

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Heritage Register?

The Ontario Heritage Act allows municipalities to keep a publicly accessible register of properties that are of cultural heritage value or interest, which are not designated. The Heritage Register allows the City of Ottawa to manage an inventory of its built resources of cultural-heritage value or interest.

Does adding a property to the Heritage Register mean it becomes a designated heritage property?

No. The properties identified through the Heritage Inventory Project have been flagged for their cultural heritage value, but should not be confused with designated heritage buildings under Part IV, or Part V, of the Ontario Heritage Act.

What does the Heritage Register mean to property owners?

If there is intent to demolish a building listed on the Heritage Register, the property owner must notify the City of Ottawa in writing, with 60 days notice.

Why is the City looking at this area specifically?

The Heritage Inventory Project involves a city-wide survey and evaluation of built structures in order to determine which resources contribute to the city's cultural heritage. Lowertown and Sandy Hill are the first two neighbourhoods to be surveyed.

Will I have to restore the exterior of my building to its original condition?

No, being listed on the Heritage Register does not require an owner to restore the building.

Will I require Council permission to make exterior or interior changes to my building?

No, being listed on the Heritage Register will not affect your ability to make changes to the exterior or interior of your building. The normal requirements for a building permit still apply.

Will my taxes go up?

Similar to any property in Ottawa, if your assessed property value increases, property taxes will increase accordingly.

What happens next?

Staff will present a report containing a list of properties in Lowertown and Sandy Hill which are recommended to be added to the Heritage Register to the Built Heritage Sub-Committee on April 13, 2017. The item will also be on the April 25th Planning Committee agenda. Both meetings will be held in the Champlain Room, City Hall at 9:30 a.m. and finally heard at the May 10th Council meeting. Information

meetings and committee dates for other neighbourhoods will be announced later.

How can I participate in the process?

We would love to receive emails from you regarding information about buildings or structures throughout the city. You can also make a five minute presentation at the Built Heritage Sub-Committee or Planning Committee meetings with respect to Heritage Inventory Project staff reports, or email comments to heritageinventory@ottawa.ca. ([link sends e-mail](#))