Why “list” a property?

The Heritage Register includes properties which have not been designated but have been identified as potentially being of cultural heritage value or interest. "Listing" properties is the first step in the identification and evaluation of a property that may warrant some form of heritage conservation, recognition and/or long-term protection such as designation. A Comprehensive Listing of Heritage and Historically Significant Properties was approved by Council in the summer of 2006. An updated Register of Cultural Heritage Properties This list has been updated and the new list endorsed by Council.

Evaluation and information requirements for listing a property are much less rigorous and detailed than what is required for formal designation. Listing a property does not offer any protection under the Heritage Act; however, it acknowledges the property’s potential cultural heritage value and is an important tool in managing the conservation of a municipality’s cultural heritage assets.

Listing is the first step in the identification and evaluation of a property that may warrant further detailed research and formal designation under Part IV of the Heritage Act. It is the first step; however, this does not mean that all properties included in the Register would be considered appropriate candidates for designation. It does provide for opportunities to co-operatively work with property owners to promote or encourage the design of additions or proposed renovations to buildings and structures to maintain or enhance historic elements.

The Ontario Heritage Act does not set out specific criteria by which properties are to be evaluated in

“It is well known that facts which are not recorded soon are forgotten. Thus, from the beginning of time, man has undertaken, by one method or another, to record the knowledge he has gained for the benefit of future generations. Since the past is but a reflection of the future, it is not wise to lose our historical facts, they may provide guidelines for the years ahead.”

Gladys Rolling
(first mayor of the Town of East Gwillimbury)
The Register

The Ontario Heritage Act requires the Town to keep a current register of properties of cultural heritage value or interest. This register includes all properties which have been formally designated under Part IV of the Heritage Act as well as those properties identified as having potential cultural heritage value or interest but which have not been designated; more commonly known as “listed” properties.

As expressed by Provincial documents, a Register of Cultural Heritage Properties:

- Recognizes properties of cultural heritage value in a community;
- Fosters civic identity and pride by drawing attention to the heritage and development of the community;
- Promotes knowledge and enhances an understanding of a community’s cultural heritage;
- Provides easily accessible information about cultural heritage value for land-use planners, property owners, developers, the tourism industry, educators and the general public; and
- Is a key element of a municipal cultural plan that begins with mapping local cultural resources and then leverages these resources for economic development and community building purposes.

The Register is a Work-In-Progress

The Register of Cultural Heritage Properties is a dynamic document that is revised and updated as required and as local resources become available. The Register should continue to change as the cultural heritage values and interests of the community change. The list is used for educational and promotional activities as well as the review of building permit plans and, where appropriate, discussions with individual property owners as to proposed construction and/or redevelopment.

The list is a tool for the screening of candidate properties for designation and for building the Town’s heritage database and educate and promote heritage conservation in general.

“Listed” Properties - Review of Renovations, Additions, Alterations, Demolitions

The listing of a property identifies its potential heritage significance and provides opportunities for consultation and review prior to proposed alterations, changes of use, redevelopment or demolition. Through this process, the heritage advisor/heritage committee has an opportunity to review plans, discuss the proposal with the proponent, make suggestions with regard to modifications and/or specific design details, or, if deemed appropriate, forward specific recommendations to Council for its consideration. These recommendations may include designation.

Reviewing Proposals for Renovations, Additions, Alterations

When an owner of a listed property proposes a renovation, addition, alteration of a structure and a building permit is required, a separate review by the heritage advisor/heritage committee and staff is required. This review includes discussions with the property owner about what is proposed and possibly some changes which would make the project sensitive to the heritage character of the existing building.

Please visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca for more information. (Go to Development Services, Planning Branch, Heritage)
If you have any questions, please contact Development Services staff at 905-478-4282.