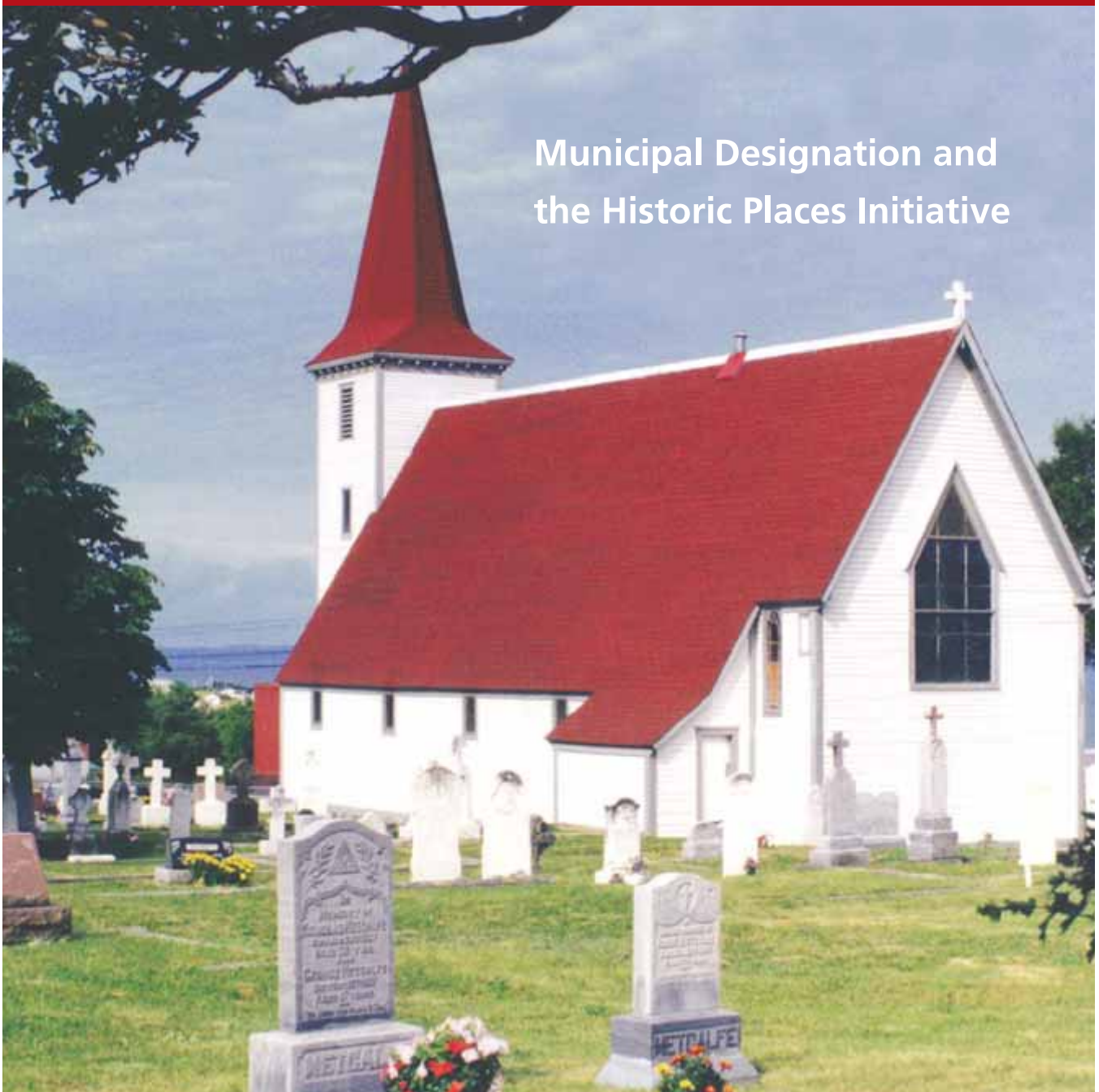




Canada's
Historic Places

Lieux patrimoniaux
du Canada

Municipal Designation and the Historic Places Initiative





*St. John the Evangelist Church,
Topsail, Conception Bay South
Photo: Pat Sword*



Our Historic Places

Did you know that there are more than 400 designated heritage properties in Newfoundland and Labrador? Every community in Newfoundland and Labrador has places that are valued for their heritage significance. Some of these places are formally recognized at the municipal, provincial or national level for their association with the history of the province, while others are respected locally as landmarks in their communities. These places teach us about the people and events which make up our history.

A historic place is any place which has significance to an individual or community because of its relationship to past people, places and/or events. They are places that tell our stories and maintain our history. They reflect the original settlement and use of the land by Aboriginal people, as well as later developments in the fishery, agriculture, architecture, engineering, science, education, transportation and government.

Newfoundland and Labrador has a diversity of historic places. Specific types include ancient sites as well as heritage buildings with a more recent history like homes, schools, fishing premises, bed and breakfasts, businesses, churches, lodges and courthouses. Parks and cemeteries may also be important heritage places.

Historic Designation in Newfoundland and Labrador

There are three types of heritage designation in Newfoundland and Labrador based on level of significance:

- 1 National Historic Sites are deemed significant on a national level and designated by the federal government;
- 2 Under the Historic Resources Act, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador designates historic places that exhibit provincial significance;
- 3 Under the Municipalities Act, incorporated Newfoundland and Labrador municipalities can create Heritage Advisory Committees and designate locally important heritage buildings, structures and lands.



The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is implementing new tools and processes to identify and recognize historic places in the province.



Historic Places Initiative

The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is participating in the national Historic Places Initiative (HPI). HPI was initiated by the Government of Canada in response to the loss of 20% of the country's pre-1920 heritage buildings to demolition over the past 30 years. As part of HPI and in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, the Government of Canada has created new pan-Canadian conservation tools.

1 Canadian Register of Historic Places

This national register provides online access to historic places formally recognized by federal, provincial, territorial and local governments. The national 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.

2 Standards and 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.



Provincial Register of Historic Places

Through Newfoundland and Labrador's participation in the Historic Places Initiative, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador recently created the Provincial Register of Historic Places.

This provincial register is a searchable database containing listings of provincial and local historic places. Some are designated properties, while some are buildings of historical or architectural interest. As with the national register, the provincial register is an important planning and awareness building tool. Listing on Newfoundland and Labrador's Provincial Register of Historic Places is an important step towards listing on the national register.

The Municipal Outreach Program has been established by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador to assist incorporated municipalities with the designation of places exhibiting local historical significance. The program will:

- 1 Help build heritage awareness within communities.
- 2 Aid in the establishment of local Heritage Advisory Committees.
- 3 Provide guidance in the designation of municipal heritage buildings, structures and lands.
- 4 List designated local historic places on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

Municipalities, working with interested property owners, will be able to identify and recognize local historic places in their communities. The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador will assist communities in the establishment of local Heritage Advisory Committees and in the listing of local historic places on the Provincial Register. Municipally designated places can be nominated for the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

What is a Heritage Advisory Committee?

A council may establish a Heritage Advisory Committee to advise the council on regulations made with respect to heritage buildings, structures and lands and the preservation of the real property designated under section 200(1) of the Municipalities Act. A Heritage Advisory Committee is made up of volunteers from the community, drawing on property owners, business owners, council members, or people involved in local museums and historical societies.

A Heritage Advisory Committee can advise a council on which heritage structures to designate and on the preparation of guidelines or bylaws to apply to designated structures or districts. They can provide advice to council on the treatment of heritage structures and develop appropriate criteria for heritage designation. Members can serve as a source of advice for homeowners and building contractors. The Heritage Advisory Committee can also help council plan special events, commemorate historic places, or develop local heritage projects.

One of the particular benefits of a Heritage Advisory Committee is that it allows for citizen input into the heritage preservation process. This ensures a strong link with council which has a variety of resources and mechanisms to support heritage.

What Does Designation Mean?

Designation means that a historic place occupies a special place in your community. It means that the place has been identified as having value to the people of your community, and as a source of community pride. Heritage designation also provides some protection for historic places. Under the Municipalities Act,

A building, structure or land designated by council as a heritage building, structure or land shall not be demolished or built upon nor the exterior of the building or structure altered, except under a written permit of the council specifically authorizing the alteration and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit.



Local councils can develop their own tools to promote historic places, or to encourage citizens to promote heritage restoration. Examples of existing local programs in Newfoundland and Labrador include plaque programs for designated buildings, grants for restoration projects, and tax breaks for owners of designated properties. The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is a good resource for ideas on possible projects for your community.



Steps to Designate Local Historic Places:

- 1 Place nominated for designation - application form
- 2 Place reviewed by Heritage Advisory Committee
- 3 Statement of Significance drafted
- 4 Place accepted by Town Council
- 5 Designated place listed on Provincial Register of Historic Places, and nominated to Canadian Register.

Under the Municipal Outreach Program, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador will assist communities in assessing applications, writing Statements of Significance, and having statements presented to local councils for designation.

What is a Statement of Significance?

The Statement of Significance helps to explain the heritage value of historic places to locals, visitors, or people viewing places online. The Statement of Significance also clearly states what is designated, and provides guidance to property owners, municipal officials, planners, developers, etc. The SOS has three parts:

- 1 Description of Historic Place - a short summary of what is designated or formally recognized;
- 2 Statement of Heritage Value - a description of why the historic place is important to the community;
- 3 Character Defining Elements - a point form list of the key elements or features of the site that must be retained in order to preserve heritage value.



The Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador is a non-profit organization which was established by the Provincial Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in 1984 to stimulate an understanding of and an appreciation for the architectural heritage of the province. The Foundation, an invaluable source of information for historic restoration, supports and contributes to the preservation and restoration of buildings of architectural or historical significance.



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