



## Heritage Evaluation Methodology

### Vancouver Heritage Register (VHR)

The Vancouver Heritage Register (VHR) is a list of historic places identified by the City of Vancouver as having heritage value for the community. The VHR Policy implements values-based, equitable, people-centered approaches to heritage evaluation, planning, and resource management that reflect Vancouver's culturally diverse communities.

The Heritage Evaluation Methodology has been developed to support VHR Policy implementation. Heritage planning staff along with input from professionals and the community, will use it to identify the values of a place, including both tangible and intangible ones. Heritage evaluation is an initial step in integrating cultural heritage into city-wide land-use planning practices.

#### Key Terms

- **Features** are architectural and landscape components of a place that can be considered character-defining elements.
- **Heritage Property** is real property, defined by VHR Policy as buildings and structures with heritage values that have been formally recognized by Council for the purpose of addition to the VHR.
- **Heritage Value\*** means the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social, or spiritual importance or significance for past, present, and future generations. The heritage value of an historic place is embodied in its character-defining materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings.
- **Historic Place\*** is a structure, building, group of buildings, district, landscape, archaeological site, or other place that has been formally recognized for its heritage value.

\* As defined in the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

#### Eligibility Criteria

A place that is 20 years or older may be considered for addition to the VHR if it demonstrates heritage values in one of the following categories:

- Cultural Heritage: traditions, ways of life, and memories
- Historical Association: person, community, or organization
- Architecture: design, materials, and technology

# Heritage Evaluation Process

## Intent

The evaluation process will:

- Review the place's historical context, physical attributes, and personal, professional, and community input received to identify its heritage values;
- Evaluate the place based on submitted research documentation;
- Either:
  - Formulate a statement summarizing the heritage value of the place, identifying which evaluation criteria are met and elaborating how they are met; or
  - Determine that the evaluation did not identify heritage value sufficient for addition to the VHR.

## Step 1: Staff Review

The heritage evaluation process can be initiated either by Heritage Planning staff or through public application. After an initial staff review for completeness is conducted, VHR applications are assessed by the VHR Evaluation Subcommittee.

## Step 2: VHR Evaluation Subcommittee

The VHR Evaluation Subcommittee consists of five members:

- three Vancouver Heritage Commissioners (VHC) commissioners appointed annually; and,
- two additional members representing the heritage professional community and including community history perspective, endorsed by the VHC and Heritage Planning staff, appointed annually.

Heritage Planning staff will facilitate VHR application review per the following procedure:

1. Assess application materials for completeness and adequacy.
2. Review the content and initiate additional research, if deemed necessary.
3. Facilitate the review process with the VHR Evaluation Subcommittee.
4. Determine outcome. Evaluation notes will be recorded on the VHR Heritage Evaluation Form, with one of the following recommendations:
  - a. "Endorse addition to VHR," proceeding with a recommendation of support to the VHC (may include amendments to the SOS or research documentation).
  - b. "Additional information required" to complete the evaluation.
  - c. "Ineligible for VHR" due to incomplete or non-compliant application.

## Step 3: Vancouver Heritage Commission (VHC)

Heritage Planning staff present the VHR Evaluation Subcommittee recommendation to the VHC for endorsement.

## Step 4: City Council

Applications that are endorsed by the VHC will be presented to City Council in the next VHR update report. Once approved by Council, the place will be added to the VHR as heritage property.