

Town of Aurora
Cultural Heritage Evaluation Checklist

Ontario Regulation 09/06

[ENTER ADDRESS OF PROPERTY BEING EVALUATED]

1. DESIGN/PHYSICAL VALUE

1. The property has design value or physical value because it,

Evaluation Criteria:	Evaluation Comments:	Meets Criteria?
<i>i. is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method:</i>	[enter comments here]	

When Evaluating 1(1.), as above, consider the following:

Is it “rare”?

- Is it a variation of a style, or sub-set of a style rather than a rare example?
- Is it rare because there were few originally, or few survive due to subsequent loss?

Is it “unique”?

- Is the entire feature unique, or one attribute of the feature?
- Is it unique because it is the only one of its kind, or a prototype?

Is it “representative”?

- Does the building/feature exemplify a particular kind of a recognized architectural style?
- Does the building include the typical characteristics which are indicative of the particular architectural style?

- Would you use this resource to serve as a representative example of this kind of architectural style?

Is it an “early” example (i.e. style, type, expression, material, construction method)?

- What is the context in which it is considered early (i.e. a specific street or neighbourhood)?
- Note: Early may be considered pre-confederation (i.e. pre-1867)
- Is it a style (i.e. shared characteristics that make up a recognizable look, particular to a time or place) which is considered early?
- Is it a “type” (i.e. a particular kind or group with a common function, activity or use, such as schools, hospitals, parks) that is considered early?
- Is it an “expression” (to display, show, embody, or be the physical symbol of a way of life, belief, tradition) that is considered early?
- Is it made of, or includes a material (i.e. building material) that is considered early?
- Does it employ a construction method that is considered early? (i.e. mortise and tenon joints, log construction, hand-hewn timbers, early lath and plaster, etc.)

Evaluation Criteria:	Evaluation Comments:	Meets Criteria?
<i>ii. displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit:</i>	[enter comments here]	

When Evaluating 1(ii.) as above, consider the following:

- Does the feature or attribute present a level of craftsmanship beyond, or greater than a normal quality or at an intensity which is well above a standard for the time in which it was constructed?
- The above criterion considers the quality of construction, assembly of materials, preparation of materials, construction methods, spatial arrangements, etc., level of skill?
- What is the evidence that confirms there is a high level of craftsmanship or artistic merit?

Evaluation Criteria:	Evaluation Comments:	Meets Criteria?
<i>iii. demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement:</i>	[enter comments here]	

When Evaluating 1(iii.) as above, consider the following:

- Does the feature or attribute currently display or present technical or scientific achievement in a greater than normal quality or at an intensity well above an industry standard for the time in which it was constructed?
- Consider whether or not it exemplifies a breakthrough in design or construction techniques (i.e. the first type of a bridge, which was an improvement from a previous design)
- Consider whether or not it includes technical expertise in its construction methods
- Consider whether or not greater scientific achievements were needed or used to prepare, use, or install materials, forms, spatial arrangements, etc.

2. HISTORICAL/ASSOCIATIVE VALUE

The property has historical value or associative value because it,

Evaluation Criteria:	Evaluation Comments:	Meets Criteria?
<i>i. has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to the community:</i>	[enter comments here]	

When Evaluating 2(i.), as above, consider the following:

- This criteria is intangible, rather than tangible. Evaluation should consider available research, and requires interpretation.
- To satisfy this criterion, the property must meet two tests:
 - a) is the association *direct*: is there strong evidence of its connection to a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution. For example, the property may have been the former residence of a former village Postmaster and Mayor. However, if it is the former residence of the brother of a former Postmaster, Mayor, etc., this relationship is *indirect*, rather than direct.
 - b) is the relationship significant to the community: is there evidence that the theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution has made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the evolution or pattern of settlement and development in the community.
- A property *may* meet this criteria if little else survives to illustrate a particular aspect of the community's history.

Evaluation Criteria:	Evaluation Comments:	Meets Criteria?
<i>ii. yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture:</i>	[enter comments here]	

When Evaluating 2(ii.) as above, consider the following:

- The Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (formerly MTCS) identifies that this criterion is often associated with the assessment of the cultural heritage value or archaeological sites and resources, but this is not its only application.
- This criterion considers whether a property has, or could have the ability to provide evidence of one or more notable or influential aspects of a community's history or culture.
- To meet this criterion, the evidence should offer new knowledge that provides a greater understanding of particular aspects of the community's history, or contribute to a comparable analysis. The evidence may be demonstrated through a property, or combination of properties and associated documentary material or artifacts.

Evaluation Criteria:	Evaluation Comments:	Meets Criteria?
<i>iii. demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to the community:</i>	[enter comments here]	

When Evaluating 2(iii.) as above, consider the following:

- To satisfy this criterion, the property must display or present the work or ideas of an artist, builder, architect, designer, or theorist and be significant to the community.

- Demonstrating significance to the community may be because an artist, architect, builder, designer, or theorist has made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution. The contribution may have been recognized in its day or through subsequent interpretation.
- The above-noted evidence must be considered in light of supporting research where the work/ideas of the architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist have been explicitly identified.
- Incidental association does not satisfy this criterion.
- Note that this criterion is different from criterion 1(ii.) which is related to craftsmanship and artistic merit alone.

3. CONTEXTUAL VALUE

The property has contextual value because it,

Evaluation Criteria:	Evaluation Comments:	Meets Criteria?
<i>i. is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area:</i>	[enter comments here]	

When Evaluating 3(i.), as above, consider the following:

- To meet this criterion, the property needs to be located within an area which has unique or definable character, and it is desirable to maintain that character.
- The character of the area need not be attractive for it to be meaningful.
- Does it define the area? Would the character of the area or context be changed in a significant way if the building or feature was removed or altered?
- Does it maintain the area? Would the character of the area be changed somewhat if the building or feature was removed or altered?
- Does it support the area? Would the character of the area largely remain intact if the building or feature was removed or altered?

Evaluation Criteria:	Evaluation Comments:	Meets Criteria?
ii. is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings:	[enter comments here]	

When Evaluating 3(ii.) as above, consider the following:

- To satisfy this criterion, the property needs to have a relationship to its broader context which is important to understand the meaning of the property and the context. The relationship or link (i.e. connection) may be: a) physical: where there is a material connection between the property and its surroundings, b) functional: necessary to fulfil a particular purpose, c) visual: where there is a visual connection between it and at least one feature of its context. To satisfy this visual criterion, it must go beyond a link merely because adjacent properties can be seen from it, or d) historical: where there is a demonstrated connection to the historic context which is significant to the understanding of the property or its context.
- Character can be described as the combination of physical elements which together provide a sense of place with a distinctive sense of identity.
- When considering physical and/or functional links – use an example of a flouring or grist mill complex. The inter-relationship between both built and natural features, including the location and inter-workings of mill components throughout the landscape would have a demonstrated link to each other. For example, the mill pond and mill race provides water to the dam and associated penstocks, etc., which powers a water wheel and enables the grinding of wheat into flour.

Evaluation Criteria:	Evaluation Comments:	Meets Criteria?
iii. is a landmark:	[enter comments here]	

When Evaluating 2(iii.) as above, consider the following:

- This criterion should consider whether or not the landmark is meaningful or recognized by the local community.
- Is the landmark recognizable for its natural or human-made features which are used as a point of reference that helps orienting in a familiar or unfamiliar environment.
- The key physical characteristics of a landmark is its prominence within its context. Landmarks are usually memorable and easily discernible. They serve as orientation guides or local/regional tourist attractions.

Further Reading and Resources:

- www.ontarioarchitecture.com;
- www.historicplaces.ca;
- www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/heritage_toolkits.shtml
- Blumenson, J. (1990) Ontario Architecture. A Guide to Styles and Building Terms 1784 to Present. Toronto, ON: Fitzhenry and Whiteside.
- Rempel, J. (1980) Building with Wood and Other Aspects of 19th Century Building in Central Canada. Rev. ed. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto.
- Fram, M. (1987) Well-Preserved: The Ontario Heritage Foundation's Manual of Principles and Practice for Architectural Conservation. Erin, Ont.: Boston Mills Press.
- McAlester, Virginia Savage. (2020) A Field Guide to American Houses: The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Note: The guidance and references provided within this document refer to those provided by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (formerly the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport) document Standards & Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties: Heritage Identification & Evaluation (2014) and is intended to provide additional guidance on the interpretation and application of criteria and sub-criteria under Ontario Regulation 9/06.