
Prince Edward Island Provincial Heritage Places Recognition Program

A guide for heritage property owners



Tourism and Culture

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*Welsh & Owen Building
Charlottetown*

The Island has many stories to tell from its founding peoples, whether Aboriginal, Acadian or from the British Isles and Ireland or more recent newcomers. Every community in our province has places which are special to its residents and are valued as a testament to their origins.

These places tell us the stories of our ancestors – they are the legacy which has been left for us all to learn from and appreciate.

The historic places of Prince Edward Island show us the important relationship Aboriginal people had with this land, the patterns of settlement established by Europeans and the impact of industry. Historic places convey the sense of accomplishment and pride generations of Islanders had in this place.

The examples are everywhere in our towns, villages and down our country roads. They are our homes, schools, farms, wharfs, bed and breakfasts, businesses, churches, courthouses, lighthouses, archaeological sites and pioneer cemeteries.

The heritage value of these places deserves to be recognized municipally, provincially and nationally as contributing to the creation of Canada.



*Victoria Village Inn
Victoria*

Historic Places Initiative

Prince Edward Island was an active participant in the national Historic Places Initiative which was initiated by the Government of Canada in response to the loss of 20 per cent of the country's pre-1920 heritage buildings to demolition over the past 30 years. As part of the Historic Places Initiative and in collaboration with the provincial and territorial governments, the Government of Canada created two new conservation tools.

Canadian Register of Historic Places

This national register provides online access to historic places formally recognized by federal, provincial, territorial and local governments. The Canadian register is a valuable source of accurate information for government authorities, land-use planners, developers, the tourism industry, educators, researchers, heritage professionals and the public.

Visit the Canadian Register of Historic Places at: historicplaces.ca

Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada

This document provides practical guidance to good conservation practice; thus balancing the preservation of historic places with their integration into the functional life of the community.



*King's County Courthouse
Georgetown*

There are three types of historic recognition in Prince Edward Island based on the level of significance.

National Historic Sites are deemed significant on a national level and recognized by the Government of Canada.

Under the *Heritage Places Protection Act*, the minister responsible for heritage can recognize historic places that exhibit provincial significance.

The municipalities of Charlottetown and Summerside each have civic recognition programs for historic sites within their jurisdiction.



This distinctive navy blue and gold enamel plaque identifies a heritage property that has been designated by the Province of Prince Edward Island.



*D.E. Clarke's General Store
Orwell Corner Historic Village*

The Prince Edward Island Register of Heritage Places is a searchable database containing listings of provincial and municipal historic places. Listed properties are either registered or designated depending upon the level of legal protection they have. The minister responsible for the *Heritage Places Protection Act* officially approves places for inclusion in the register based upon the advice of the Heritage Places Advisory Board. As with the national register, the provincial register is an important planning and awareness building tool. Listing on Prince Edward Island's Register of Heritage Places is an important step toward sharing our Island's past with a greater audience.

The Heritage Places Advisory Board advises and assists the minister on all matters relating to the protection of heritage places.



*Long Pond Cemetery
Stanhope*



*St. Margaret of Scotland Pioneer Cemetery
St. Margarets*

Heritage Places Protection Act

The *Heritage Places Protection Act* was established by the Province of Prince Edward Island to protect, interpret and enhance historic resources. In addition, the act also strives to build an informed and involved public. The act provides for two levels of heritage place recognition: registration and designation.

Registered Heritage Place

A registered heritage place is any site or structure that has been researched and has been deemed to be a provincial heritage resource. A registered heritage place can be valued for its historic, cultural, archaeological, paleontological, prehistoric, natural, scientific or aesthetic qualities; and or because of its connection with a person, group or event. A registered heritage place recognizes the historic values of a place, yet doesn't place any restrictions on the property owner.

Designated Heritage Place

A designated heritage place is a protected place subject to the provisions of the *Heritage Places Protection Act* and associated regulations. This level of recognition has legal restrictions on changes to the landscape or the architectural character-defining elements of the place. A place may not be designated without the approval of the minister.

Places of outstanding or exceptional historic significance may be recommended for designation. Designation is the highest level of recognition under the *Heritage Places Protection Act* and does provide for some legal protection. Designation protects the character-defining elements of the place which are often exterior architectural elements and or landscape features. Proposed changes, such as additions or removal of character-defining elements may require a heritage permit.



*Kensington Railway Station
Kensington*

- Provincial nomination forms are available from Prince Edward Island Tourism & Culture: Culture, Heritage & Libraries Division.
- Residents of Charlottetown and Summerside can contact their municipal planning office.

On Process

- The provincial nominations are vetted by the heritage officer and then reviewed by the Heritage Places Advisory Board.
- All approved nominations (provincial and municipal) are eligible for inclusion in the Prince Edward Island Register of Heritage Places.

Visit the Prince Edward Island Register of Heritage Places at: peihistoricplaces.ca



*Hunter River Mill
Hunter River*

Provincial Heritage property designation enables communities to recognize and protect local heritage. Conserving historic places creates a lasting legacy for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

The Heritage Places Protection Act provides for the preservation, interpretation and development of heritage resources in Prince Edward Island. Any building, structure or site that is significant for its cultural, historical, architectural, environmental, archaeological, paleontological, scientific or aesthetic value may be registered as a heritage property.

This legislation empowers the provincial government to designate places of outstanding or exceptional historic significance. Individuals play a key role in recognizing, protecting, conserving and protecting heritage in their local communities.

Recognition through Registration & Designation

What Designation Does:

- Publically and formally recognizes a property's heritage value.
- A property's heritage is formally recognized in the community through public notice. Once designated, a property is further recognized by its listing on both the Prince Edward Island Register of Heritage Places and the Canadian Register of Historic Places.
- Legally protects the property's heritage value.
- The heritage place designation is registered on the property's title, which protects it from unauthorized changes and demolition. The designation also ensures that any proposed alterations or changes will not significantly impact the heritage value and character-defining elements of the property.
- Encourages good stewardship.
- A property must be designated to be eligible for the cost-shared Heritage Incentive Program from the provincial government.
- A designated property is eligible to receive a certificate and a navy blue and gold designated heritage place plaque.

Designation Does Not:

- Restrict the use or ownership of a property.
- Require it to become a museum.
- Require it to be frozen in time.
- Require it to be restored to its original purpose.
- Obligate the owner to open it to the public.



*St. Mary's Church
Indian River*

Historic places are community assets that benefit everyone. Careful and responsible management of these assets can provide social, economic and environmental benefits to communities and can create a lasting legacy for the future.

Step 1: Initiating the Process

Any person, community group or other interested party can research, prepare and submit an application for the Prince Edward Island Register of Heritage Places. Applications are reviewed and evaluated by the Heritage Places Advisory Board, who make recommendations regarding the registration and designation of heritage places to the minister responsible for heritage.

Before proceeding, it's important to understand the heritage value of the property and why it should be registered or designated.

Step 2: Preparing & Serving - Notice of Intention to Designate

The notice of intention gives public notice of the province's intention to designate a property. Public notice provides for a period of public review and allows any objections to the proposed designation to be filed.

A notice of intention includes:

- Legal description of property to be included in the designation
- Civic address
- Property identification number
- Owner's name

As part of the public notification process, the notice of intention must be:

- Served on the property owner(s)
- Published in a local newspaper and the Royal Gazette
- Sent to the local municipality, if property is located within an incorporated area
- Once registered on property title, the notice of intention grants the property all the protections of designation for a period of 120 days

Step 3: Designation of Heritage Place

Following the date of the last publication or registration of the notice of intention, a minimum 30-day waiting period is required before issuing the designation notice. Provided no formal objections have been received during this waiting period, the minister responsible for heritage may then designate a heritage place.

The notice of heritage place designation must contain:

- Legal description of all property included in the notice
- Civic address
- Property identification number
- Owner's name

The notice of heritage place designation must be served on the property owner(s) and municipality and published in the Royal Gazette. Upon completion of designation, the notice is registered in the land registry office.

Step 4: Listing the Property on Prince Edward Island Register of Heritage Places

Heritage place listing on provincial register includes:

- Name and if applicable, former names of designated place
- Civic address
- Provincial heritage place statement of significance, including character-defining elements which are essential to the heritage value of the place
- Date and level of heritage place recognition

Objections to Heritage Place Designation

Heritage property designation is a public process. The 30-day waiting period following the notice of intention to designate is an essential part of the process that allows any objections to be heard. Formal objections, although rare, typically arise because of misunderstandings about what designation means. A notice of intention that clearly articulates what is being designated and why will help avoid public objections and even build community support.



*Gillis Farm
Miscouche*



*Farmers' Bank of Rustico
Rustico*

Conserving a property's heritage value means protecting and retaining its character-defining elements. Proposed alterations to a designated heritage property that affect these physical elements must be approved by the minister responsible for heritage, based on advice from the Heritage Places Advisory Board.

The *Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* is a key resource that assists local authorities to determine if proposed alterations to a heritage property are appropriate. The nationally recognized Standards & Guidelines provide sound, practical advice, including "recommended" and "not recommended" approaches to heritage conservation. The Standards and Guidelines help take the guess work out of heritage property regulation.

The Province of Prince Edward Island, City of Charlottetown and City of Summerside operate by the principles of the *Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.



Contacts

Prince Edward Island
Tourism & Culture
Culture, Heritage & Libraries Division
(902) 368-5940

City of Charlottetown
Planning Department
(902) 629-4158

City of Summerside
Wyatt Heritage Properties
(902) 432-1296

Internet Resources

Canadian Register of Historic Places
historicplaces.ca

Prince Edward Island Register of Heritage Places
peihistoricplaces.ca

Parks Canada
Standards & Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada
parkscanada.gc.ca

Prince Edward Island
Tourism & Culture
Culture, Heritage & Libraries Division
gov.pe.ca

Note

The information in this guide is a summary of the designation process outlined in the *Heritage Places Protection Act*; it is not a substitute for the legislation or legal advice. Please consult the legislation available from the Queen's Printer for further details.



*Ashford Cottage
Freetown*

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Latham House (Cover)
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Prince Edward Island
Tourism & Culture
Culture, Heritage & Libraries Division:
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