

Introduction

The City of Nanaimo created an official Community Heritage Register in 2002. The following information answers questions commonly asked about heritage registers.

What is a Community Heritage Register?

A community heritage register is an official list of properties identified by the City of Nanaimo as having heritage value.

Why a Community Heritage Register?

In 1994, the Province of British Columbia passed legislation in the *Local Government Act* that enabled local governments to better integrate heritage conservation activities into the mainstream of development and community planning. This legislation gave municipalities new planning tools and more powerful incentives to encourage conservation. One of the key planning tools was the heritage register. The idea behind the register was that if a community identified its most significant heritage properties it could then better target its conservation efforts.

What is the purpose of a Community Heritage Register?

A community heritage register is intended to:

- officially list the heritage resources of Nanaimo;
- give notice to property owners, and potential buyers, of heritage factors (e.g. architectural, cultural and aesthetic) which may affect development options for a listed property; and
- enable monitoring of proposed changes to properties through the local government heritage alteration and building permit process.

Contact Us

Questions? Comments?

Visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/heritage or contact the Community Planning Department Directly at:

Phone 250-755-4464

Email communityplanning@nanaimo.ca

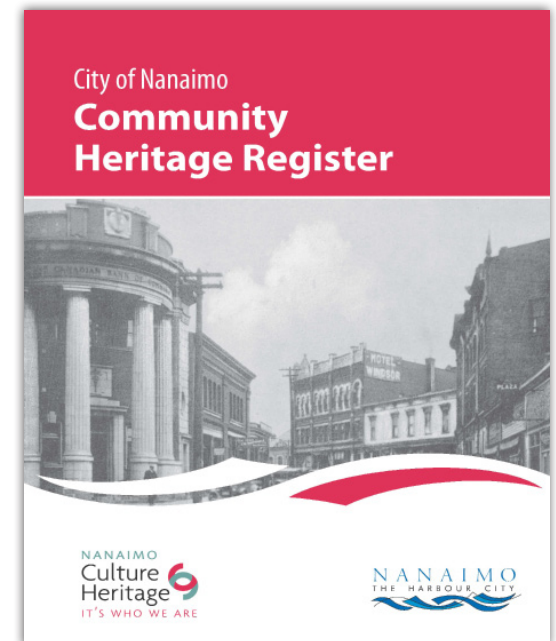
In person 411 Dunsmuir Street (Second Floor)

By mail 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6



View the City of Nanaimo's Community Heritage Register online at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/heritage or request a paper copy by phone or email.

What is a Community Heritage Register?



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Inclusion of a property on the Community Heritage Register does not in itself constitute permanent heritage protection. The register may, however, be used to “flag” properties for possible future protection.

What are the benefits of having a building or property on the Community Heritage Register?

Adoption of a register officially identifies the heritage value of listed properties and ensures that building owners and prospective buyers are aware of the buildings heritage status. Buildings on a heritage register can take advantage of special “equivalency” provisions contained in the BC Building Code Heritage Building Supplement and can be used as a criterion for municipal grants (such as the City’s Heritage Facade Grant and Heritage Home Grant programs), property tax exemptions and non-monetary incentives, such as land use regulations relaxation and development bonuses.

What powers are conferred to the City under a Community Heritage Register?

- **Temporarily withhold a demolition permit.** The City may withhold demolition permits for property that is included in a heritage register. The permit cannot be withheld for more than 60 days.
- **Withhold building and development approvals.** The City may use a heritage procedures bylaw to direct its staff to withhold approvals that could alter a property included in a heritage register. An approval that is withheld must be referred to Council at its next regular meeting. Approval cannot be withheld for more than 60 days.
- **Order a heritage inspection of a subject property.** The City may order a heritage inspection to assess the heritage value, character and conservation needs of a property included in a heritage register. The property in question may be under temporary protection while an inspection is completed.

Temporary protection measures allow Council, if it so chooses, the time to collect more information on a property, including a detailed inspection of the heritage features of the property. This would also provide an opportunity to discuss any options for long-term protection with the property owner. Based on the information collected, staff would be required to write a report to Council for their consideration before the temporary protection period expires.

My property is listed on the Community Heritage Register. Does this mean my property is legally designated?

NO. Having your property listed on the register does not constitute heritage designation. A designated property is legally protected by the City. Designation offers long-term protection and allows a government to regulate alterations and demolition. If the designation of a property causes a reduction in the market value of the property at the time of designation, the local government must compensate the owner. Compensation can be either monetary or take some other form. Only 6 properties have been designated by the City in the past twenty-five years and include:

- Beban House (2290 Bowen Road)
- The Rowbottom Residence (100 Cameron Road)
- The Earl Block (2-4 Church Street)
- The Great National Land Building (5-17 Church Street)
- The Bastion (98 Front Street)
- Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Station (321 Selby Street)

Does being listed on the register mean that I can’t demolish my building ?

NO. The municipality can only prohibit demolition if the property is legally designated.

Does being listed on the register mean I can’t redevelop my property?

NO. Being listed on the heritage register does not restrict an owner from developing or redeveloping his or her property within the provisions of other City bylaw regulations.

My property is not listed on the register, but I want it added. How are buildings added to the Community Heritage register?

Applications for additions to the register are considered by the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission on an periodic basis (usually annually).

To nominate a building for addition to the register, please use the nomination form provided online at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/heritage or contact the Culture & Heritage Department directly.

Where can I view the Community Heritage Register?

Visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/heritage or contact the Culture & Heritage Department directly.