Importance of Heritage in the Community

The Town of Antigonish has a long history of cherishing both their natural and built heritage and strives to continue this tradition by preserving the unique cultural and historical features of this community. Out built heritage provides us with an important outlet into the town's recent and distant past. Preserving these heritage buildings as a cultural resource and increasing the number of properties registered as municipal heritage properties is called for in both the ICSP and the Strategic Plan. The province promotes the maintenance of our unique built heritage and urges governments, advocacy groups, and property owners, both private and commercial, to share the responsibility of heritage stewardship.

Designating property within the municipal registry is important for its protection. Once registered, the property owner works with the municipality to ensure heritage value is maintained. This brochure outlines some of the architectural styles in Antigonish as well as the current process for municipal registration of heritage properties.

Can I make alterations after my property is registered?

Municipal approval may be required to make alterations to the exterior of your property, as well as alterations to registered public-building interiors. This will depend on the nature and extent of the changes being requested. Demolition or deregistration of heritage properties must be approved by Council.

Heritage is that which society inherits from previous generations and deems worthy of taking special measures to preserve for future generations

THE TOWN OF
ANTIG◎NISH

For more information on the Heritage Property Program please visit http://www.gov.ns.ca/cch/exploring/heritage/

Antigonish Town Hall
274 Main Street
Antigonish, NS
B2G 2C4
Ph (902) 863-2357
Fax (902) 863-0460
www.townofantigonish.ca

Antigonish Built Heritage
Promotion & Preservation

THE TOWN OF
ANTIG◎NISH

Heritage Architecture in the Town of Antigonish

Many different styles are architecture can be seen while strolling through the streets of town, some dating back to the early 19th century. To enter a building into the Town's Registry, a number of factors are considered including age, existing condition, and rarity. Here, some of the distinct historic and cultural elements of buildings witnessed in this town are identified.

Designation Process

Interested property owners should obtain and submit an application form to the Heritage Advisory Committee stating their reasons for having their property designated. The committee will then review the application and, if accepted, will advise town council to add it to the existing registry of heritage properties. All recommendations must include a letter of support from the committee, a consent form from the owner, and a completed registration application. Council will decide whether the property should be registered at a public meeting, which all interested parties will be advised of. Once approved by council, a Notice of Registration will be sent to the property owner and filed with the Registry of Deeds.

What happens if I sell the property?

Registration as a municipal heritage property is attached to the Deed, and therefore continues with the property even if it is sold or ownership is transferred. A plaque may be placed on the property to denote it as a heritage building.

What funding is available for municipal registered properties?

With municipal registration, grants are available to assist homeowners with materials and labour, as well as, conservation work and advice for up to 50% of the total cost. Under the Sales Tax Act, Provincial Tax Rebates are also available. These grants are issued under the Heritage Properties Program and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

Greek Revival (1820-1860)

Greek, or Classical, revival homes have a strong presence throughout the town. The medium pitched gable roof of many homes developed from the design of the temples of antiquity, which had pediments forming a gable. Doorways of this style are often off-centered of a simple, symmetrical façade. Simple trim and moulding became common and windows were vertically aligned in a 2/2 fashion. Many of these features were utilized in the construction of colonial homes in Nova Scotia.

Italianate (1850-1890)

This style derived from Roman architecture of the Renaissance period in the nineteenth century. With similarities to the 'villa' style, Italianate architecture later took its own unique form in North America. Later on, it spawned into the Bracketted style in North America. Houses with this design have hipped roofs with a low pitch. Often brackets are seen under the eaves and the exterior shingles are wood. Bays usually project from the front with multiple arched windows on a square façade.

Queen Anne Revival (1880-1915)

This Neo-Classical style of house construction developed in areas throughout the British Empire in different forms. The style was ideally suited to country homes, but appeared in Nova Scotia in both towns and country settings. Some of the main features include curved bay windows, decorative trim, and wood exterior shingles. Often there is a large wrap-around verandah with columns, spindles, and brackets. Palladian style windows are another interesting element specific to this type of housing design.

For more information on housing styles please refer to *Houses of Nova Scotia* by Allen Penny

Heritage Properties Program

The Heritage Properties Program is a provincial initiative to preserve Nova Scotia's built heritage by identifying, protecting, and rehabilitating heritage properties. The program supports both a provincial registry and municipally organized registries of heritage properties. Not only does the program address built heritage, but it also considers farm buildings, cemeteries, industrial structures, historical districts, and cultural landscapes. Our municipal registry applies only to regions within town boundaries, but provincial registration can be considered for any heritage property in the province.