

The following are from *The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* published by Parks Canada in 2003 and adopted by New Westminster City Council in 2008 for all heritage projects in the City.

The full document (2nd edition) can be found at: <http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/pages/standards-normes.aspx>

Standards

Conserve the heritage value of an historic place. Do not remove, replace, or substantially alter its intact or repairable character-defining elements. Do not move a part of a historic place if its current location is a character-defining element.*

Conserve changes to a historic place which, over time, have become character-defining elements in their own right.

Conserve heritage value by adopting an approach calling for minimal intervention.

Recognize each historic place as a physical record of its time, place and use. Do not create a false sense of historical development by adding elements from other historic places or other properties or by combining features of the same property that never coexisted.

Find a use for a historic place that requires minimal or no change to its character-defining elements.

Protect and, if necessary, stabilize a historic place until any subsequent intervention is under-taken.

Protect and preserve archaeological resources in place. Where there is potential for disturbance of archaeological resources, take mitigation measures to limit damage and loss of information.

Evaluate the existing condition of character-defining elements to determine the appropriate intervention needed. Use the gentlest means possible for any intervention. Respect heritage value when undertaking an intervention.

Maintain character-defining elements on an ongoing basis. Repair character-defining elements by reinforcing their materials using recognized conservation methods. Replace in kind any extensively deteriorated or missing parts of character-defining elements, where there are surviving prototypes.

Make any intervention needed to preserve character-defining elements physically and visually compatible with the historic place, and identifiable upon close inspection. Document any intervention for future reference.

Repair rather than replace character-defining elements. Where character-defining elements are too severely deteriorated to repair, and where sufficient physical evidence exists, replace them with new elements that match the forms, materials and detailing of sound versions of the same elements.

Where there is insufficient physical evidence, make the form, material and detailing of the new elements compatible with the character of the historic place.

Conserve the heritage value and character-defining elements when creating any new additions to a historic place or any related new construction. Make the new work physically and visually compatible with, subordinate to and distinguishable from the historic place.

Create any new additions or related new construction so that the essential form and integrity of a historic place will not be impaired if the new work is removed in the future.

Where character-defining elements are too severely deteriorated to repair and where sufficient physical evidence exists, replace them with new elements that match the forms, materials and detailing of sound versions of the same elements.

Replace missing features from the restoration period with new features whose forms, materials and detailing are based on sufficient physical, documentary and/or oral evidence.



Guidelines

The Guidelines are not meant to give case-specific advice or to address exceptions or rare instances. It is recommended that the advice of qualified conservation professionals be obtained early in the planning stage of the project.

Such professionals may include architects, heritage consultants, conservation engineers, conservation landscape architects, architectural historians, historians, archaeologists and others who have experience in working with historic places.

For historic places imbued with spiritual or other non-material cultural values, persons recognized and have expertise in such matters should be consulted.

In a rehabilitation project, some alterations to a historic place may be needed to assure its continued use. If this is the case, it is important that such alterations do not obscure, radically change, or destroy character-defining materials, forms, spatial configurations, uses or cultural associations and meanings.

Alterations required for the new use may include providing additional parking space, installing landscape drainage systems, cutting new entrances or windows on secondary building elevations, inserting an additional floor, installing an entirely new mechanical system, creating an atrium or light well.

The construction of an exterior addition to a historic place may seem to be essential for the new use, but it is emphasized in the Guidelines that such new additions should be avoided, if possible, and considered only after it is determined that those needs cannot be met by altering secondary, i.e., non character-defining interior spaces.

If, after a thorough evaluation of interior solutions, an exterior addition is still judged to be the only viable alternative, it should be designed and created so that the heritage value of the historic place is not radically changed and to ensure that its character-defining elements are not obscured, damaged, or destroyed.

The addition should be physically and visually compatible with, subordinate to and distinguishable from the historic place, so that a false historical appearance is not created.

New Additions

Place functions and services required for the proposed use in existing non-character-defining spaces rather than constructing a new addition.

Construct a new addition to retain as many of the historic materials as possible and to ensure that the character-defining features are not obscured, damaged, or destroyed, or the heritage value undermined.

Design a new addition in a manner that draws a clear distinction between what is historic and what is new.

Duplicating the exact form, material, style and detailing of the historic resource in a new addition so that the new work appears to be part of the historic place is not recommended.

Consider the design for an attached exterior addition in terms of its relationship to the historic place as well as the historic district or neighbourhood.

Design for the new work may be contemporary or may reference design motifs from the historic place. In either case, it should be compatible in terms of mass, materials, relationship of solids to voids, and colour, yet be distinguishable from the historic place.

Place a new addition on a non-character-defining portion and limit its size and scale in relationship to the historic place.

Designing a new addition that obscures, damages or destroys character-defining features of the historic place or that undermines its heritage value is not recommended.

When required for a new use of a building, design a rooftop addition that is set back from the wall plane such that it is as inconspicuous as possible when viewed from the public realm.

*A 'character defining element' is the materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the heritage value of a historic place, which must be retained in order to preserve its heritage value.



For more information:
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