



What is a “Property of interest” (P.O.I.)?

A **property of interest** is a property that is identified as a *built heritage resource* in the **City of Cambridge Heritage Properties Inventory**. Cambridge Council endorses the Inventory on a regular basis and the Cambridge Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) researches and identifies properties having architectural and/or historic significance that may be added to the inventory.

How are Properties of Interest chosen?

It is the policy of the City of Cambridge to encourage the conservation of its **properties of interest**. MHAC’s role is to identify potential **properties of interest** and evaluate them according to the following specifications:



- a) the cultural value or interest of the property;
- b) the contribution made by the property to the urban composition, streetscape or landscape of which it is a part;
- c) the structural condition of the property;
- d) the range of uses to which the property might be put;

Once a property has been evaluated and documented, MHAC presents this information to Cambridge Council. The property can only be added to the inventory by resolution of City Council or if the property has been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Once added to the inventory, the property becomes a **property of interest**.

From time to time, Council may require that the documentation for a **property of interest** be reviewed to ensure that the information remains current.

The detailed requirements for inclusion in the **City of Cambridge Heritage Properties Inventory** are outlined in the Heritage Conservation Policies of the **City of Cambridge Official Plan**.

To get a copy of either of these documents please contact the Heritage Planner at
519.740.4650 ext. 4580

What does this mean?

So, what does this mean to you, as the owner of a **property of interest**? Firstly, inclusion on the City of Cambridge Heritage Properties Inventory as a **property of interest** does not prevent you from making alterations and/or additions to your property.

However, if a development proposal or a community plan potentially impacts a **property of interest**, A Heritage Impact Assessment will be required. This would include such potential impacts as the creation of a new lot, a change in land use or changes to the streetscape of lands adjacent to a **property of interest**.

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What are the benefits of owning a property of interest?

Owning a **property of interest** means that your property is recognized for its cultural significance. It is intended to encourage you or a future owner to consider having your property provincially designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. In addition, **properties of interest** demonstrate to the community the value and importance of its architectural and historical heritage.

As an owner of a **property of interest**, you will be able to access a little known resource provided by Cambridge MHAC ; its research library. MHAC, during the course of its work has collected information, research documents and photographs on a large number of older Cambridge buildings. MHAC will also draw on the expertise available to it to provide advice to property owners involved in restoring **properties of interest**.

What is MHAC?

MHAC is an advisory committee of Cambridge Council whose purpose is to provide advice to Council on built heritage resources. Members of MHAC are volunteers appointed by Council who are interested and experienced in matters relating to conservation issues. The members of MHAC are a property owner's best resource.

Need More Information?

If you have additional questions regarding the City of Cambridge Heritage Properties Inventory or questions regarding a specific **property of interest**, please contact **Heritage Planner City of Cambridge**
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