

# Project Overview

## What is the Downtown Built Heritage Inventory Project (DBHI)?

- A pilot study to review and update the City's **Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and/or Historical Interest** (the "Inventory")
- The existing Inventory (published as Hamilton's Heritage: Volume 2) contains approximately 7,000 properties City-wide
- The DBHI project included:

- ↳ Conducting updated field surveys and historical research on properties in Downtown Hamilton
- ↳ The creation of a comprehensive and consistent database of built heritage resources

## What were the objectives of the DBHI pilot project?

- To determine what we have, and where is it located
- Identifying candidates for:
  - ↳ Inclusion in the Register as non-designated properties
  - ↳ Designation under the Ontario Heritage Act
- Reporting to Council with recommendations for the City-wide update of the inventory

## What was the project study area?

- Downtown Hamilton - bounded by Queen, Hunter, Wellington and Cannon Streets
- Approximately 800 properties in the existing Inventory, which account for 74% of the total parcels in the study area

**Project website: [www.hamilton.ca/DowntownBuiltHeritage](http://www.hamilton.ca/DowntownBuiltHeritage)**

# Project Outcome

## What were the results of the project?

663

properties recommended for inclusion in the Register as non-designated properties

30

properties identified as priorities for potential designation under the Ontario Heritage Act

## How were the properties evaluated?

- A contextual evaluation methodology was developed
  - Downtown was divided into seven precincts
  - Historic Context Statements were developed for each precinct
  - The heritage value of individual properties evaluated and classified based on their contribution to the character of the precincts

## How are the properties classified?

**Significant Built Resource (SBR)** – a property with considerable historic, aesthetic and/or contextual value that is likely well known to citizens at a local, municipal or regional level

**Character-Defining Resource (CDR)** – a property that strongly reinforces the historic context(s) and clearly reflects a characteristic pattern of development or activity, property type or attribute of the area

**Character-Supporting Resource (CSR)** – a property that maintains or supports the historic context(s) and can be related to a characteristic pattern of development or activity, property type or attribute of the area

**Inventoried Property** – a property that is not currently considered to contribute to the historic context, but could acquire value in the future, or has been heavily modified to the point that its heritage value may have been lost (could be confirmed through further research and detailed field investigation)

**No Longer on Inventory** – a property that is not considered to contribute to its historic context and is unlikely to be valued in the future, or that has been heavily modified to the point where its heritage value has been lost

*All properties identified as Significant Built Resources, Character-Defining Resources and Character-Supporting Resources are recommended for inclusion in the Register.*

*All properties identified as Significant Built Resources are candidates for potential designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.*

Statistics from May 2014

# The Register

## What is the Register?

The Register is a heritage conservation management tool under the Ontario Heritage Act. It is an administrative record consisting of:

- Properties designated under Parts IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act
- Non-designated properties identified by Council as being of cultural heritage value or interest

## Non-designated properties are added to the Register to:

- Promote knowledge of a community's cultural heritage
- Provide easily accessible information for planners, property owners, developers, the tourism industry and the general public
- Help prioritize future designations
- Provide interim protection from demolition

## What does interim protection from demolition mean?

Inclusion in the Register under Section 27 (1.2) of the Ontario Heritage Act requires that Council be given a 60-day notice of the intention to demolish or remove any building or structure on the property, and the demolition and removal of any building or structure is prohibited during this time period.

The 60-day period allows staff the opportunity to discuss alternatives to pursue conservation options for the property should a notice of intention to demolish be received by Council, or if a development application under the Planning Act is received, including:

- Discussions with the owner respecting retention, adaptive re-use and financial incentives
- Photo-documentation of the property prior to demolition
- Designation under the Ontario Heritage Act

**For more information on the City of Hamilton's Register, please visit:**  
[www.hamilton.ca/heritageplanning](http://www.hamilton.ca/heritageplanning)

# Designation

## What is designation under the Ontario Heritage Act?

- The City may pass a by-law to define the heritage attributes of one or more properties, as enabled by the Ontario Heritage Act
- Heritage attributes are features that contribute to the cultural heritage value or interest of a property
- Municipalities manage the physical changes to designated properties through the Heritage Permit process and may provide grants and loans to encourage the appropriate management of designated properties

## How many properties are currently designated in the City of Hamilton?

**241**

properties are individual designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act

**358**

properties in 7 Heritage Conservation Districts (HCD) are designated under Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act, including:

- **Cross-Melville HCD (Dundas)**
- **Durand-Markland HCD (Hamilton)**
- **Hamilton Beach HCD (Hamilton)**
- **MacNab-Charles HCD (Hamilton)**
- **St. Clair Avenue HCD (Hamilton)**
- **St. Clair Boulevard HCD (Hamilton)**
- **Mill Street HCD (Flamborough)**

For more information on the City of Hamilton's Heritage Designation and Heritage Permit process, please visit: [www.hamilton.ca/heritageplanning](http://www.hamilton.ca/heritageplanning)