

Why Preserve Our Heritage Buildings



Preserving heritage buildings is essential for maintaining community identity, fostering pride, and connecting present generations with the past. The Town of Nanton can enhance its unique character by identifying and protecting these historic assets for future generations.

- 1. Community Pride** – Owners of historic properties take pride in their properties and choose to maintain them diligently. By doing so, they contribute to the preservation of historic properties that form an integral part of our community's rich architectural legacy.
- 2. Adaptability/Sustainability** – Repurposing historic buildings is a form of recycling that prevents demolition and reduces landfill waste. Adapting these buildings for new purposes revitalizes the streetscape and promotes environmental sustainability.
- 3. Economic Growth** – By leveraging our history and historic character, we can attract new investments and developments. The conservation and protection of our historic buildings can serve as a marketing tool to drive economic growth and cultural sustainability in our downtown area.
- 4. Tourism** – Heritage conservation attracts tourists and is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the tourism industry. Preserving and adapting our historic buildings allows us to retain our history while creating opportunities for historical, architectural, and cultural attractions.
- 5. Urban Design** – Historic buildings contribute to the unique sense of time and place in our downtown. They create a pedestrian-friendly environment with warm, natural textures and reflect the rich traditions of our community, linking us to the events, people, activities, and architectural styles that have shaped our identity. Heritage preservation is environmentally friendly, pedestrian-friendly, and age-friendly.
- 6. Job Creation** – The rehabilitation of historic buildings can utilize local and regional skills, labour, services, and materials. It often requires the craftsmanship of specialized trades, leading to training and development in these specializations within the local job market.
- 7. Tax Base Stability** – Municipalities can strengthen their local tax base by retaining, enhancing, rehabilitating, conserving, and adapting existing historic buildings for new functions.
- 8. Property Value Stability** – Historic buildings are desirable places to live and work when well-maintained. Their property values remain stable and are often less affected by market fluctuations due to the value of the historic character these buildings contribute.
- 9. Funding Access** – At the request of the building owner, the municipality can protect the property by designating the historic building as a Municipal Historic Resource. The owner then has ongoing access, through an application, to provincial building conservation funding via the Alberta Preservation Partnership Program.
- 10. Expert Guidance** – If an owner of a heritage property is interested in conserving their historic building, the Municipality can provide advice to help maintain, preserve, or sympathetically develop the property in a manner that ensures the building is protected in the best interest of its character-defining elements.
- 11. Job Creation** – The rehabilitation of historic buildings can utilize local and regional skills, labour, services, and materials. It often requires the craftsmanship of specialized trades, leading to training and development in these specializations within the local job market.

For more information please contact:
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