



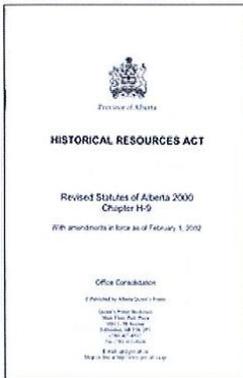
Municipal Heritage Designation Process

Overview

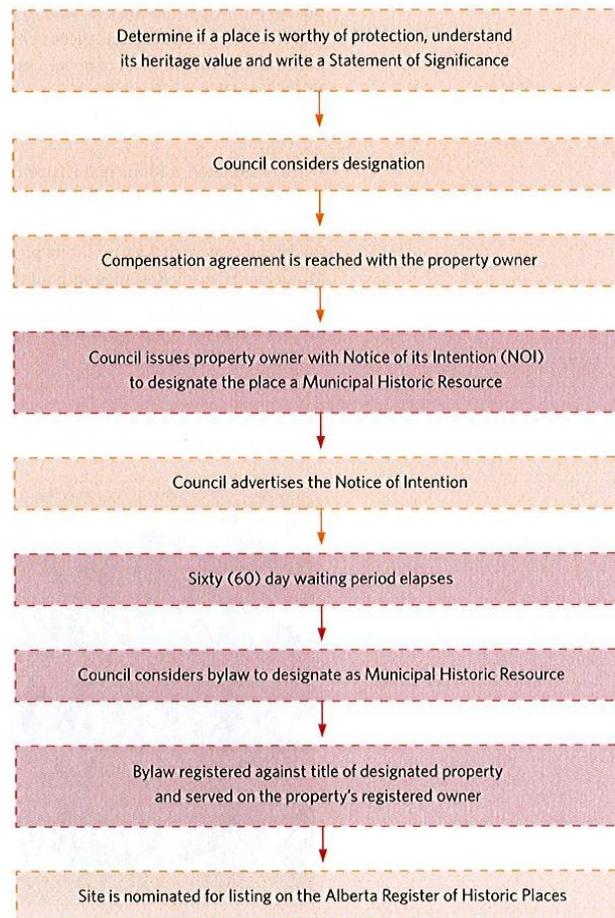
The *Historical Resources Act* (Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, Chapter H-9) empowers Alberta's municipalities to protect and conserve historically significant places. Municipal Historic Resource designation protects these significant places, ensuring that they are not altered haphazardly or destroyed.

Once designated, a Municipal Historic Resource remains the property of the registered owner. Designation does not alter how a property can be used. Law prohibits physically altering (or demolishing) a Historic Resource without the municipality's written permission. The designation is registered against the title for the property, ensuring that future owners and interest holders understand that the place is designated.

Designation at a Glance



-  Required by the *Historical Resources Act*.
-  Strongly recommended by the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program.



Source: "Creating a Future for Alberta's Historic Places: Identifying, Evaluating, Managing"



Before Designation

Prior to designation a Statement of Significance (SOS) must be prepared for the site. A SOS is prepared by an expert approved by the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC). The statement briefly explains what is being protected, why the place is valued, and lists the physical, character defining elements that must be preserved for it to retain significance.

Compensation

The *Historical Resources Act* empowers owners to seek compensation from the municipality for any “decrease in economic value” resulting from the designation of their property. The City of Lethbridge and owners interested in pursuing designation sign an agreement that waives compensation.

The Designation Process

Municipal councils designate Municipal Historic resources through a special bylaw process described in the *Historical Resources Act*. The council gives the owner written notice of its intention to designate their historic place. The council then must wait a minimum of sixty days before considering the designation bylaw. When it is passed, the bylaw is registered against the title to the designated property.

Step 1: The Notice of Intention

The formal designation process begins when council considers the proposed designation (Request For Decision (RFD) submitted to Council by the Heritage Advisor). If a majority wish to proceed, council passes a motion directing the written notice of its intention to designate be served on the property’s registered owner. This must occur at least sixty days before council considers a designation bylaw.

Step 2: Designation Bylaw

Designation occurs when council passes a bylaw declaring the site a Municipal Historic Resource pursuant to the *Historical Resources Act*. Council may not give first reading to a bylaw until the sixty day notice period has elapsed.

Once the sixty day notice has expired, the council can proceed with the designation bylaw, which is considered in the same manner as a regular bylaw.

Step 3: After the Bylaw is Passed

A designation bylaw must be registered in the appropriate land titles office against the title for the designated property, as soon as possible, after the bylaw is passed. This ensures anyone with interest in the property understands that it is a Municipal Historic Resource. The law also requires that a certified copy of the bylaw be served on the registered owner of the property.

Step 4: Listing on Alberta Register of Historic Places

Municipality must submit a copy of the bylaw and Statement of Significance, and some other documentation, to the Registrar of Historic Places.