultural role in the City and, due in part to its location, the Fort had a significant effect on the coming of the railways in the 1850s, lake-filling, and on the nature and location of industry and waterfront development. In the 1930s, it became the site of a government sponsored make work capital project typical in Canada during the Great Depression.

The Fort is also of value because of its association with the beginnings of the preservation movement in Toronto and beyond. In 1889 the City requested that the federal government convey to it the Old Fort so that it might be preserved and maintained on account of its association with the City's early history. In 1907 local heritage associations and citizen groups fought to prevent the construction of streetcar lines through the Fort. The Fort was transferred to the City in 1909 and became the only major urban fortification in Canada to be transferred to a municipality. It was restored (1932/34) as the city's bicentennial project, opening in 1934 as the earliest municipally operated military heritage attraction in Canada. In 1959 the Fort was saved from destruction when the Gardiner Expressway was re-routed, in the process becoming a rallying point for the preservation movement and an impetus for the founding of the Toronto Historical Board. Numerous heritage organizations and advocates have been affiliated with the Fort, now the oldest surviving collection of buildings in the City, and it possesses a symbolic position in the history of preservation and history of museums in Ontario and Canada.

Sources: City of Toronto Fort York HCD Study Report; By-laws 420-85/541-2004

### **Character-Defining Elements**

Key elements of the Fort York Heritage Conservation District that reflect its heritage values include:

- its setting, adjacent to Garrison Creek and the former shoreline of Lake Ontario;
- its continued contextual relationship with the City's changing urban landscape;
- the open space and landscape elements inside and outside the walls of the Fort, including the earthwork defences;
- the topography, including remnants of the Garrison Creek Ravine system;
- associated archaeological resources inside and outside of the fort walls;
- the early 18th century military buildings with the walls of the Fort, which include Block House No. 1 (1813), Block House No. 2 (1813), the East Magazine (1814), the Stone Powder Magazine (1815), the Blue Barracks (1814); reconstructed in 1932 and 2000), the Brick Officers' Quarters and Mess Establishment (1815), the North Soldiers' Barracks (1814) and the South Soldiers' Barracks (1814);
- the stone walls, built during the Fort's reconstruction in 1932-34;
- the Garrison Road;
- the Strachan Avenue Military Cemetery;
- the Fort York Armoury (1933).

# GUIDELINES FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND PLACES WITH AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMPONENT

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background**

Archaeological sites and historic places with archaeological components have specific characteristics and conservation needs that should be addressed in a Statement of Significance (SOS) for the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP). In contrast to other types of places, such as historic buildings and districts, the extent, contents and structure of an archaeological site may not be completely known at the time of formal recognition. Further investigations, perhaps years or decades in the future, will be needed to determine the full meaning and value of the place. In the meantime, however, sufficient research already exists to make a jurisdiction confident that the site has significance and that it is very likely to reveal important information when further studies are completed.

### **Purpose of the Guidelines**

These guidelines cover the writing of SOSs about historic places that are primarily of significance due to their archaeological significance and places where an archaeological component comprises part of the significant place.

The archaeology guidelines are a supplement to the document [Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines](#). The archaeology guidelines should be particularly helpful for non-archaeologists who are writing SOSs using scientific archaeological studies as primary documents.

### **Contents of the Guidelines**

The *Writing Statements of Significance: Guidelines for Archaeological Sites and Places with an Archaeological Component* provides best practices on how to integrate the specific requirements of archaeological sites into the general guidelines for writing SOSs for historic places to be nominated to the CRHP. The archaeology guidelines cover the following topics:

- Understanding Archaeology
- Description of Historic Place for Archaeology
- Heritage Value for Archaeology
- Character-defining Elements for Archaeology

## UNDERSTANDING ARCHAEOLOGY

### **What is a Historic Place?**

For the purposes of the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP), a historic place is any structure, building, group of buildings, district, landscape, archaeological site or other place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value. Formal recognition of heritage value is provided by local, provincial, territorial and federal authorities. For further information about Historic Place for the purposes of the CRHP, see the document [Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines](#).

### **What is archaeology?**

The study of archaeology can be divided into groups of activities: identification, evaluation, documentation, analysis, conservation and excavation. Archaeology concerns both the sites themselves and the collections that are connected to them. Collections include artefacts and materials from the site, as well as written, visual or electronic documents that are collected or created by the archaeologist.

Examples of historic places of significance due to their archaeological value include fur trading posts, precontact villages, shipwrecks, fortresses, industrial works, and spiritual sites. Writing a Statement of Significance (SOS) that can accurately communicate the significance of such disparate places while also indicating that the places have scientific archaeological value requires an understanding of the discipline, as well as the place.

Archaeology has a rich history as a scientific and cultural discipline. Each Canadian jurisdiction has devised its own definition of “archaeology” to reflect its particular geographical, legal and social situation, and to describe the various types of resources and cultural realities that its archaeologists encounter. Common to all understandings of the meaning of archaeology, however, is the presence of human activity or traces of human activity or occupation on a physical site. Accordingly, the definition that has been adopted by a national working group for the Historic Places Initiative (HPI) is:

*An archaeological site refers to physical evidence of past human activity found in a specific location on or below the ground, or under water.*

The definition is necessarily broad to take into account the wide range of places that are formally recognized as archaeological sites or as places with archaeological components. Common terms used to describe places with archaeological significance include:

- archaeological remains
- vestiges
- ruins
- archaeological site
- underwater site
- shipwreck.

Some archaeological sites may include human remains. Each jurisdiction has its own laws and protocols for handling the disposition of human remains and for assigning scientific value to them. In writing SOSs about archaeological sites containing human remains, the writer should consult with the federal, provincial or territorial registrar to confirm whether it is appropriate to make reference to human remains.

Archaeology demands an examination of *in situ* resources. Depending on the site's condition, the availability of funding and the complexity of the site, an archaeological investigation may take years to complete by one or more lead archaeologists. When a formal recognition of the significance of an archaeological site occurs in the middle of an investigation, an archaeologist must choose boundaries based on the evidence that they have gathered to date.

### **Terminology**

As a science, archaeology uses many technical terms to describe techniques and findings. If the writer of a SOS needs to include scientific terms in any part of the SOS, the writer should ensure that the meaning of the term is clear to non-expert readers.

In addition to scientific terminology, the writer of a SOS is likely to encounter general terms that have specific meanings in the field of archaeology and have implications in terms of describing what is recognized as being of heritage value and why it is recognized.

#### *Potential*

Officially recognized historic places of archaeological significance include sites considered to have “potential” value. “Potential” means:

- archaeological resources are known to exist but have not yet been fully investigated
- archaeological resources have not yet been located but are believed to exist based on sound evidence and judgement.

#### *Scientific Value*

The scientific value of a site refers to the contribution that the site has made, or can make to knowledge about past human lifeways, the field of archaeology or other disciplines. It may result from the site's integrity, uniqueness, complexity, representativeness or state of preservation. It can also include potential resources.

#### *Collections*

In archaeology, collections can consist of objects, records and documents. An object can be an artefact, a sample or any other material of archaeological interest. A document refers to a written, graphic, visual or electronic document that has been created or collected and is related to archaeological activities such as identification, evaluation, documentation, analysis, conservation and excavation.

#### *Sacred Sites*

Sacred sites are sites with spiritual value for existing communities. They may include burial sites, cemeteries, medicine wheels, rock art, monuments and traditional meeting grounds.

#### *Archaeological Context*

Archaeological context refers to the physical setting and location of an archaeological site and the spatial relationships of archaeological resources (i.e. traces of human activity, features, objects, samples, etc.) within the site. Spatial relationships are those not only between archaeological resources but also those relationships between archaeological resources and their surrounding natural environment. In this light, there may well be instances where remains not directly associated with the heritage value of a site are integral to the understanding of those resources that have heritage value. Without the context, meaning would be lost and therefore the heritage value of the site would be compromised.

## **Defining Boundaries**

One of the challenges faced by archaeologists is the determination of the physical boundaries of a significant site. In some cases, the boundaries are predetermined by disturbances such as modern roads and buildings. More often, the boundaries are unknown at the beginning of the investigation. Due to the destructive nature of many types of archaeological investigations, however, archaeologists may purposely choose to limit their work to leave parts of a site intact for investigations in the future. As a consequence, they often rely on scholarship and judgement to define the boundaries for the purposes of official recognition and the writing of SOSs.

## WRITING A SOS FOR THE CRHP FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

### **Description of Historic Place for Archaeology**

#### **What is the purpose of the Description of Historic Place**

The Description of Historic Place is a brief description of what has been recognized by a jurisdictional authority. It identifies the principal resources of a place and paints a picture of its overall character. It provides the reader with an introduction to the place.

The Description of Historic Place should answer the question: What has been formally recognized?

For further information about the Description of Historic Place for the purposes of the Canadian Register of Historic Places (CRHP), see the document [Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines](#).

#### **Writing the Description of Historic Place Section for Archaeological Sites**

The Description of Historic Place for an historic place that is primarily of interest due to archaeology should include the following information:

- the name(s) of the site
- its location
- temporal context
- cultural affiliation
- dates
- cultural period
- topographic features that are relevant to the site's heritage value
- its scale, boundaries
- potential or known resources that are of primary importance to the site's heritage value
- its stratigraphy

The location of the site should be described as specifically as the jurisdiction allows. Any special restrictions concerning access to the site should be mentioned in this section.

Dates are a specific concern for this section of a Statement of Significance (SOS) The description of historic place should include all significant dates for the site to support full-text searches.

The boundaries of the historic place may enclose areas that may have archaeological potential but are not yet investigated, if these areas are included in the formal recognition.

When archaeology is only a part of the heritage value of the historic place, the description of historic place section should include a description of the main archaeological resources and the cultural periods associated with them.

#### **Examples of Description of Historic Place:**



[Boishébert National Historic Site of Canada](#), New Brunswick. For full text see SOS 20, p. 68.



[Lawson Site](#), London, Ontario. For full text see SOS 22, p. 77.



[Chimney Coulee Provincial Historic Site](#), Saskatchewan. For full text see SOS 17, p. 68.

## Heritage Value for Archaeology

### What is the purpose of the Heritage Value Section?

The Heritage Value section of the SOS seeks to identify what matters and why. It explains why a historic place is significant or important to the community that formally recognized it. Naming the heritage values of a place makes it possible to identify the character-defining elements that express its values. It helps determine what aspects of the place need to be conserved and why.

The Heritage Value section should answer the question: Why is this historic place considered to be important?

For further information about determining heritage values and writing the Heritage Value section of a SOS see the document [Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines](#).

### What is Heritage Value for Archaeological Sites?

Historic places of archaeological significance have heritage values that fall within the same categories as other historic places. The heritage values assigned to an archaeological site may change over time or vary according to the communities that frame them. A source document for heritage value may be a formal recognition report, the minutes of the evaluation meeting, a designation by-law, an existing statement of significance, a heritage character statement, or a commemorative integrity statement.

The determination of heritage value for archaeological sites may be based on formal recognition documents or on the studies that were used to identify and select the site for recognition. When available, oral traditions can help define heritage value.

The value of archaeological components of other types of sites, such as historic buildings or landscapes, should only be described if the archaeological components contribute directly to the heritage value of the larger historic place.

### Writing the Heritage Value Section for Archaeological Sites

The core of the heritage value section of the SOS is a brief explanation to describe two related issues:

- How evidence led to the identification of an archaeological site of significance
- The reasons why the evidence has led to the selection of the site as a recognized historic place.

As with other types of sites, the heritage value for archaeological sites can be grouped into the following types of heritage value:

- Scientific value

- Historical or cultural value
- Aesthetic value
- Social value
- Spiritual value

*Scientific value* refers to the capacity of a historic place to provide evidence that can advance our understanding and appreciation of a culture. The evidence is found in the form, materials, design and/or experience of the place. Scientific value can derive from various factors, such as age, quality, completeness, complexity or rarity. Scientific value may also be present when the place itself supplements other types of evidence such as written sources.

*Historical or cultural value* refers to the association that a place has with past events and historical themes, as well as its capacity to evoke a way of life or a memory of the past. A pre-contact archaeological site can have historical or cultural value, especially if it provides evidence about specific events or practices that help build understanding of day-to-day lives in communities that are otherwise absent from historic records. Places with historical or cultural value often have a high symbolic value to a community or group and can function as community landmarks or traditional gathering places. Places with historical or cultural value can also be associated with oral history and legends.

*Aesthetic value* refers to feelings related to the senses – seeing, hearing, touching, smelling and tasting. For archaeological sites, a visual aesthetic value may be present in materials, forms, textures and colour, or in the relationship between human-made artefacts and natural surroundings. It is possible for archaeological sites to have other aesthetic values as well, especially auditory ones. Aesthetic value is generally understood from the perspective of the present, unless documentation or experience provides good evidence that the value was shared by the culture or community that created the place.

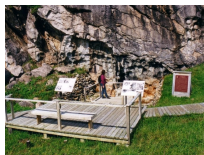
*Social value* considers the meanings attached to a place by a community in the present time. Social value may be ascribed to places that perform a key role within communities, support community activities or traditions, or contribute to the community's sense of identity. Places with social value include places that bring the community together and create a sense of shared identity and belonging.

*Spiritual value* is ascribed to places with religious or spiritual meanings for a community or a group of people and is often integral to particular belief systems of a community or group of people. Historic places of spiritual value include places of mythological significance, landscape features associated with myth and legends, burial sites, churches, rock cairns and alignments, fasting/vision quest sites etc. As much as possible, the writer of the SOS should use language to describe spiritual value that corresponds to the language used by any contemporary communities that value the site today. The writer should also respect a community's decision to eliminate references to the spiritual value of a historic place.

#### **Examples of Heritage Value sections:**



[Arrondissement historique de Québec](#). For full text see SOS 21, p. 74.



[\*Fleur de Lys Dorset Soapstone Quarry\*](#), Newfoundland and Labrador. For full text see SOS 18, p. 69.



[\*Lawson Site\*](#), London, Ontario. For full text see SOS 22, p. 77.

## Character-Defining Elements for Archaeology

### What is the purpose of the CDE section?

Character-defining elements are the tangible or intangible features that embody the heritage values assigned to a historic place. They express heritage values.

The Historic Places Initiative (HPI) defines character-defining elements as: the materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the heritage value of a historic place, which must be retained in order to preserve its heritage value. Character-defining elements include both tangible features (materials, forms, location and spatial configurations) and intangible features (uses and cultural associations or meanings).

For further information about character-defining elements and writing the Character-defining Elements section of a SOS see the document [\*Writing Statements of Significance: General Guidelines\*](#).

### Writing the Character-Defining Elements section for Archaeological Sites

For all historic places, including those of archaeological significance, character-defining elements must stem from the heritage values defined for the site and be directly related to them. If an element is not related to the heritage values assigned to the site, it cannot be considered a character-defining element.

In determining which elements are “character-defining” for archaeological sites, special consideration should be given to:

- Scientific information as contained in on- or off-site collections that are directly associated with a site
- Information, including documentation and collections, that result from full or partial excavations of the site
- Connections between past and present-day communities and cultures associated with the site, including oral traditions and oral history
- The environmental context of the site, even if the context is under threat of destruction or change
- The layout and setting of the site.

In the case of historic places with an archaeological component, writers should focus on those characteristics that they feel are most critical for the preservation of the heritage value of the historic place as a whole. Archaeological components should never be considered in isolation, but always from the perspective of the broader historic place where they are located.

**Examples of Character-defining Elements sections:**



[Grand-Pré National Historic Site of Canada](#), Nova Scotia. For full text see SOS 19, p. 71.



[Fleur de Lys Dorset Soapstone Quarry](#), Newfoundland and Labrador. For full text see SOS 18, p. 69.



[Chimney Coulee Provincial Historic Site](#), Saskatchewan. For full text see SOS 17, p. 68.



## SOS 17: CHIMNEY COULEE PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE

### Description of Historic Place

The Chimney Coulee Provincial Historic Site comprises 2.46 hectares of land in Eastend Coulee about six kilometres north of the Town of Eastend. The site contains archaeological remains of a precontact campsite, a Métis hivernant (wintering) village, a Hudson's Bay Company trading post, and a North-West Mounted Police post.

### Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Chimney Coulee Provincial Historic Site resides in its association with several important Western Canadian historic themes. Buried deposits of butchered bone and stone tools attest to precontact use of the site. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, particularly during the 1870s, the coulee was a wintering site for Métis bison hunters. With the disappearance of bison from the area, it is believed that the Métis had largely abandoned Chimney Coulee by about 1880.

Chimney Coulee is also associated with the fur trade. Over the winter of 1871-1872, Isaac Cowie operated a Hudson's Bay Company post in the coulee with the ultimately unsuccessful goal of furthering trade with the Blackfoot (NIITSITAPII). Immediately following Cowie's abandonment of the post in the spring, a party of Blackfoot ambushed and killed nine Nakota (Assinboin) at the site.

The site also reflects the Canadian government's efforts to consolidate its authority in the North-West Territories. The "East End" North-West Mounted Police post was established in the coulee in 1876 as a way station between the Fort Walsh and Wood Mountain police detachments. It later had an important role monitoring Sitting Bull (Ta-tanka Yotanka) and the Lakota Sioux who had fled the United States following their victory at the Battle of Greasy Grass/Little Big Horn. The post operated intermittently until being permanently closed ca. 1887.

Source: Province of Saskatchewan, Order in Council 870/86, August 21, 1986.

### Character-Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Chimney Coulee Provincial Historic Site resides in the following character-defining elements:

- the site in its defined boundaries in the natural setting of the coulee;
- those elements shown by archaeological excavation to be related to Isaac Cowie's trading post, including artifacts, remains of the post's foundation and other structural components;
- any other, yet-to-be identified structural features or artifacts related to the Hudson's Bay Company occupation, or any elements deriving from First Nations, Métis and North-West Mounted Police use of the site, such as man-made pits and depressions, mounds, hearths, trail remnants, construction features, and artifacts, especially remains in their original location and context.



## SOS 18: FLEUR DE LYS DORSET SOAPSTONE QUARRY

### Description of Historic Place

The Fleur de Lys Soapstone Quarry, Borden number EaBa-01, is the site of a Dorset Paleo-Eskimo quarry, the oldest known mine on the Baie Verte peninsula. The Dorset people mined the soapstone quarry over 1600 years BP (before present). The site consists of an extensive series of heavily-worked soapstone outcrops which bear the scars of several hundred years of Dorset quarrying activities for the production of soapstone vessels. The recognition encompasses the entire area as defined by the boundaries.

### Heritage Value

The Fleur de Lys Soapstone Quarry has been designated a Registered Historic Site because it holds scientific value. This large and well-preserved prehistoric soapstone quarry is the only known Dorset quarry of its kind in Newfoundland and one of only a handful in the world. The site is located on a cliff face in Fleur de Lys, at the tip of the Baie Verte Peninsula in north central Newfoundland.

The Dorset Paleo-Eskimo were an arctic culture that lived approximately 4000 to 900 years ago. The term "Paleo-Eskimo" literally means "prehistoric Eskimo" and is used to distinguish these eastern arctic groups from modern Inuit, who are not their direct descendants. In Newfoundland and Labrador the Paleo-Eskimo period is subdivided into early (4000-2100 BP), and late (2100-500 BP). The Dorset people, who mined the Fleur de Lys site, were from the middle of the late period.

The Dorset Paleo-Eskimo utilized the generous soapstone outcrops found at Fleur de Lys for the purposes of manufacturing vessels and oil lamps from soapstone. There are approximately one thousand removal scars preserved in the main exposed soapstone outcrop. These carvings are testimony to the quarry's 500-year use, which began approximately 1600 years BP. The quarry provided soapstone, which is a soft rock easily worked into forms such as bowls, pipes or figurines, and which also holds heat well. The Fleur de Lys Soapstone Quarry is one of many natural soapstone outcrops which occur throughout the province. However, this particular site gives explicit evidence of prehistoric mining by more than one prehistoric group. Archaeological evidence suggests the Maritime Archaic peoples used it approximately 4000 years ago, while Middle Dorset Paleo-Eskimos used the soapstone approximately 1200-1800 years ago. The Middle Dorset have been directly associated with this quarry, as their finished vessels correspond in size with extraction scars on the quarry face. These scars enable archaeologists to reconstruct prehistoric quarrying behaviour.

Active archaeological fieldwork began at this site in 1997, though the area became one of interest as early as 1915. Work has been done at the site in the 1980s and 90s by a number of archaeologists and a visitor's centre and interpretive trails are there to inform visitors about the site's history. Evidence reveals Dorset lithic (stone) tools, including chert endblades (projectile points), quartz crystal microblades, chert endscrapes and flakes produced from modifying tools at the site. To date thousands of flakes, quarrying tools and vessel fragments have been recovered from the site. A rare organic, a finely-crafted wooden ladle, discovered in the 1997-98 field investigation, has been radiocarbon dated to an age of AD 435.

Source: the Newfoundland Gazette, Vol. 62, No. 34, Friday August 21, 1987, pp. 281-282, Newfoundland Regulation 145/87.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

All those elements that respect the archaeological site and artifacts, including:

- in-situ archaeological soapstone and organic remnants in their location, form and materials, as well as artifacts removed from any and all of these sites in an intact and documented state;
- those artifacts which are in storage;
- those artifacts which may be on display in the interpretation center.



## SOS 19: GRAND-PRÉ NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

### Description of Historic Place

Grand-Pré National Historic Site is a memorial park created to commemorate the deportation of the Acadians. It contains a memorial chapel, statuary within an ornamental garden as well as an Acadian blacksmith shop moved to the site. It is located at the former Acadian village of Grand-Pré, beside the upper Bay of Fundy, just north of Wolfville, Nova Scotia. The recognition refers to the park, its commemorative buildings and structures, as well as archaeological evidence of former Acadian presence at the site.

### Heritage Value

Grand-Pré was declared a National Historic Site to commemorate:

- the Deportation of the Acadians;
- Grand-Pré as a centre of Acadian activity from 1682-1755;
- the strong attachment that remains to this day among Acadians throughout the world to this area, the heart of their ancestral homeland and symbol of the ties which unite them.

The heritage value of Grand-Pré National Historic Site lies in the associations of the place with the history of the Acadian people and as a testament to its continuing value within the Acadian diaspora. This value is illustrated by the planned landscape, memorial architecture and art, and by physical evidence of early Acadian occupancy.

The idea of an Acadian memorial originated with John Frederic Herbin who purchased the land in 1907. In 1917, he sold the land to the Dominion Atlantic Railway, retaining a site for a memorial chapel. In 1922 the railway hired architect Percy Nobbs to design a memorial park and the Acadian Société Nationale l'Assomption hired architect René Frechet to construct a chapel to commemorate the original Acadian Église Saint-Charles. Sculptor Philippe Hébert produced a statue of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's Acadian heroine, Évangeline. In 1955, on the 200th Anniversary of Deportation of the Acadians, the site was declared a National Historic Site and acquired by Parks Canada in 1957.

Source: Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Minutes, June 1955, May 1958, June 1982; Commemorative Integrity Statement, May 1997

### Character-Defining Elements

As an associative landscape with both archaeological and memorial elements, key characteristics include:

- the location of the site on a slight rise of land;
- the planned landscape as a framing element for the memorial chapel, characterized by low hedges bordering the chapel, plantings arranged informally at the periphery of the site, lawns intersected by two main paths leading to the chapel and secondary winding paths;
- the Evangeline statue in its location, design and materials;

- the memorial chapel in its Québec revival style typified by its small scale, rectangular massing, stepped-down side porch and rear "sacristy", steeply pitched roof with spire set forward on the roof-ridge, oversize entry door with round-headed lunette under front gable, fieldstone exterior walls, open vaulted interior with Renaissance-revival style decoration and statue of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption, and even placement of round-headed windows on side elevations;
- archaeological evidence of Acadian life embedded in the site such as the foundations of the former Acadian church, homes, and their landscapes, evidence of early Acadian life and agricultural practices, the Acadian cemetery, and artifacts stored by Parks Canada;
- continuous botanical links with early Acadian occupation, and in particular the old French willows on the northern boundary of the site near the church;
- the blacksmith shop in its placement beyond the planned gardens, its simple massing and materials;
- viewplanes along the 4 km of the ridge that once made up the village of Grand-Pré to the Bay of Fundy and to surrounding agricultural land.



## SOS 20: BOISHÉBERT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

### Description of Historic Place

Boishébert National Historic Site of Canada is a wooded area with archaeological evidence of an 18th century Acadian refugee camp situated on Wilsons' Point and Beaubears Island at the confluence of the Southwest and Northwest Miramichi River in New Brunswick

### Heritage Value

Boishébert was designated a National Historic Site because:

- the Acadians, under the leadership of Charles Deschamps de Boishébert, had sought refuge on Wilsons' Point from 1756 to 1760, and that Beaubears Island was an integral, functional component of this settlement which importantly relates the significance of the Acadian experience.

The heritage value of Boishébert lies in the landscapes which include below-ground cultural resources of the settlement of refugee Acadians, historic viewplanes and a relatively undisturbed natural setting.

Source HSMBC Minute, November 2001.

### Character-Defining Elements

Elements which characterize the heritage value of this historic site include:

- the geographical location of Beaubears Island at the confluence of the Northwest and the Southwest Miramichi River, just downstream from Wilsons' Point;
- viewplanes between Wilsons' Point and Beaubears Island that are reminiscent of their shared history as an Acadian refuge and its supply and reconnaissance point;
- viewplanes from Beaubears Island downstream along the Miramichi River towards other areas of mid 18th century Acadian settlement speaking to the accessibility and security of this place as a point of refuge;
- the integrity of a pathway that pre-dates 1840, extending the length of Beaubears Island approximately in its centre;
- the location and rare surface traces of occupancy on the mid 18th century Acadian settlement site on Wilsons' Point (Enclosure Park) including remnants of a cemetery and church site, smaller cleared areas and pathways within the wooded cover on the eastern extremity of the Wilsons' Point opposite Beaubears Island;
- archaeological remains representing tangible evidence of the activities, lifestyle and material culture of Acadian settlers, notably the rectangular house site, and remains of a communal fire hearth;
- the relatively undisturbed terrain of the meadow and wooded point at Wilsons' Point;
- the relatively undisturbed biological diversity of the Island.



## SOS 21: ARRONDISSEMENT HISTORIQUE DE QUEBEC

### Description of Historic Place

The historic district of Québec City, which was officially designated in 1963 and enlarged in 1964, stands on an urban site that covers approximately 135 hectares. It comprises two distinct sections, the upper portion on the Cap Diamant promontory and the lower portion on a strip of land between the cliffs, the St. Charles River, and the St. Lawrence River, where the waters narrow. The district includes nearly 1400 buildings constructed since the seventeenth century, forming a diversified architectural landscape that evokes its primary functions: commercial, cultural, financial, institutional, military, religious, and residential. The district bears witness to four centuries of architecture, with some buildings in the French style, others that are Palladian and Neoclassical in spirit, and still others that reflect more eclectic influences.

The irregularly shaped perimeter of the historic district is bounded by the St. Lawrence River, Saint-André and Saint-Paul streets, the sectors where the Palais de l'intendant and the Ilot Fleurie are located, Saint-Vallier street east, the Plains of Abraham, and an imaginary line between the Parliament Buildings and the ramparts, extending to the cliffs and the river. The district, which is part of the municipal borough of La Cité, includes the fortified city in Upper Town, as well as certain segments of Lower Town, Cap-Blanc (to the west), and Saint-Roch (to the north). The district boasts several properties classified as cultural or recognized, as well as many recognized archaeological sites that bear witness to the presence of Amerindians, Europeans, and Québécois.

The historic district of Québec City has been designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

### Heritage Value

The heritage value of this district reflects its historical importance. The cradle of French civilization in North America, this urban site enjoys a remarkable density of historic landmarks and monuments. Inhabited by Amerindians for millennia, Québec City was founded in 1608 by the French explorer Samuel de Champlain (c. 1570-1635). It grew from a small trading post to become the capital of New France in 1663. After the conquest in 1759, it became the administrative seat of the new British colony (1763), and then a Parliamentary city (1791). In 1871, the British garrison left the city. Thanks to Lord Dufferin (Frederick Temple Blackwood, 1826-1902), who was then Governor General of Canada, Old Québec gradually came to be seen as a national commemorative site. Since then, its character as a fortress city has been showcased and significant development projects have continued. Today, the district is the historic and tourist centre of Québec's capital city and a Mecca for French-speaking North Americans.

The heritage value of the district also reflects its interesting urban landscape. The distinguishing feature is two sets of hierarchies, one each in Upper Town and Lower Town, originally based on the topography of the site. The structure of Upper Town is provided by institutions and fortifications, with the Citadel on the tip of Cap Diamant bearing eloquent testimony to the development of fortified colonial towns, of which it is by far the most completely preserved example in North America. Lower Town, the commercial area and

the port, is sandwiched between the cliffs and the river. The district is further distinguished by its fragmentation, visual perspectives, vast panoramas, sometimes taking in surrounding areas, and the diversity of built and natural reference points. The ancient urban fabric, with its dynamic rhythms and contrasting physiognomy, is formed by the original network of streets (radiating in concentric circles and in rectangular groupings) and punctuated by “places” from the French period. Some of the urban development that has taken place since 1875 showcases the city’s French roots.

The heritage value of the district also reflects its architectural interest. Here we find some of the most accomplished exemplars of Québec architecture, notably from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The built heritage bears witness to Québec City’s urban character and illustrates its major functions: commercial, cultural, financial, institutional, military, religious, and residential. The concentration of French-inspired buildings is truly exceptional. Architecture subsequent to 1790, inspired by Palladian and Neoclassical architecture, has also profoundly marked the landscape. The more eclectic architecture that has prevailed since 1850 draws upon contemporary British, French, and American sources. The district includes many buildings by famous architects who have greatly enriched the history of Québec architecture. The district has undergone several historical reconstructions since 1960.

The heritage value of the district is further reflected in its archaeological interest. It includes 470 known sites that testify to human habitation since the Amerindians and illustrate various ways of life. New France is particularly well represented, with traces of previous occupations attesting to the strategic importance of Québec City as a settlement place from the military, political, and commercial standpoints. The archaeology of this territory is among the most thoroughly documented in all of North America, and the development plan for the district includes the archaeological aspect, given that its potential is well understood.

Source: Québec Ministry of Culture and Communications, 2005.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

The key elements of the district in terms of historic and archaeological values include the following:

- the location in the municipal borough of La Cité, on the Cap Diamant promontory and on a strip of land between the cliffs, the St. Charles River, and the St. Lawrence River;
- the 470 known archaeological sites that trace the human history of the site;
- the intact sections, which hold great archaeological potential;
- the historic monuments and sites located in the district.

The key elements of the district in terms of the urban landscape include the following:

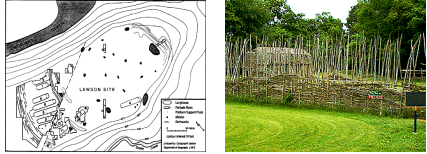
- due to the topography of the site, the two sets of hierarchies, one each in Upper Town, structured by institutions and fortifications, and in Lower Town, which includes the commercial area and the port;
- the fortifications, including the ramparts, the Citadel at the tip of Cap Diamant, the barracks, and the redoubts;
- the fragmented nature of the district, which includes large institutional clusters in Upper Town, small square lots, mainly residential, filling the space between large blocks in Upper Town and bordering the cliffs in Lower Town, as well as irregularly shaped islands;
- the ancient urban fabric, with its dynamic rhythms and contrasting physiognomy, including the original network of streets on a rectangular plan in Lower Town and radiating concentric circles and rectangles in Upper Town, the roads leading to Upper Town, which were originally natural pathways (Côte de la Montagne, Côte du Palais, and Côte d’Abraham), the twisting pathways of some ancient routes that were subject to topography, and the old “places”;
- the built and natural reference points, including the St. Lawrence River, Cap Diamant, the cliffs and forest, the riverside façade with the row of piers and riverbanks partially covered in vegetation, the

distinctive institutional or commercial buildings, the terrace, the fortification gates, parks, squares, public spaces, and commemorative monuments;

- the vast panoramas, which frequently stretch out to the surrounding areas, and the broad visual perspectives, despite the narrow streets.

The key elements of the district in terms of architectural interest include the following:

- buildings that serve various functions, notably commercial, cultural, financial, institutional, military, religious, and residential;
- the French-inspired buildings, with distinctive features that include rubble stone masonry, sometimes coated with lime plaster and whitewash, two- or three-storey elevations, straight-sided sharply pitched roofs, often punctuated by dormers, massive chimneys, firewalls, small-paned casement windows, stone arches, and austere ornamentation;
- buildings of Palladian or Neoclassical inspiration with symmetrical façades, freestone masonry, coated with lime plaster to resemble freestone or in brick, three- or four-storey elevations, gently sloping roofs with straight sides or punctuated by dormers, regular arrangements of casement or double-hung windows, and austere ornamentation borrowed from the classical repertoire;
- buildings constructed after 1850, characterized by varied formal vocabularies drawn from Victorian, Second Empire, and Beaux-Arts architecture, stone or brick masonry (supporting or cladding), many three- or four-storey elevations, roofs with various shapes, including gabled, mansard, or flat roofs, and rich, abundant ornamentation in stone or wood;
- the party walls between buildings;
- rectangular or irregular plans that follow the shape of the lots;
- rear courtyards that are reached by *portes cochères*.



## SOS 22: LAWSON SITE

### Description of Historic Place

This is a 16<sup>th</sup>-century, pre-contact Neutral Iroquoian village situated on a plateau overlooking the confluence of the Medway River and Snake Creek in northwest London. The site measures two hectares in size, although was estimated at one hectare on March 15, 1970 when what is now the southern portion was designated under the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act (now Ontario Heritage Act). It is also commemorated with an Ontario Heritage Foundation plaque.

### Heritage Value

The heritage value of the Lawson Site lies in its integrity, rarity or representativeness, cultural and temporal affiliations, and potential data productivity as a sixteenth century, pre-contact Neutral Iroquoian village. It is Canada's only ongoing excavation and reconstruction of a pre-contact village and one of the few Neutral village sites where earthworks are preserved. Excavations have recovered over 300,000 artifacts and the remains of at least 19 longhouses, 30 middens, and a palisade along the northern half of the site. Evidence suggests that at the height of occupation the village was home to over 2000 people. It was occupied year round although many of its inhabitants left the village from April to December to engage in hunting, fishing, gathering, and the cultivation of crops such as corn, beans and squash. It may have served as a major regional centre for other Neutral populations during this period. Its inhabitants engaged in trade or other forms of interaction with other pre-contact groups along the Atlantic Seaboard, Lake Superior, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

The Lawson Site also has associative value with the development of archaeology as a discipline from its relic-hunting roots in the mid-nineteenth century, to the more scientific investigations of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The research potential of the Lawson Site was first realized in the late-nineteenth century by Dr. Solon Woolverton, a geology professor at the University of Western Ontario and a prominent London citizen. He introduced the site in 1894 to Provincial Museum archaeologist, Dr. David Boyle, and undertook excavations from 1895-1920. The first formal description of the site was written by Boyle. His successor at the Museum, Dr. Rowland B. Orr, visited the site in 1917 and subsequently published an article including a sketch map. Dr. William J. Wintemberg of the Victoria Museum in Ottawa (now the Canadian Museum of Civilization) selected the Lawson Site for major fieldwork projects from 1921 to 1923. Wilfrid Jury, who later founded the Museum of Indian Archaeology and Pioneer life at the University of Western Ontario, worked with Wintemberg at the Lawson Site. Col. Tom Lawson and members of the Fuller family donated the property in 1969 to the University of Western Ontario to preserve and interpret the site for the people of Ontario.

In 1978, the Lawson Site and adjoining lands were transferred to the Museum of Indian Archaeology (now the London Museum of Archaeology). This is a major centre for archaeological research in Ontario and pre-contact aboriginal life ways as interpreted through the Lawson Site.

Source: Ministry of Culture Archaeological Licence Reports

### **Character-Defining Elements**

The heritage value of the Lawson Site is embodied in key character defining elements such as:

- its potential for unexcavated archaeological deposits including the remains of longhouses, features, and other cultural materials;
- the series of earthworks used to support the original palisade protecting the village;
- excavated remains such as artifacts and associated documentation.