

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC PLACES IN CANADA

The City of Victoria adopted the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* on January 3, 2005.

The *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* is intended to promote responsible conservation practices that help protect Canada's irreplaceable historic places. They provide a philosophical consistency for project work; and while neither technical nor case-specific, they provide the framework for making essential decisions about which features of an historic place should be maintained, and which can be altered.

GENERAL STANDARDS (ALL PROJECTS)

1. Conserve the *heritage value* of a historic place. Do not remove, replace, or substantially alter its intact or repairable, *character-defining elements*. Do not move a part of an *historic place* if its current location is a *character defining element*.
2. Conserve changes to an *historic place* which, over time, have become *character-defining elements* in their own right.
3. Conserve *heritage value* by adopting an approach calling for *minimal intervention*.
4. 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 co-existed.
5. Find a use for an *historic place* that requires minimal or no change to its *character-defining elements*.
6. Protect and, if necessary, stabilize an *historic place* until any subsequent *intervention* is undertaken. 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.
7. 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*.
8. 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.
9. 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.

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS RELATING TO REHABILITATION

10. 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*.
11. Conserve the *heritage value* and *character-defining elements* when creating any new additions to an *historic place* or any related new construction. Make the new work physically and visually compatible with, subordinate to and distinguishable from the *historic place*.
12. 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.

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS RELATING TO RESTORATION

13. Repair rather than replace *character-defining elements* from the restoration period. 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.
14. 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.

Further detailed information is contained in the [Guidelines](#) available at:

[Parks Canada > Heritage Conservation > Standards & Guidelines](#)