



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

# Community Heritage Register

## What is a Community Heritage Register?

A Community Heritage Register is a planning tool within the Local Government Act (section 598 -1) that allows a local government to formally identify historic resources so that they may be integrated into land use planning processes.

It is an official list of places recognized by the Regional District as having heritage value. Heritage Registers can include only one listing, or have hundreds of listings.

Heritage resources listed on it may be identified during day-to-day planning activities, nomination by the public or from other sources. Heritage sites and resources can be anything that has heritage value, including buildings, structures, landscapes, industrial sites, trees, streetscapes, and community events.

Being listed on a heritage register does not mean that the property is protected, simply that it is formally recognized as a heritage resource by the RDCK.

## What are the benefits of a Community Heritage Register?

- Provides legal heritage status - properties listed on a heritage register are eligible for powerful heritage incentive tools within the Local Government Act
- Provides eligibility for special provisions within the BC Building Code (Alternative Solutions)
- Enhances community sustainability by integrating heritage conservation activities into the planning process
- Provides formal recognition which demonstrates community pride, enhances appreciation and raise awareness about the places that matter to a community
- Provides public access to property owners, potential buyers and the general public to information about the heritage value of individual properties
- Allows a local government to consider and, if necessary, undertake protective action such as temporarily withholding demolition and building permits and ordering heritage inspections
- Is a condition for eligibility for many granting and funding programs such as Heritage BC's Heritage Legacy Fund.



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## What does a Community Heritage Register NOT do?

- It does not imply protection (designation) of the property
- It does not imply any costs to the local government
- It does not imply any costs to property owners
- It does not limit a property owner's ability to make changes to their listed property

## How is the Community Heritage Register managed?

- The Heritage Register is established by Board of Directors resolution.
- A resolution from the Board of Directors is required to add or remove a property from the Heritage Register.
- In order for a heritage resource to be listed on a Community Heritage Register, it should meet the criteria established by the British Columbia Register of Historic Places (BCRHP) documentation standards.
- Planning Staff must notify the BCRHP of any new listings or amendments to the Community Heritage Register. Upon each notification they must indicate the reasons why the heritage resource is considered to have heritage value or heritage character. This is done by filling out and submitting a form.
- Planning Staff administers the Heritage Register in accordance with the above legislative requirements and maintains records for listed heritage resources.
- Planning Staff is often aided by a Community Heritage Commission or Heritage Advisory Committee to evaluate nominations or changes to the Heritage Register and to help the RDCK or property owners gather research about identified or potential heritage resources.