

Government of the Northwest  
Territories

# Guide

to the preparation of

# Statements of Significance

for Historic Sites



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# Table of Contents

Preamble.....2

Introduction.....3

Description of Historic Place.....5

Heritage Value.....12

Character-Defining Elements.....18

Sample Statements of Significance.....26

Glossary of Terms.....40

# Preamble

In 2001, the Canadian Government announced the beginning of the Canadian Historic Places Initiative (HPI), undertaken in partnership with territorial and provincial governments across the country. Through the initiative, governments aim to promote Canadian heritage places, and encourage their conservation. To this end, they have designed 3 tools: the Canadian Register of Historic Places, standards and guidelines for conserving heritage property, and a certification and financial incentive program for commercial historic site renovations. The Canadian Register was launched on-line in May 2004, and is available at [www.historicplaces.ca](http://www.historicplaces.ca).

Sites that are posted on the Canadian Register of Historic Places must meet specific documentation requirements. One of these requirements is a statement of significance (SoS). SoS's talk about why a site was designated, and why it is an important cultural place. They also talk about what things need to be preserved to keep the place culturally important. Statements of significance are a new tool in managing and preserving historic places. They represent a shift to value-based management of heritage resources.

Statements of significance allow people to make management and conservation decisions based on the reasons why the place was designated in the first place. In the past, this was not always the case. Traditionally there has been very little written documentation about cultural places and why they were designated in the Northwest Territories. Because of this, making decisions about how to manage cultural places has been difficult. We hope that by learning how to write and use statements of significance, managing and preserving the NWT's heritage resources will be much clearer and more effective. While statements of significance are a requirement for listing a site on the Canadian Register, we hope they will be useful tools to any government or organization that documents, manages, or protects cultural places.

# Introduction

The statement of significance for a historic site is a brief statement of the nature of the site, of why it has been commemorated as significant to the people of the NWT, and of the features of the site that embody its heritage character and therefore must be protected to retain its heritage value.

Simply stated, the statement of significance answers the questions:

- ✓ What is it?
- ✓ Why should anyone care?
- ✓ What things hold its value?

## **Purposes of a statement of significance**

- ✓ The statement of significance briefly and clearly explains the reason(s) why a historic site has been commemorated and is important to everyone: community members, visitors to the site, on-line visitors, planners, developers, engineers, educators, researchers, heritage professionals, tourists and other members of the interested public.
- ✓ The statement of significance is a single statement that serves as a common reference point to describe its heritage value for all planning, administrative and legislative activities.
- ✓ The statement of significance is attached to all planning, administrative and legislative documents related to the site, either directly or indirectly.
- ✓ The statement of significance serves as a basis for all government activities intended to support or enhance the heritage value of the site. Its character-defining elements section, in particular, provides guidance to property owners, planners, architects and others involved in safeguarding, conserving or rehabilitating the historic site.
- ✓ The statement of significance is the clear statement of the value of the site necessary for it to be eligible for heritage grants and programs, territorial and federal. It is essential for certification under the Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund, and must guide the preparation of project proposals if a project is to receive support.

## **Preparing a statement of significance**

Statements of significance are prepared according to strict, consistent guidelines that must be met if they are to communicate the value of the site effectively for planning and administration. The statement of significance of a historic place must follow this

established format to obtain certification for entry in the federal government's Commercial Heritage Property Incentive Fund.

Every historic site is unique. This is the reason we honour particular sites through commemoration. The challenge in writing a statement of significance is to capture that uniqueness with a degree of integrity, to write something that accurately captures the nature, value and critical elements of a particular site. Statements of significance for individual historic places are as unique as the places themselves. Each one presents a different challenge.

Statements of significance are not simple to write. They must be clearly written and well thought out. They must be written in cooperation with nominating individual(s) and community stakeholders, in order to accurately reflect the values and reasoning of these groups. Statements of significance must also accurately reflect the features that capture these values if they are to prove useful operating tools. For that reason, heritage professionals usually prepare them, based on the input of the nominating communities.

### **Purpose of this guidebook**

This guidebook was written to help heritage professionals write statements of significance. It was also written to help ordinary citizens understand how statements of significance are written. It aims to standardize the way in which statements of significance are written, and thereby contribute to a consistent and quality Canadian Register of Historic Places. This guidebook should be used in conjunction with the documentation guidelines for the Canadian Register.

Statements of significance have three sections: description of historic place, heritage value, and character-defining elements. The following chapters of this manual will describe, discuss and give examples of how each section should be written. The manual also includes examples of statements of significance, and a glossary of other terms you may encounter in the heritage profession.

# Description of Historic Place

**Purpose:** To establish “What is the historic place?”

**Content:** This section should clearly identify

- ✓ the name under which the site is designated,
- ✓ its type of designation,
- ✓ the general geographic location of the site,
- ✓ the nature of the historic site without describing it in detail,
- ✓ the physical extent of the historic site, indicating what the designation includes,
- ✓ the principal resources that define the historic site.

**Format:** One or two sentences written in narrative style.

## What do I do if the name under which the site is designated

- **is not known to me?** Look it up in the legislation designating the site.
- **is not the name commonly used to refer to it today?** Include both names. This usually done by including the second name and its context in brackets. For example, “Tulita Church (formerly St. Peter’s Anglican Church, Fort Norman)”.
- **has two names, each reflecting the name of a different culture?** Use both. The intent is to be clear to everyone reading the statement of significance, i.e. “Sahyoue-Edacho (also known as Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills) National Historic Site”.
- **has several names, one for the whole site and others for its parts?** Use the name for the whole site as the first name, then include the names of the parts in the description. For example, “Ehdaa National Historic Site of Canada is Koe Go Cho, the traditional Dene meeting place on the flats at the southwestern end of Fort Simpson Island, that now contains the Papal Grounds built for the 1987 visit of Pope John Paul II.”
- **has two names, each reflecting the name of a historic place on the site?** Some designations are double barreled – they designate two places because they are related to one another. In such a case, you follow the name of the designation and state both names. For example “Deline Fishery and Franklin’s Fort National Historic Sites”.



*Old Fort Providence. T.Andrews/GNWT.*

## What do I do if the site's type of designation

- **is not clear?** This should not be the case if the site has been designated. Who is responsible for the designation? What do you call the historic places that body designates? If this is still unclear, you can provide a context, i.e. "Fireweed Studio commemorated by the City of Yellowknife in 1998".
- **is complicated?** This generally occurs when a site has been commemorated by more than one designating agency (i.e. the Territory and the community). Use the designation that applies to the originator of the Statement of significance as the primary designation, and include the other designation in brackets afterward. As a hypothetical example, "Tulita Church Territorial Historic Site (also commemorated as a Fort Norman Church Heritage Site)".

## What do I do if the general geographic location of the site

- **is a community?** Name the community, and say where in the community the historic place can be found (i.e. "in Yellowknife's old town").



Wildcat Café, Yellowknife

E.Hawkins/GNWT

- **is provided by a geographical feature?** Be as precise as you can. For example, "on the east shore of Balaena Bay, Parry Peninsula."
- **would be clearer with more information?** Then include the additional description. Sometimes this is the historical context of the area in which the site is located. For example, "Ehdaa National Historic Site is the traditional Dene meeting place on the flats at the southwestern end of Fort Simpson Island".

## How do I describe the general nature of the historic site without describing it in too much detail?

- **Describe what historic period it represents.** You can supply this information in several ways: by giving a specific date or date range (i.e. "1825-1827"), by giving a context (i.e. "during the Second World War"), or by giving a general description (i.e. "mid 20<sup>th</sup> century").

- **Describe what kind of site it is:**
  - a a ruin (archaeological remnant)
  - b a sacred site
  - c a burial or grave site
  - d a trail, river route, road route or pathway
  - e a site traditionally used for a specific purpose or activity
  - f a cultural landscape
  - g a special place in the natural landscape (intangible)
  - h a special feature in the natural landscape (tangible)
  - i a man-made feature in the natural landscape
  - j a landscape that is part natural, part man-made
  - k a building
  - l a building and its property
  - m a structure (that is not a building)
  - n a complex of buildings & structures (one property)
  - o a streetscape
  - p a historic district (streets and properties with buildings or structures)
  - q a man-made landscape that includes many features
  - r a place where early land occupation patterns can still be seen (a settlement pattern).

- **State the use or function of the site if it establishes the general nature of the site.**
- **State any outstanding qualities that generally describe the site.** If possible, avoid mentioning things that could change frequently.



*Parry's Rock.*

*Learmonth/NWT Archives.*

## **Problems determining the area and boundaries of the site**

- **How do I measure the extent of the site?**  
 You can use any common measurement to describe the size of the site (i.e. “4 square miles”), or you can use an adjective such as “large” or “small” (i.e. “is a large wooden building”), or you can describe its physical extent in historical terms (i.e. “the boundaries reflect the boundaries of the farm in 1923”). Specific measurement is not required in this section, it is simply a rough idea of the extent of the site.

- **How do I indicate what is included in formal recognition?** The most common confusion is whether designation of a building or structure also includes the property upon which it is located. If it does include the property, are other features of the property (such as outbuildings or plantings) included in the designation as well? It is important to clearly identify the parts of the site to which the designation applies. For example: K'atlodeeche (Hay River Mission) National Historic Site “consists of St. Peter’s Anglican Church and Ste. Anne’s Roman Catholic Church and rectory remains, and their associated cemeteries. These missions are located on either side of the site of the old Dene village proper.”



Graves at Old Arctic Red. Ingrid Kritsch, GSCL.

- **How do I indicate what is not included in formal recognition?** Not all sites are designated to the full extent of their historic boundaries. For example, Fort Smith Mission Historic Park does not include the hospital property that was once part of the mission – nor does it include those parts of the mission property where a modern church and clinic now stand. In such a case, *what is not designated is not included* in the description. Describe only what is designated, for example “The park sits on a portion of the original Roman Catholic mission site. The most prominent feature in the park, the Bishop’s Residence, is surrounded by five out-buildings, the old St. Isadore’s Church, and fields that were once used to produce food for the mission.”

- **What do I do here if I am not sure of the boundaries?** Be as clear as you can about what is included and what is not included. If you are more precise than is required, what you have written can always be removed later, and that is better than trying to add new information during a later stage. One trick to simplify things is to compile a detailed list of what is “in” and what is “out”, then look for a common thread (historic or modern) separating the two groups? If one exists, you can state that.

### **Problems identifying the principal resources that define the historic site**

- **Is there a central focus to the site?** One or two outstanding features dominate most sites, and the historic site would probably not exist if they were gone. Make sure the central focus is clearly identified. Then add the major support resources.

For example: “The most prominent feature in the park, the Bishop’s Residence, is surrounded by five out-buildings, the old St. Isadore’s Church, and fields that were once used to produce food for the mission.”

- **Can the central focus be a theme, concept or idea?** Yes. Here is an example: “The Deline Fishery is that part of Great Bear Lake located at the foot of Keith Arm where the current quickens as it enters the Great Bear River, and includes certain places on the adjacent shoreline traditionally used for catching, landing and processing fish.”
- **How much detail should I give when I am naming specific attached resources?** The question is really “Can the site communicate what it is without the resource?” If not, the resource should be mentioned specifically. Other parts of the site can be generally grouped together and included as feature types. For example, “Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site is the section of the Mackenzie River that traverses the traditional homelands of the Gwichya Gwich’in of Tsiigehtchic ... where many landscape features, structures and remains have cultural meaning.”

## Sample Descriptions of Historic Place



*Old Log School E.Hawkins/GNWT.*

### **Sample 1 - a building**

The Old Log School House is a City of Yellowknife Heritage Site. It is a square, single storey saddle-notched log building with a hipped roof adjacent to Franklin Avenue in downtown Yellowknife.



*View from Fort Franklin to Deline T.Andrews/GNWT.*

### **Sample 2 - a ruin**

Franklin’s Fort National Historic Site is the footprint of a settlement overlooking Keith Arm, Great Bear Lake, which was built by Sir John Franklin’s second expedition (1825-27) as wintering quarters.



### **Sample 3 - a burial site**

Whalers' Graves Territorial Historic Site is the site of two upright ornate wooden headboards marking the death of eight men from the Grampus and Balaena whale ships in 1895-1896 on the east shore of Balaena Bay, Parry Peninsula.

*Balaena Headboard, Whalers' Graves.  
J.Bockstoce.*



### **Sample 4 - a cultural landscape (built)**

Fort Smith Mission Historic Park is a 1.8-hectare Northwest Territorial Park in downtown Fort Smith. Built in the early 1900s, the park sits on a portion of the original Roman Catholic mission site. The most prominent feature in the park, the Bishop's Residence, is surrounded by five out-buildings, the old St. Isadore's Church, and fields that were once used to produce food for the mission.

*Fort Smith Mission, 1922.  
Canada.Dept. of the Interior/NWT Archives.*



### **Sample 5 - a cultural landscape (broad natural landform)**

Nagwichoonyjik National Historic Site is the section of the Mackenzie River that traverses the traditional homelands of the Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic (formerly Arctic Red River). This historic place extends from Thunder River on the southeast boundary to Point Separation in the Mackenzie Delta, a 170-kilometer section of the river where many landscape features, structures and remains have cultural meaning.

*Point Separation, Nagwichoonyjik.  
Ingrid Kritsch/ GSCI.*

### **Checklist for writing Description of Place:**

#### Mandatory

- the designated name of the site
- the type of historic site
- the type of designation
- the location of the site (specific and/or in broader setting)
- a description of the extent of the site
- a list of the essential historic parts that make up the site

#### Optional

- whether it relates to any particular time in history
- any other names required to identify the site
- is more precise information needed to clearly describe the scope of the site?
- any more precise information that would help identify its location

# Heritage Value

**Purpose:** To establish “Why does anyone care?”

This section answers the questions:

- ✓ Why has this place been designated a historic place?
- ✓ Why is this place important to present and future generations?

**Content:** The heritage value section should

- ✓ Briefly explain the reasons we have chosen to honour this place
- ✓ Describe where its heritage value lies, and to give its value a context (if an explanation is required to understand its value),
- ✓ State where and how its value has been recognized.

It is not a complete historical account of the site. It is assumed that an account of the history of this place exists somewhere else.

**Format:** Full sentence, paragraph form.



*McPherson House, Fort Simpson.*

*T.Andrews/GNWT*

There are 3 items to identify in the heritage value section:

- 1) **Core Values** are the main reason(s) a site was designated.
- 2) **Valued Qualities** are the “today” aspect of the site that communicates or sustains its heritage value. They list the general qualities that are valuable, and add any information that would give background information necessary to understanding that value or why it has survived.

3) **Source** is the document in which this place was designated, or the document where this place was identified as a historic place.

The following pages will discuss each of these three sections in detail.

## Core heritage value

**What is it?** Every historic site has a core heritage value. Its core value is the main reason the site was commemorated. This reason is usually very strong, and the first thing that you think of when someone asks you why the site is “historic”.

The core value of a historic site could be:

- ✓ **A place that illustrates achievement**
  - in a type of activity, i.e. exploration
  - in concept and design, i.e. the creation of a particular sled design
  - in technology, i.e. pipeline engineering, or traditional construction of a type of fish weir
  - in planning, i.e. Our Lady of Good Hope Church was built because acquiring the materials was carefully planned over a period of years, and so was their assembly, another example would be management of the Deline Fishery, or
  - in a significant stage in the development of a place, i.e. the location of the first Territorial legislature.
  
- ✓ **A place associated with events that have contributed to important patterns of history.** Examples would be Fort Smith Mission Site, or Ehdaa.
  
- ✓ **A place that is notably associated with the life of a person or the traditional stories of a prophet of particular historical importance.**  
Examples might be Franklin’s Fort, or Bear Rock Mountain, Yellowknife’s Old Log Schoolhouse.
  
- ✓ **A place that illustrates or symbolizes in whole or in part a cultural tradition, way of life, or an idea important to development**  
Examples might be Sahyoue-Edacho, or the Hudson’s Bay Warehouse or Canadian Pacific Float Plane Base in Yellowknife.
  
- ✓ **A place that stands out in the measure of a place of its kind,** for example, for its representation of important aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social, spiritual and/or similar trends or themes. For example, the Tulita Church for its fine craftsmanship and log construction.



*Fort Good Hope Church.*

*T.Andrews/GNWT*

**Can there be more than one core value?** While many sites are commemorated for one major reason, others are commemorated on the basis of two or three fairly strong reasons that, together, are sufficient to make it important. In such a case, each of these major reasons merits attention in the statement of significance as a core value.

**Why should I emphasize the core value(s) in what I write?** Core values are the most important qualities of any historic site – the ones that make it unique enough to merit public support, the ones that carry a message from the past into the present and the future. Put differently, core values are “the selling point” of the site. They should be “front and centre” in any message about why the site matters to acknowledge and communicate their importance.

**Can core values vary?** If a site has been commemorated by more than one jurisdiction (i.e. under more than one heritage program usually by different levels of government), then core values can vary. A place may have different values for commemoration as a Territorial Historic Site than it has as a National Historic Site or a Municipal Heritage Property. If this occurs, the “core values” that should be described are those that matter for the jurisdiction for which the Statement of significance is being prepared – in this case, its values as a Territorial Historic Site.



*Papal Tipi, Fort Simpson.  
E.Hawkins/GNWT*

**How much do I say?** It is important to say what the site is and why it matters. For example, simply stating a site is important because it is a traditional Dene hunting blind, might leave readers thinking “so what”? The reader may need a little more information about what a Dene hunting blind is, and why this one in particular is important. Here is an example of a more thorough explanation. “Hunting blinds are an example of traditional Dene technology, and were important tools in helping the Dene hunt caribou. Hunting blinds were linear structures made from trees in order to guide caribou herds towards the hunters, and therefore aid in a successful kill. This particular blind is important because it is in excellent condition, in its original location, and one of the few remaining hunting blinds from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is built in the style typically used in the Mackenzie during this time period: with woven saplings and angled form.”

## Valued Qualities

**What is a valued quality?** A valued quality is the “today” aspect of the site that communicates or sustains its heritage value. Valued qualities are inherent, often physical in expression, and usually generalisations.

Valued qualities are such things as:

- ✓ the wholeness or completeness of the way a site represents its heritage value,
- ✓ the comprehensiveness with which its surviving components portray its heritage value,
- ✓ the degree of excellence with which the appearance of a site represents its heritage value,
- ✓ the integrity with which the appearance of a site reflects its heritage value,

- ✓ the clarity with which the appearance of a site portrays its heritage value,
- ✓ the rarity with which physical examples of its value have survived,
- ✓ the continuity of site use for a particular purpose if that is why it is valued,
- ✓ the continuity of association of a site with a valued phenomenon (person, activity, event)
- ✓ some sites have a heritage value that cannot be replaced by any other historic place (so explain what that is).

**How do I explain a valued quality?** You say enough to identify that the site has a quality associated with its value, then briefly explain what that quality is in specific terms.

**Can a place have more than one valued quality?** Yes, if more than one quality is essential to sustaining and communicating its heritage value.

**Do I include valued qualities for all of the reasons the site was commemorated?** Not necessarily. Not all valued qualities need separate expression.

**Do I include valued qualities not related to the reasons for which the site was commemorated?** No. Most historic sites have long and complicated histories. Most of their history and qualities are irrelevant to why they were commemorated as historic sites, and therefore to their heritage value.

**How do I know which valued qualities to stress and which to just mention?** The priority given to each type of value in the Statement of significance should be a mirror of the importance it was assigned in relation to other values when a designation decision was made. For example, if a site is commemorated primarily because it is a sacred site, its aesthetic value as a beautiful place is less important than the fact it features in one of the Yamoria legends. Its valued quality would be the degree to which its physical appearance continues to reflect the description in the legend, or the physical attributes of the place created in the legend.



*Papal Flats, Fort Simpson.*

*Grant Clarke.*

## Source

**What is needed here?** A citation stating where and when the site was designated a historic place. The statement of significance for a site does not itself create heritage value. It just describes heritage value that has been already recognized. Places are recognized as historic places with value to their communities by designation. Their heritage value is established when several responsible people representing the community agree that special value exists. Designation occurs using an agreed public process. A process for designating Territorial Historic Sites has been devised to provide this review for historic places nominated for territorial commemoration – and several municipal and First Nations governments within the NWT also

have their own processes for making such decisions.

**How do I identify the right document?** The document required is the one that gives authority for the place to be a historic place on behalf of a public community. This could be minutes of a community or band council meeting, minutes of a Heritage Committee evaluation meeting or evaluation report, or designating legislation such as a by-law or, NWT Historical Resources Act or the Territorial Parks Act.

**What do I do if I can't find that document, or if it does not give me the right information when I do find it?** In such cases, make reference to another document that recognizes and states the heritage value of the site. This could be an existing statement of significance or heritage character statement, a plaque text or statement of value in a publication, heritage tourism brochure, or walking tour. Unless a public committee or other body responsible for heritage commemoration has approved these documents, they are not strong support of heritage value, but they are better than nothing.

## Sample Statements of Heritage Value



*Tulita Church T.Andrews/GNWT.*

### Sample 1

Tulita Church is a Northwest Territories Historic Site because it is one of the oldest standing buildings in the Northwest Territories. The dovetailed log structure is an excellent example of the building style of the time, as well as fine craftsmanship. Its historical association with the Church of England (Anglican Church) is a testament to early Anglican missionary activities in Northern Canada. Legendary missionaries such as Bishop William Carpenter Bompas are also associated with the site. Located on the former Hudson's Bay lot in the historic centre of the community, the old Anglican Church speaks

to the era of early contact between Europeans and northern Aboriginal people, and the establishment of the church and commerce that came with it.

Source: NWT Historical Resources Act, 29 February 1979.



Canadian Pacific Float Base  
E.Hawkins/GNWT.

### Sample 2

The Canadian Pacific Float Base was designated a Heritage Site because it was the first permanent floatplane base to be built in Yellowknife. Many aviation pioneers once worked out of this building including Stan McMillan and Max Ward. The building is attractive and in good condition. This site is significant because its location on the shores of Back Bay, adjacent to other floatplane bases as well as other buildings dating from the 1940s.”

Source: City of Yellowknife, By-law 3636, 27 July 1992



Designating Sahyoue/Edacho.  
T.Andrews/GNWT.

### Sample 3

Sahyoue-Edacho was designated a National Historic Site because the cultural values of these places, expressed through the interrelationship between the landscape, oral histories, graves and cultural resources, such as trails and cabins, help to explain and contribute to an understanding of the origin, spiritual values, lifestyle and land use of the Sahtu Dene. The heritage value of Sahyoue-Edacho lies in the cultural landscape as a whole, its environmental quality which allows traditional lifestyle and land use activities, and the cultural values of the Sahtu Dene expressed through the inter-relationship between landscape, oral history, graves and cultural resources.

Source: Historic Sites & Monuments Board of Canada, November 1996; Commemorative Integrity Statement.

#### Checklist for writing Heritage Value:

##### Mandatory

- a statement of the core values for which the place has been designated
- a description of the general things that carry its heritage value
- a source documenting recognition of its heritage value

##### Optional

- a statement of any more precise information that would help explain why it has those qualities.

# Character-Defining Elements

**Purpose:** To define “What matters about the place?”

**Content:** This section of the statement of significance is a list of the features, uses and associations of the historic place that must be preserve for the site to keep its heritage values. Character-defining elements can be one or all of the following aspects of a place:

- ✓ materials
- ✓ uses
- ✓ cultural associations or meanings
- ✓ forms
- ✓ location
- ✓ spatial configurations

Since every historic place is significant for different reasons, this is a customized list that is special for every historic place.

A list of character-defining elements provides guidance to property owners, planners, architects, and anyone else who is responsible for respecting and / or supporting the heritage value of the property. Character-defining elements should guide any site management, conservation, rehabilitation or preservation activity, although it does not in itself provide conservation advice.

**Format:** The character-defining element section should be written in point form. Content is usually entered in a specific order, which is discussed below.

**What are character-defining elements?** Character-defining elements are the physical features, uses and associations that are essential to retaining the heritage value of a historic place. If they are not preserved, the site is no longer a heritage site. Character-defining elements must

- ✓ **be located within the physical boundaries of the historic place.**
- ✓ **provide direct evidence of the heritage value(s) for which the historic place has been commemorated.** Elements that do not contribute to commemorated heritage value(s) are not considered to be character-defining.
- ✓ **exist at the time of commemoration as an historic place.** Past elements which have been removed or destroyed, or elements which were planned but never executed are not considered to be character-defining elements.



*Old Barn, Fort Simpson.*

*T.Andrews/GNWT*

## **How do I determine character-defining**

**elements?** Character-defining elements are identified by looking at a historic place with an understanding of its value, and analysing the parts (or elements) that together make up that value. To identify character-defining elements, ask yourself the following questions:

- What **embodies** its heritage value?
- What **contains** its heritage value?
- What **contributes** to its heritage value?
- What **must be there** to deliver the message of heritage value?

Character-defining elements are your answers to those questions. They should include any materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses, and cultural associations or meanings that give the place its heritage value.

## **How do I list character-defining elements?**

There is a general order to the listing of character-defining elements for all historic places:

- 1) An overview of the features, associations and uses that characterize the site on the large scale
- 2) A description of its composition
- 3) A breakdown of individual parts linked by their type of contribution, and
- 4) Features of the site in relation to the larger environment in which it is situated.

Although the topics covered in these categories vary with the characteristics and values of each site, historic places of a similar type most often address similar kinds of questions. The following chart is a quick reference list for major types of historic places existing in the NWT. The concepts it uses are explained in the glossary at the end of this manual.

## Topics to consider: identifying character-defining elements of a heritage site

	Cultural Landscapes	Remains	Buildings & Structures	Natural Features
<b>Overview of Features, Uses, Associations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wholeness or completeness (or fragment) in relation to a particular cultural value</li> <li>central feature linking the landscape</li> <li>list of secondary parts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>general grouping or feature on surface (footprint, outline, object)</li> <li>status in relation to what was (vestige, fragment)</li> <li>whether resource is surface or subsurface or both</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>massing</li> <li>massing relationships</li> <li>identification of major parts and groupings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wholeness in relation to cultural value</li> <li>spatial relationship (general massing and proportion)</li> </ul>
<b>Composition</b>  * repeat for interior and exterior if appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spatial description</li> <li>relationship of parts to the whole</li> <li>relationship of parts to one another</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spatial description</li> <li>parts</li> <li>relationship of parts to whole</li> <li>relationship of parts to one another</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>proportions</li> <li>general assembly</li> <li>relationship of parts (is this ordered by a style or intent?)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>relationship of parts to whole</li> <li>relationship of parts to one another</li> </ul>
<b>Individual Parts</b>  * repeat for interior and exterior if appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>description of special features of each part (use categories for the appropriate type of site part – remains, structure/ building, natural landscape)</li> <li>relationship of parts to a known story, how do they reflect the purpose or intent</li> <li>patterns of repeated use in relation to</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>for each part</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>form</li> <li>features related to function</li> <li>materials / fabric</li> <li>craftsmanship</li> <li>important parts that have been removed from site but are available for site knowledge (i.e. archaeological materials collected for analysis)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>for each part</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>form</li> <li>features related to design intent</li> <li>features related to function</li> <li>features related to technology (either the operation of or as evidence of change/ capability)</li> <li>materials/ fabric</li> <li>craftsmanship</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>for each part</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>features related to function (use)</li> <li>health and well-being of individual elements (and what provides that)</li> <li>patterns of repeated use in relation to</li> <li>composition in relation to value</li> </ul>

<p><b>Larger Environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compatibility with</li> <li>• off site landscape</li> <li>• (or description of the relationship in terms of “sense of place”)</li> <li>• role as a feature of larger landscape</li> <li>• (i.e. as a landmark, as a dominant link, a compatible part)</li> <li>• link to important aspects of larger landscape through vistas, viewplanes, viewscales</li> <li>• link to important aspects of larger landscape through</li> <li>• function (use)</li> <li>• link to important aspects of larger landscape through sacred stories or rituals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compatibility with off site landscape</li> <li>• relationship to defining features of off-site landscape (pit head, building, bridge, river, hill, trail, point of land)</li> <li>• role as a feature of larger landscape (i.e. as a landmark, as a dominant link)</li> <li>• link to important aspects of larger landscape through vistas, viewplanes, viewscales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compatibility with off site landscape (heritage district, group of buildings)</li> <li>• relationship to defining features of on-site landscape (gardens, fences outbuilding, paths)</li> <li>• relationship to defining features of off-site landscape (streetscape, town square, tracks),</li> <li>• role as a feature of larger landscape (i.e. as a landmark, a dominant link, a familiar presence)</li> <li>• link to important aspects of larger landscape through vistas, viewplanes, viewscales</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compatibility with</li> <li>• off site landscape</li> <li>• relationship to defining features of on-site features (other natural elements, water, structures, trail),</li> <li>• relationship to defining off-site features (pit head, bridge, building, road, river, hill, trail, point of land)</li> <li>• role as a feature of larger landscape (i.e. as a landmark, as a dominant link)</li> <li>• link to important aspects of larger landscape through vistas, viewplanes, viewscales</li> </ul>
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If you are describing character-defining features of a site and you do not feel its key elements can be adequately captured in the categories above, describe what you feel is critical to securing the value of the site, whatever it is. Each historic site is unique; its character-defining elements can be equally unique. The important thing is to ensure the parts or qualities expressing its critical value continue to exist.

### **Checklist for Character-defining Elements**

**All of the points in this box are mandatory.**

- identification of the uses, associations and features of the site that hold its cultural value
- description of the composition of the site that has cultural value
- description of each of the individual parts of the site (and their qualities) with value
- description of the cultural value contributed to the place by its larger environment

**Make sure the elements listed:**

- are present in the current character of the historic place
- exist within the physical boundaries of the historic place
- are direct evidence of the heritage value(s) for which the historic place has been commemorated
- existed when the site was commemoration as an historic place

**Double check to see if:**

- more precise information is needed to clearly describe the scope of the site
- all the essential historic parts that make up the site are adequately described

# Examples of Character-defining Elements



*Old Bank of Toronto E.Hawkins/GNWT.*

## Sample 1- Building

Bank of Toronto Building, Yellowknife Heritage Site

Character-defining elements of the site include:

- simple massing and proportions (one storey, square shape and partially hipped roof),
- original exterior structure with its log materials,
- continuous stance on its original site where it is now one of two residential structures
- prominent, visible location in a residential neighbourhood in Old Town Yellowknife.

## Sample 2- Remains

Whalers' Graves, Balaena Bay, Territorial Historic Site

The character of Whalers' Graves Territorial Historic Site is defined by its:

- use as a gravesite
- location as a surface marking over the sub-surface remains of the whalers' burial site,
- decorative elements of the grave markers (ornate woodcarving, metal and wooden finials),
- legible inscription on the headboard,
- original wood and metal materials,
- expansive viewscares from the gravesites on the shore to the sea.



*Whalers' Graves, Balaena Bay.*

*J.Bockstoe.*



*Designating Sahyoue-Edacho  
T.Andrews/GNWT.*

## Sample 3- Natural Cultural Landscape

Sahyoue-Edacho, National Historic Site

Character-defining elements of this site include

### Overview

- the completeness of the cultural landscape as an integrated whole over all time, and in particular:

### Landscape

- the high standard of environmental quality and biodiversity evident in the natural landforms, flora and fauna,
- absence of industrial development,
- specific sacred sites and places of power everywhere and, in particular, the list of such places currently maintained and supplemented by the Sahtu Dene,
- places at which specific stories are told, including traditional hunting, trapping, fishing, plant harvesting and camping sites, portages and trails,
- tent rings, teepee poles, cabin sites in their found forms, materials and location,
- implements and tools including ruined fish traps in their found forms, materials and locations,
- gravesites associated with specific places in their found forms and materials,
- portages and trails in their found forms and locations,
- archaeological sites in their found forms, locations and materials including evidence of the cultural practices of the Sahtu Dene and the relationship with Ehdacho-Saoyue.



*Fort Smith Mission, 1922.  
Canada Dept. of the Interior/NWT Archives.*

### **Sample 4- Built Cultural Landscape**

Fort Smith Mission, Territorial Historic Park

Character-defining elements of this site include:

### Overview

- its legibility as a cultural landscape grouped around the Bishop's Residence,
- the diverse nature of the activities represented on the site (residence, 5 outbuildings, church, grotto, landscape remnants, and archaeological remains),
- the found forms and spatial inter-relationships between the components of the site,

### The Bishop's Residence

- its consolidated massing as a rectangular cube under a mansard roof,
- its asymmetrical proportions, with a front door and porch located in the centre of original part of the building,
- its vernacular Second Empire architectural elements (bellcast eaves, gable dormers),
- its simple wood materials,
- its prominent site as the key element in the cultural landscape,

### The 5 outbuildings

- their simple massing and gabled roofs,
- asymmetrical proportions that witness the multiple additions typical of utility structures,
- the placement of doors and interior facilities related to the use of each building (vehicle repair

- shop, storage sheds, carpentry shop, machine shop),
- their original wood materials,
  - their siting to the north of the Bishop's Residence on a service road,

### The Church

- its simple rectangular massing, pitched roof and central bell tower,
- its balanced proportions with a central door vestibule, central tower, and regularly articulated window placement on the side facades,
- its round headed windows and spire-like tower,
- its wooden materials,
- its siting on its original location to the north east of the Bishop's Residence,

### The grotto

- the found form and materials of the grotto,
- evidence of previous use in its construction,
- its religious decorations,
- its location beside the old portage road across from the former hospital building,

### Landscape remnants

- evidence of a road running in front of the Bishop's Residence,
- fences and hedge remnants separating the Bishop's Residence and fields from the road,
- remnants of cultivated fields on the south and east edges of the site
- remnants of gardens to the rear of the Bishop's Residence, their outlines and early plantings,
- vestiges of pathways, drives and roadways,

### Archaeological remains

- the footprints and sub-surface remains of earlier buildings on the site,

### Larger environment

- the location of the cultural landscape on a major road downtown Fort Smith on an axis with the (distant) harbour, and beside a road that was once a major portage route,
- viewsapes to other buildings, fields and archaeological remnants that once comprised the full mission site.

# Sample Statements of Significance

# Cultural Landscape - primarily Built Features

**Name of Historic Place** Fort Smith Mission Territorial Historic Park

## Description of Historic Place

Fort Smith Mission Historic Park is a 1.8-hectare Northwest Territorial Park in downtown Fort Smith. Built in the early 1900s, the park sits on a portion of the original Roman Catholic mission site. The most prominent feature in the park, the Bishop's Residence, is surrounded by five out buildings, the old St. Isadore's Church, and fields that were once used to produce food for the mission.



*Fort Smith Mission. Fumoleau/NWT Archives.*

## Heritage Value of Historic Place

The Fort Smith Mission Historic Park contains the only remaining official Catholic Bishop's residence in the Northwest Territories. The large residence, combined with its expansive fields, the old church, and five out buildings, illustrates the importance of the site to Roman Catholic administration. From 1926 to the early 1980's, Fort Smith held the Bishop's seat, and was the administrative centre of the Roman Catholic Church in the Northwest

Territories. The Mission is associated with many northern Bishops, notably Archbishop Gabriel Breynat and, more generally, with the proselytizing efforts of both the Oblates and the Grey Nuns. The Residence itself also provides a good example of popular 1800's northern missionary architecture.

The Catholic Church played a significant role in the creation of Fort Smith and the development of the Northwest Territories in general. Together with the Hudson's Bay Company, the Church established networks of trading posts, transshipment centres, churches, hospitals, schools and mission residences throughout the NWT. These buildings served as nodes for people to gather around, and often became the founding infrastructure of today's communities. Fort Smith is no exception. Once the Hudson's Bay Company set up a transshipment centre at the base of the Rapids of the Drowned, the Catholic Church quickly followed suit and established a church and residence. A farm, hospital, and residential school, as well as a newer church and residence, followed later. Together, these buildings attracted a permanent population, and the community soon became both the Catholic and federal administrative headquarters for the region.

**Source:** Government of the Northwest Territories, Territorial Parks Act, August 12, 1993

## Character-defining elements

### Overview

- its legibility as a cultural landscape grouped around the Bishop's Residence,
- the diverse nature of the activities represented on the site (residence, 5 outbuildings, church, grotto, landscape remnants, and archaeological remains),
- the found forms and spatial inter-relationships between the components of the site,

### The Bishop's Residence

- its consolidated massing as a rectangular cube under a mansard roof,
- its asymmetrical proportions, with a front door and porch located in the centre of original part of the building,
- its vernacular Second Empire architectural elements (bellcast eaves, gable dormers),
- its simple wood materials,
- its prominent site as the key element in the cultural landscape,

#### The 5 outbuildings

- their simple massing and gabled roofs,
- asymmetrical proportions that witness the multiple additions typical of utility structures,
- the placement of doors and interior facilities related to the use of each building (vehicle repair shop, storage sheds, carpentry shop, machine shop),
- their original wood materials,
- their siting to the north of the Bishop's Residence on a service road,

#### The church

- its simple rectangular massing, pitched roof and central bell tower,
- its balanced proportions with a central door vestibule, central tower, and regularly articulated window placement on the side facades,
- its round headed windows and spire-like tower,
- its wooden materials,
- its siting on its original location to the north east of the Bishop's Residence,

#### The grotto

- the found form and materials of the grotto,
- evidence of previous use in its construction,
- its religious decorations,
- its location beside the old portage road across from the former hospital building,

#### Landscape remnants

- evidence of a road running in front of the Bishop's Residence,
- fences and hedge remnants separating the Bishop's Residence and fields from the road,
- remnants of cultivated fields on the south and east edges of the site
- remnants of gardens to the rear of the Bishop's Residence, their outlines and early plantings,
- vestiges of pathways, drives and roadways,

#### Archaeological remains

- the footprints and sub-surface remains of earlier buildings on the site,

#### Larger environment

- the location of the cultural landscape on a major road downtown Fort Smith on an axis with the (distant) harbour, and beside a road that was once a major portage route,
- viewsapes to other buildings, fields and archaeological remnants that once comprised the full mission site.

# Cultural Landscape - primarily Built Features

**Name of Historic Place** Hay River Mission National Historic Site of Canada

## Description of historic place

Hay River Mission National Historic Site of Canada is situated on the old Dene village site on the east side of the community Hay River, which is itself at the head of navigation of the Mackenzie River. It consists of St. Peter's Anglican Church and Ste. Anne's Roman Catholic Church and rectory remains, and their associated cemeteries containing spirit houses. These missions are situated on either side of the site of the old Dene village proper.



*Hay River Reserve Cemetery.  
Fumoleau/NWT Archives.*

## Heritage Value of historic place

Hay River Mission was designated a National Historic Site because its composite mission sites are collectively of national historic and architectural significance due to their close association with a critical period in Dene / Euro Canadian relations.

The heritage value of Hay River Mission National Historic Site lies in the physical integrity of the extant buildings and cemetery features as a whole, including the spirit houses, together forming a cultural landscape, in their

symbolic importance and in their spatial inter-relationships.

**Source:** HSMBC Minute, June 1992; Commemorative Integrity Statement

## Character-defining elements

### Overview

- the physical orientation of both mission sites to the river,
- the viewplanes to and from the mission sites and the river,
- the location of St. Peter's and Ste. Anne's mission sites bracketing opposite ends of the old Dene village site,
- the spatial relationship of the two churches to each other and to their associated cemeteries,

### St. Peter's Anglican Church

- the rectangular massing with end-gabled pitched roof and porch of smaller but similar form surmounted by a belfry,
- regularly placed, pointed arch windows on side elevations,
- pièce-sur-pièce construction,
- wood siding finish,
- the completeness of the original interior forms, fabric, and religious furnishings, including stained glass windows, pulpits, altars, communion rails, lecterns, seating, and specific religious decorations,
- the pressed metal finish in the sanctuary,

### Ste. Anne's Roman Catholic Church

- rectangular massing of Ste. Anne's Church under end-gabled, pitched roof with central bell tower,
- corner towers with projecting spires on the front facade,
- round-headed double entry door into bell tower/vestibule
- regularly placed, round-headed fenestration on side elevations,
- pièce-sur-pièce construction,
- wood siding finish,
- the completeness of the original forms, fabric, and religious furnishings, including stained glass windows, pulpits, altars, communion rails, lecterns, seating, and specific religious decorations,
- the domed semi-circular sanctuary,
- rear stairwell to the bell tower with its carved handrail,
- the evidence of local craftsmanship in folk art decoration

### Cemeteries

- double-bar fences marking limits of cemeteries
- square, front entrance gates surmounted by a cross,
- the spirit houses in form of decorated wooden, pitched-roofed grave houses
- individually crafted fences (primarily of wood) and religious symbols (such as crosses) associated with specific graves,
- inscriptions on grave markers,

### Ste. Anne's Rectory

- the footprint, foundation and remains.

# Cultural Landscape - primarily Natural Features

**Name of Historic Place**      Nagwichoonyik National Historic Site of Canada

## Description of historic place

Nagwichoonyik National Historic Site of Canada is the cultural landscape along the section of the Mackenzie River that traverses the traditional homelands of the Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic (formerly Arctic Red River). This historic place extends from Thunder River on the southeast boundary of their country to Point Separation in the Mackenzie Delta, a 170-kilometre section of the river.

## Heritage value of historic place

Nagwichoonyik was designated a National Historic Site because:



*Traditional fish camp site at Diighe'tr'aajil on the Mackenzie River.*

*Ingrid Kritsch/GSCI.*

- it is prominent as a cultural landscape within the Gwichya Gwich'in traditional territory;
- it is culturally, socially and spiritually significant to the people; and
- the history of life on the land and along the river is remembered through names that are given to a great number of places on the land and along the river.

The heritage value of Nagwichoonyik is reflected in the cultural landscape along the river that reflects the river's role as a principal repository of the stories (oral histories) that suffuse with meaning the history of the landscape as the Gwichya Gwich'in know it. The traditional lifestyle of the Gwichya Gwich'in has been shaped by their close connection with the land and the river, and many points along the river play an essential role in the transmission and survival of Gwich'in culture. Nagwichoonyik best represents the complex sets of relationships between the Gwich'in people, their traditional lands and their past.

**Source:** HSMBC Minute, June 1997; Commemorative Integrity Statement.

## Character-defining elements

The heritage character of Nagwichoonyjik is defined by:

### Overview

- the Mackenzie River and the land along its banks between Thunder River and Point Separation in its location and as a dramatic river valley consisting of a wide variety of waterway, beaches, high cliffs in some places and gentle slopes in others, cut with many creeks, and displaying human impacts from pre-contact to modern times



*Cooking Dryfish*

*Ingrid Kritsch/GSCI.*

### Landscape

- archaeological evidence of Gwich'in use, including camps, settlements, fisheries, quarries, connecting trails and trail heads, burial places, ritual and sacred places,
- the health and wholeness of the riparian ecosystem: its water quality, quantity, rates of flow, sandbars and siltation, fish quality, the health of species such as inconnu and moose, and the traditional stories fostering their preservation,
- the undisturbed land and unimpeded views, vistas and viewplanes available along the valley from the river,
- sacred sites along the river (currently being identified by the Gwich'in Cultural Institute),
- ritual sites along the river (currently being identified by the Gwich'in Cultural Institute),
- Gwich'in knowledge of traditional place names along the river,
- Gwich'in knowledge of the relationship between oral histories and the cultural landscape

# Cultural Landscape - primarily Natural Features

**Name of Historic Place** Sahyoue-Edacho National Historic Site of Canada

## Description of historic place

Sahyoue-Edacho National Historic Site of Canada is a large cultural landscape made up of two peninsulas, Sahyoue and Edacho, approximately 2500 and 3400 square miles respectively, which reach into Great Bear Lake from the west and south.



*Sahyoue-Edacho.*

*Chris Hanks.*

## Heritage Value of historic place

Sahyoue-Edacho was designated a National Historic Site because:

- their cultural values, expressed through the interrelationship between the landscape, oral histories, graves and cultural resources, such as trails and cabins, help to explain and contribute to the understanding of the origin, spiritual values, lifestyle and land use of the Sahtu Dene.

The heritage value of Sahyoue-Edacho lies in the cultural landscape as a whole, its environmental quality which allows traditional lifestyle and land use activities, and the cultural values of the Sahtu Dene and Metis expressed through the inter-relationship between landscape, oral history, graves and cultural resources.

**Source:** HSMBC Minute, November 1996; Commemorative Integrity Statement.

## Character-defining elements

The heritage character of Sahyoue-Edacho is defined by:

### Overview

-the completeness of the cultural landscape as an integrated whole over all time, and in particular:

### Landscape

- the high standard of environmental quality and biodiversity evident in the natural landforms, flora and fauna,
- specific sacred sites and places of power everywhere and, in particular, the list of such places currently maintained and supplemented by the Sahtu Dene,
- places at which specific stories are told, including traditional hunting, trapping, fishing, plant harvesting and camping sites, portages and trails,
- tent rings, teepee poles, cabin sites in their found forms, materials and location,
- implements and tools including ruined fish traps in their found forms, materials and locations,
- gravesites associated with specific places in their found forms and materials,
- portages and trails in their found forms and locations,
- archaeological sites in their found forms, locations and materials, including evidence of the cultural practices of the Sahtu Dene and the relationship with Ehdacho-Saoyue.

# Remains

## Name of Historic Place

Whalers' Graves Territorial Historic Site

## Description of Historic Place

Whalers' Graves Territorial Historic Site is the site of two upright ornate wooden headboards marking the death of eight men from the Grampus and Balaena whale ships in 1895-1896 on the east shore of Balaena Bay, Parry Peninsula.

## Heritage Value of Historic Place



These graves are poignant reminders of the profitable and dramatic whaling industry in Canada's western arctic. The western arctic was the last frontier of the world whaling industry, and its final flourish before declining in the early 1900's. The whalers' graves headboards are handsome, ornate remains of this era, and two of the few remaining examples of their type.

**Source:** NWT Historical Resources Act, August 29, 1975

*Grampus Headboard, Whalers' Graves.  
J.Bockstoce.*

## Character-defining Elements

The heritage character of Whalers' Graves is defined by its:

- use as a gravesite
- location as a surface marking over the sub-surface remains of the whalers' burial site,
- decorative elements of the grave markers, such as ornate woodcarving, and metal and wooden finials,
- legible inscription on the headboard,
- original wood and metal materials,
- expansive views from the gravesites on the shore to the sea.

# Remains

## Name of Historic Place

Back Bay Cemetery, City of Yellowknife Heritage Site

## Description of Historic Place

Back Bay Cemetery, a City of Yellowknife Heritage Site, consists of 35 gravesites from 1936-46. The cemetery is located along the waterfront in Jackfish Draw, adjacent to Back Bay, and on Great Slave Lake.



*Gravesite at Back Bay Cemetery. E.Hawkins/GNWT.*

## Heritage Value of Historic Place

Back Bay Cemetery was designated a municipal heritage site because it was Yellowknife's first graveyard. The cemetery is associated with many of Yellowknife's pioneering families, and the early years of Yellowknife. The majority of gravesites are marked by wooden picket fences, which are typical of its period. Back Bay Cemetery is in a very attractive and convenient waterfront location. It is located on a popular walking trail, and is accessible by boat.

**Source:** City of Yellowknife By-Law 3924, October 15, 1996.

## Character-defining Elements

The heritage character of Back Bay Cemetery is defined by:

- Its use as a cemetery
- The natural surroundings of trees, water and rocky cliffs
- Well-aged and weathered patina of the grave markers
- Wooden picket fence grave markers, and other grave elements typical of northern Christian burial styles
- The inter-relationships between the gravesites, and the gravesites and waterfront, which respect historical patterns of accessibility and visibility
- Well-groomed yet rustic walking trails
- The spatial distribution and extent of the gravesites in their original location.
- Public access by both boat and foot.

# Building

**Name of Historic Place**      Old Anglican Church of Tulita, Territorial Historic Site

## Description of Historic Place

The Old Anglican Church and lot in Tulita (formerly Fort Norman) is located by the river on the former Hudson's Bay lot in the historic centre of the community. It is a single story log building with a gable roof and wooden steeple.

## Heritage Value of Historic Place



Built in c. 1880, this church is one of the oldest standing buildings in the Northwest Territories. The dovetailed log structure is an excellent example of the building style of the time, as well as fine craftsmanship. Its historical association with the Church of England is a testament to early Anglican missionary activities in Northern Canada. Legendary Anglican missionaries, such as Bishop William Carpenter Bompas, are also associated with the site. Located on the former Hudson's Bay lot in the historic centre of the community, the old Anglican Church speaks to the era of early contact between Europeans and northern Aboriginal people, and the establishment of the church, and commerce, that came with it.

*Tulita Church. T.Andrews/GNWT.*

**Source:** NWT Historical Resources Act, February 29, 1979.

## Character-defining Elements

The heritage character of the Old Anglican Church of Tulita is defined by:

- rectangular log building with peaked roof with belfry,
- symmetrical in form with central door, square-headed side windows in parallel banks,
- original materials and craftsmanship of dovetailed log structure,
- decorative elements related to its religious function,
- original location in the historic centre of Tulita,
- viewscape to the river, early pathways and structures of the town.

# Building

**Name of Historic Place**      Fireweed Studio City of Yellowknife Heritage Site

## Description of Historic Place

The Fireweed Studio is a City of Yellowknife Heritage Site. It is a single story log frame building. The building was relocated next to the Gerry Murphy Arena at 5210-49th Avenue in downtown Yellowknife in 1978.

## Heritage Value of Historic Place



*Fireweed Studio.*

*E.Hawkins/GNWT.*

This building is a fine example of early log construction in Yellowknife. Built in the early 1930s as a blacksmith shop for Brock Mine, it was originally situated on what is now the Giant Mine property. Over the years it has served as a blacksmith shop (early 1930's-1938), a powder magazine (1938-1978), a tourist information centre (1978-1992), and currently as an artist's studio and retail outlet. An attractive, well-kept, nicely weathered building, it has been a continuous part of life in Yellowknife since the 1930s. Today, in its location on City Hall grounds, it is a familiar landmark and symbol of Yellowknife's early years.

**Source:** City of Yellowknife By-Law 3925, October 15, 1996.

## Character-defining Elements

The heritage character of the Fireweed Studio is defined by:

- the well-aged and weathered patina of the building's exterior materials, in particular its wood
- the mass, form and general disposition of the building
- the saddle joint log construction of the exterior walls
- the elements, configuration, layout and textures of the early structure, including but not limited to its one-room layout and simple wood door and frame.

# Building

**Name of Historic Place** Hudson's Bay Warehouse City of Yellowknife Heritage Site.

## Description of Historic Place

The Hudson's Bay Warehouse and lot is a City of Yellowknife Heritage Site. It is located at 3501 Wiley Road, in Old Town, Yellowknife. The Warehouse is a two-storey asbestos tile-sided building that has been covered in metal cladding.

## Heritage Value of Historic Place



*Hudson's Bay Warehouse.*

*E.Hawkins/GNWT.*

This warehouse is a remnant of the Hudson's Bay Company, the oldest and single most important historic commercial operation in northern Canada.

Yellowknife's first Hudson's Bay store opened in the fall of 1938, shortly after the birth of the town. This warehouse was built in 1945 to store retail goods imported by river from the south to feed, clothe and support the miners who established the town.

The Hudson's Bay Warehouse is one of Yellowknife's finest examples of an early retail and warehouse operation. The new metal clad exterior siding is deceiving; underneath the original doors, windows, and interior layout remain. To this day, you can still see the floor markings delineating storage space for specific warehouse items.

The Warehouse is situated along the waterfront in historic Yellowknife, and surrounded by other designated municipal historic structures. Its presence supports the character of Old Town Yellowknife, and is a reminder of the importance of water transportation and the Hudson's Bay Company to the early development of Yellowknife.

**Source:** City of Yellowknife By-law 3726, December 13, 1993.

## Character-defining Elements

The heritage character of the Hudson's Bay Warehouse is defined by:

- the massing, form, volume, definition and proportions of the building, particularly as they relate to the nature of its interior space and the definition of its door and window openings
- the patina, craftsmanship and substance of the materials of the early building, particularly those on the original doors and windows, and those on the interior
- the layout, markings and special function areas of the interior of the building, particularly its floor and cold storage room
- the visual link between this warehouse, the Canadian Pacific Float Base, and the Wildcat Café,

reinforcing their association as a historic grouping in Old Town

- the relationship of the building to its lot, in particular its siting and relationship to surrounding open space on the lot

- the historic visual and functional relationships between the water, the building and the road that underline its historic role as a transportation and storage facility

# Glossary of Terms

aesthetic design	The deliberately instilled visual qualities of the composition of a place, particularly those intended to make it appealing. (See <i>style</i> .)
archaeological site	A site containing surface, sub-surface and /or submerged remains of human activity.
area	The general surroundings in which a historic place is located. This could be a part of town, or a natural landscape. What matters is whether the historic place is a <i>landmark</i> in that area, a feature contributing to its overall character, or something that does not fit. The relationship of a historic place to its area is character-defining, but must be explained from the point of view of the site of the historic place. (See also, <i>environment</i> , <i>neighbourhood</i> .)
artefacts	Objects made or used by people. This term is most often used for objects found at archaeological site.
assembly	The manner in which the parts are put together. This could mean the order in which this occurred, <i>or</i> it could be the arrangement of the parts. Assembly is also used to describe the result of assembling parts – a collective identity. For example, a car engine is an assembly.
associated values associative values	Values attached to a site that cannot be seen or touched. Some sites acquire meaning because they are associated with a particular person, event or phenomenon – particularly if they are linked to a story that is told whenever the site is encountered. Physical changes to the site sometimes do little to stop the tale, and the place remains forever “where the big explosion occurred in ‘49”. From time to time, the site is given a name that reflects its past – like “The Rapids of the Drowned”. These associations are intimately linked to the heritage value of their sites, and as such are character-defining elements in retaining their heritage value.
building elements	The parts of a building including integral forms (such as roof forms), the surface finish of materials, and applied details.
built heritage	Those buildings and works of people affecting the landscape that remain from the past. This includes (but is not limited to) designed landscapes, buildings, structures, remains, and other patterns of life.
central feature	The main or most prominent feature. The central feature of a cultural landscape is the feature that defines why the landscape exists and holds it altogether. For example, the central feature of Nagwichoonjik, which stretches over 170 km., is the Mackenzie River. The central feature of many early churches was their belfry or bell tower.
central focus	The aspect of a site that imposes unity on its parts, <i>or</i> the aspect of a site that dominates the impression it makes on a viewer.
character-defining elements	The principal features of the historic place that contribute its heritage value. A description of character-defining elements is the third section of a statement of significance.
completeness	The completeness of a site is the quality of having all its parts. The standard for measuring this comes from the past at a time or under circumstances when the site has been acknowledged for its value.
commemoration	Designation. Formal acknowledgement that a site has historic importance for specific reasons.

commemorative integrity	<p>Commemorative integrity refers to the condition or state of a territorial historic site when the site is healthy and whole. This is the desired state for a historic site. A site has commemorative integrity when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- resources directly related to the reasons for its designation are not damaged or under threat,</li> <li>- the reasons for commemoration are effectively communicated to the public,</li> <li>- the site's heritage values are respected in all decisions and actions affecting it.</li> </ul>
compatibility	The quality of "fitting in with". A site may have similar layout to those around it. Buildings may be of a similar form, scale or materials. A structure may be of a similar age, function and patina as the structures around it.
complex	A group of buildings and/or structures developed by a single owner and (historically at least) on a single property.
composition	The arrangement of the parts of a site. Are the parts of the site intentionally placed according to a plan? If so, are all of the parts still in order? Can you define the plan? Even if the parts of the site are not intentionally placed, do they have an inherent order that is linked to their value? Are there primary features and secondary features? How they are positioned in relation to one another. Have the parts of the site always been in the same position? Have the pieces remained unchanged. If so, these things are critical evidence of what the site is historically.
conservation	The activities that are aimed at safeguarding a cultural resource so as to retain its historic value and extend its physical life, <i>or</i> physical intervention in the actual fabric of a cultural resource to ensure its continued structural integrity.
context	Information about cultural or natural resources that aids in developing a full understanding of their significance. Context can be related to the history, the design / physical form, or the geographical location of the resource. It can also relate the resource to others with similar qualities in a different geographic location.
core heritage value	The reason why a site is designated. This is usually the first thing that you think of when someone asks you why the site is "historic". The core heritage value is most often that a place illustrates achievement, <i>or</i> a place is associated with events that have contributed to important patterns of history, <i>or</i> a place is notably associated with the life of a person or the traditional stories of a prophet of particular historical importance, <i>or</i> a place illustrates or symbolizes in whole or in part a cultural tradition, way of life, or ideas important to development <i>or</i> a place that stands out in the measure of a place of its kind (i.e. for the quality of its representation of important aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social, spiritual and/or similar trends or themes).
craftsmanship	Evidence of the skills and tools used to fashion materials on the site. They witness specialized knowledge, experience and sometimes training. They are evidence of the technologies, tools and also the thought processes of the site's creation. They are irreplaceable evidence of the past, and as such are elements key to sustaining the integrity of the historic place.
cultural associations	Meanings linked to cultural value, or meanings linked through known cultural relationships (i.e. linked because it is known to be part of the same traditional story),

cultural landscape	<p>Any geographic area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people, <i>or</i></p> <p>A geographic area that exhibits characteristics, or represents the values, of a society as a result of human interaction with the environment.</p> <p>A cultural landscape is a type of historic resource (and therefore a type of historic site).</p>
cultural resource	<p>A human work <i>or</i> a place which gives evidence of human activity <i>or</i> has spiritual or cultural meaning, <i>and</i> has been determined to have historic value.</p> <p>There are many types of cultural resources. Some are moveable (furnishings, books, see <i>Objects</i>): others are immovable (buildings, archaeological, cultural landscapes).</p> <p>This term is used to describe both entire sites and the parts that make up the whole of a site.</p> <p>When a site has been commemorated, some of its cultural resources will probably be directly related to the reasons it has heritage value, and others will not.</p> <p>See <i>heritage resource</i> and <i>historic resource</i>.</p>
designated place	<p>The place specifically named as the site when a public program designates it. (The legal limits of the cultural resource.)</p>
description of historic place	<p>The physical extent and principal resources that define the historic place (as it has been designated).</p> <p>Description of Historic Place is the first section of a Statement of significance.</p>
designation	<p>Legal recognition that a site has historic value by an authority with acknowledged capability to make such a decision on behalf of the public. In the NWT that body can be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Commissioner of the NWT,</li> <li>-municipal, settlement, or band councils</li> </ul>
district	<p>In this context, a <i>historic district</i> or <i>heritage district</i>. This is a part of town linked by cultural value from the past – its period of origin, the similarity of its building design, the fact it was developed for a particular purpose.</p> <p>Historic districts or heritage districts have been identified as a type of historic place (similar to a cultural landscape or an archaeological remains) in many Canadian jurisdictions, and so these terms should be used carefully. If you are referring to a historic district in describing the location of a site, you should explain why the district stands together as a collective place if it has not been formally designated as a historic place.</p>
dominant link	<p>The most important quality uniting different (often disparate) parts of a site.</p>
dormer	<p>Window projecting from the slope of a roof.</p>
eaves	<p>Horizontal edges of a roof.</p>
element	<p>Part or quality. The elements of a historic place are those features that, together, compose it. (Same as <i>feature</i>.)</p>

environment	The environment of a site is the larger landscape in which it is located – its neighbourhood or area. The term “environment” is most often used with reference to a surrounding natural landscape. The relationship of a historic place to its environment is character-defining, but must be explained from the point of view of the site of the historic place. (See also, <i>area</i> .)
evolution of a site	The ways in which the site has changed over time.
exterior	The outside of a building or structure.
fabric	The materials evident on the site. See <i>materials</i> .
facade	Vertical face. This term usually refers to the vertical exterior walls of a building, and is often used exclusively to describe the front wall that is its main face.
familiar presence	The quality of establishing a tone or ambience within its surroundings. When asked, people familiar with such sites are usually hard pressed to explain exactly why they make a difference: they just do. It may have something to do with familiar long term patterns of site occupancy or something else. Since such sites help to define their neighbourhoods, their contribution is a character-defining feature.
feature	Part or quality. The features of a historic place are those elements that, together, compose it. (Same as <i>element</i> .)
footprint	The footprint of a building is the outline of the shape of its foundation when viewed from above.
formal recognition	Designation or commemoration of a historic place using a legally defined process (or tool). Different tools and processes exist for the designation of Territorial Historic Sites, National Historic Sites, and Municipal Heritage Resources. (See <i>designation</i> and <i>commemoration</i> .)
found form	“In found form” means in the state (or physical condition) in which a feature or features existed on the site when it was designated.
fragment	A portion or part of what was once there. A fragment of a site is a section of what once made up the whole site. A fragment of an element or feature is a piece of an earlier part of the site that was once whole. The standard for measuring this comes from the past at a time when the site has been acknowledged for its cultural value.
function	Use, role in everyday life. The original (first or initial) function of a site most often had an impact on its selection or construction, and therefore is usually employed as the standard by which function is measured. Long-term use for a particular purpose is another acceptable standard. The cultural value for which the site was designated should indicate which of these standards is an appropriate measure.
functional design	The deliberately imposed or deliberately employed physical qualities of a cultural resource that render it suitable to perform the task for which it was created.

functional features	<p>Features (parts or elements of the site) linked to the purpose for which was created, and / or the purpose for which it was first used or used later during its history. These features can be determined with two questions :</p> <p>1) What parts of the site tell me immediately what happens / or used to happen on this site? The old Hudson's Bay Warehouse in Yellowknife, for example, still has marks on the floor showing the corridors for transporting goods inside the building. Other warehouses have exterior ramps. If such features are related to the heritage value of the site, they are critical to retaining our ability to read what it is – therefore they are character-defining elements.</p> <p>2) What parts of the site are evidence of what happens / or used to happen on this site? If the site is a long-used trail, are there lobstersticks or other trail markers? If a building was historically a store, do shelves remain? If a ruin was once a building, can you still see the fireplace or chimney? If a ruin was once a church, does it have a distinctive footprint?</p>
gable	Triangular upper part of a wall at the end of a ridged roof; triangular hood over a window or door; triangular break in an eaves line.
group of buildings	Buildings situated in physical proximity to one another, linked by a common design intent, functional purpose, and /or ownership (past or present). Can also mean groups of separate or connected buildings which, because of their architecture, their homogeneity or their place in the landscape, are of outstanding cultural value from the point of view of history, art or science.
grouping	A number of resources that are situated in close physical proximity and have an underlying link (usually through function, design, or past association).
health	The well being of a historic place. Viable present condition and the likelihood of continuing future viability. The health of a historic place is associated with protection of the character-defining elements that give it heritage value.
heritage district	See <i>district</i> .
heritage resource	See <i>cultural resource</i> .
heritage site	See <i>historic place</i> .
heritage value	The reason a historic place has been designated. The quality, meaning or knowledge from the past that a historic place is intended to communicate to present and future generations. Heritage value is the second section of a statement of significance. (See also <i>historic value</i> .)
heritage values	The attributes of a resource that have cultural value. Heritage values can come from many sources including historical associations, architectural features or significance, environmental importance, community associations, continuity of use.
hipped roof	Roof sloped on all four sides.
historic district	See <i>district</i> .
historic place	A site, structure, building, cultural landscape or other place of territorial interest or significance.
historic resource	See <i>cultural resource</i> .
historic site	See <i>historic place</i> .

historic value	The value or values assigned to a resource by which it is recognized as a cultural resource. These values can be physical or associative. (See also <i>heritage value</i> .)
<i>in situ</i> resources	<i>Cultural resources</i> on or at the <i>historic place</i> .
integrity	The wholeness of a site. The degree to which it still represents its past (significant) value today.
intent	The reason something was done. In heritage, this usually refers to the reason something was built the way it was – the mental picture the creator was following.
interior	The inside of a building or structure.
interpretation	Means used to communicate the heritage value of the site to an audience.
intervention	Any activity undertaken on the site of a cultural resource. (This can include activities that negatively disrupt its integrity – thereby diminishing its value. It can also include activities to support the value of the site – maintenance, repair, preservation, stabilization, restoration, and rehabilitation.)
key element	Most important feature in the definition of an identity containing several features.
landmark	A landmark is a prominent feature of the landscape that signals the location of a larger place by its presence. Historically, travellers on the Mackenzie could often identify the name a village by the location of the church spire – or by the presence of a rapids or rock that was encountered before the village came in sight. These are landmarks. The Hudson’s Bay raised a company flag over its trading posts for the same purpose. This prominent function is part of the historical impact of a site, and is therefore one of its character-defining elements.
landscape features	The parts and qualities that make up a landscape – both in terms of physical forms and in terms of their in composition.
landscape	The general aspect of the land, particularly as it can be described in a picture.
maintenance	The regular routine actions taken to retard the natural deterioration of a resource.
mansard roof	Variation of hip roof, with a steep lower slope (which may be curved) and a flatter upper section.
massing	The three dimensional qualities of a site. The volumes present. If you think of creating a model of the site using blocks, how many blocks high and how many blocks wide represent each part in relation to other parts. Do the volumes appear in a pattern or order? Are there spaces between them that also contribute to the pattern? How are they organized? Massing is a factor in defining the skyline or profile of a site, but it can also be important in the organization of features within a defined surface on the site – for example, in the distribution of windows on the facade of a building.

materials	The fabrics used to build the site. Original materials carry the history of a site. They reflect the type of materials available when the site was built or developed and the tools that were used to fashion it. Over time, they have developed marks and a patina from aging along with the site itself. They are the difference between real and virtual experience, the genuine article and a reproduction. Sometimes, materials added later can play a similar role in reflecting change on the site. They, too, are key elements if those changes have heritage value. (See also <i>fabric</i> )
monuments	Architectural works, works of monumental sculpture and painting, elements or structures of an archaeological nature, inscriptions, cave dwellings and combinations of features that are of cultural value from the point of view of history, art or science.
natural features	Physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are - of cultural value for their association with traditional human settlement or land-use representative of a culture (or cultures), especially when such a feature has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change, - directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of cultural significance and other natural or cultural criteria.
natural landscape	A natural landscape is a landscape formed entirely by nature. The hand of man is not evident in a natural landscape. Unless it has cultural meaning (i.e. has a meaning to people), it is not appropriate to commemorate a natural landscape as a Territorial Historic Site. (See <i>natural features</i> .)
neighbourhood	The urban area in which a building or structure is located. Some historic properties are not landmarks of themselves, but their character nevertheless contributes to the overall character of a larger area. Historic Yellowknife, for example, would lose its historic character if all of the heritage buildings it contains disappears – and that character would be diminished by the loss of any one of the historic buildings it contains. This contribution is a character-defining element of both the larger district and a particular building within it. (See also, <i>area</i> .)
objects	Moveable cultural property consisting of artefacts (objects made or used by people), and specimens (natural objects recovered from archaeological investigation.)
outbuildings	Secondary buildings on a property. Such buildings can be sheds, workshop, warehouses, barns, garages, etc.
outline	The outline of a place is the lines that define it when viewed from above (as if you were in a plane).
period	Period of time. Many heritage resources are valued for reasons that matter over time – and so that time is defined by providing a beginning date and an end date to the period concerned. Archaeological research has given names to some of these time periods, particularly as they refer to the presence a particular cultural identity (i.e. Taltheilei) or a particular type or level of technological capability (i.e. Lithic).
physical boundaries of historic place	The legal limits of the place designated as the historic place. For example: is it the footprint of a resource or the legal boundaries of its site?

physical characteristics of historic place	Things you can see and touch when you look at the site (or could if they were not underground).
presentation	Activities, services and facilities that bring the public into direct or indirect contact with cultural heritage sites.
preservation	Maintenance of the resource in the same physical condition in which it is initially encountered (or addressed as a heritage entity), with nothing added or subtracted from its cultural value.
principal resource	The main historic identity in a historic place.
reason for designation	One or more points explaining why a site been acknowledged as having cultural significance.
reconstruction	Re-creating vanished items from the past on their original site. (This is not an approved preservation practice.)
rehabilitation	The process of returning an unused or abandoned property to a usable state.
relationship of parts	The parts, features or elements of a site can be linked to one another and/or to the site in its entirety by a culturally relevant quality – common time period, common function, common materials, common technology, common aesthetics (features, or proportions), or aspects common to their history. Such relationships are character-defining elements.
repair	The process of returning a resource to its prior condition when it has undergone changes attributable to failure, decline, wear, normal use or abuse.
resource	<i>A historic resource or heritage resource</i> is an item in a historic place that gives it cultural value. The types of resources that have heritage value can be individual items like buildings, structures, and archaeological remnants, <i>or</i> collective items like cultural landscapes, settlement patterns, and heritage districts.
restoration	The process of returning a site to the physical condition in which it would have been at some previous stage of its development (in most cases, the period in which it had cultural value).
riparian ecosystem	ecosystem along the bank of a river
ritual site	A site where valued cultural activity associated with cultural bonding or the performance or promotion of an activity with a common object regularly or repeatedly takes place. Ritual use of a site is a character-defining element. Ceremonial sites are examples such sites. (See also <i>use</i> .)
ruin	An archaeological remnant that is usually part of something that once stood as a building or structure.
sacred site	A place with religious or spiritual significance. Often this is a natural place perceived as holy or spiritual by a community.
salvage	The process of retaining and protecting from deterioration historic fabric that has been removed from its context through the process of demolition.

secondary feature secondary part secondary element	Second rank historic resources, less prominent than the main or central feature in defining the historic place. For example, Great Bear Rock is a secondary feature of the cultural landscape of Nagwichoonjik. While significant in itself, it is not as important as the Mackenzie River in defining the cultural landscape of the designated historic place.
settlement pattern	Evidence of early land occupation patterns on a site, <i>or</i> a type of historic place in which evidence of early land occupation patterns are identifiable as patterns.
significance	Importance or value. Heritage sites are honoured because they have cultural significance.
sites	Works of people, or the combined works of nature and people, and areas including archaeological sites which are of outstanding cultural value from historical, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological points of view.
spatial description	The description of organization of space on a site (on-site description), or the spatial relationship of the site to its surrounding neighbourhood, area or environment (off-site). This should include any existing features linked to the heritage value of the site because they are evidence of its historic identity. When describing spatial relationships, it is important to note known areas of historical activity that are not visible today. Such areas may contain archaeological evidence and should, at least, be identified for their potential contribution to the site's heritage. (See also <i>spatial configuration</i> , and <i>spatial relationships</i> ).
spatial configuration	The organization of space on a site. To address the spatial configuration of a historic place, you have to take your imagination back to the time of the person who developed the site (or, maybe, the people who occupied it). The question is why did you build or place things where you did? Did you assume things should be organized a certain way? Were there requirements for organization dictated by what you were doing on the site? Was organization influenced by the circumstances under which you were developing the site? Were things moved as the site was used over time? The relationship of buildings to other buildings and structures is an example of spatial configuration. Habitual pathways, open spaces, the longstanding location of fields and windbreaks, the placement of gravesites on the lee side of a hill are also evidence of a site's particular spatial configuration. (See also <i>spatial description</i> , and <i>spatial relationships</i> ).

spatial relationships	The organization of space on a site (on-site), <i>or</i> the links between the organization of space on a site and the organization of space in area surrounding the site – its neighbourhood or environment (off-site). The present configuration of elements of the site needs to be compared with the original organization and components of the site – or its organization at a time of particular cultural value. The evolution (or slow change) of the organization of a site to serve a particular purpose is also important to note. This is particularly true when the use of the site is itself being re-defined by contemporary changes. For example, the appearance of the automobile changed many stables and barns into garages, and probably meant that the track to the building was paved. Longstanding relationships between site features should also be identified as key elements of the site. If, for example, a famous author wrote beside a window of his house so that he could overlook the water, the view between the window and the water is a key element of the heritage value of the site. Spatial priorities and inter-relationships need to be clearly defined if the site is to communicate its historic identity. (See also <i>spatial description</i> , and <i>spatial configuration</i> ).
specimens	Natural objects recovered from an archaeological investigation.
stabilization	A minimum amount of work required to safeguard a resource from the elements and/or destruction and to protect the public from danger.
standard plan	An architectural or engineering plan that has been designed with the intention that it be built repeatedly in different locations <i>or</i> a building or structure constructed using such a plan. Houses built by the federal government in the north often follow such a plan.
Statement of significance	A brief declaration intended to explain the heritage value of a historic place. The three parts that make up a Statement of significance are <i>Description of Place</i> , <i>Heritage Value</i> and <i>Character-Defining Elements</i> . The Statement of significance has been adopted by all major government jurisdictions in Canada as a standard document for the description of historic places, and is required for inclusion on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.
streetscape	A street front or collected group of buildings along one or more blocks on a street that are related through design, age, materials, location, function, history or a combination of these things.
style	A particular aesthetic quality deliberately achieved by following an established set of rules for design. This term is most often used to describe buildings, particularly those that are architect- designed. In her book on <i>The Personality of a House</i> (1939), Emily Post defines style as “a series of chronologically selected details, grouped and catalogued according to the when and where of their origins.” Does the way a building looks follow a intentional pattern? If so, what is the pattern called? What are its origins? What makes it recognizable – does it contain special features? are the features in a special form? are they located in a particular position? There are many books that describe Canadian architectural styles, and they should be consulted when appropriate. In Canada, building styles are often regionally expressed, and their common features will only be recognized and stated when a sufficient number have been identified and researched. The Northwest Territories is just beginning this exercise.
structures	Engineering works and other immovable cultural works not designed for habitation.

sub-surface resources	Objects under the ground on an archaeological site
surface resources	Objects visible from above the ground at an archaeological site.
Territorial Historic Site	A Territorial Historic Site is a place that has been designation by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories as being a place of historic significance to the people of the Northwest Territories.
theme	A historical trend that has cultural value. It may reflect social, economic, political, technological, architectural, or any other major pattern in Territorial (local or national - as appropriate) history.
traditional use	A valued activity that regularly or repeatedly occurs at a historic place. This is a character-defining element. Examples include traditional berry gathering, camping or fishing sites. (See also <i>use</i> .)
use	The function or activity that is conducted on the site. This is a character-defining element of a site, particularly: 1) if there is repeated use for a particular function or type of function. For example, an industrial building that is continually up-dated and used for industrial purposes like mining, even when the demands of its new industrial uses are constantly changing. 2) if a valued activity regularly or repeatedly takes place. Examples such situations would be <i>traditional use</i> - a regular fishing or hunting site, and <i>ritual use</i> - on-going use of a site for annual celebrations. (See also <i>function</i> .)
vernacular	A quality of design that is the product of commonly held cultural values (rather than those proposed by a formal aesthetic such as a style.)
vestige	Remnant or remaining part.
view plane	see <i>viewscape</i>
viewscape	A line of sight from a specific location to a landscape or portion of it. Also known as <i>view plane</i> .
viewshed	A sequence of views or panorama from a given vantage point.
vista	A view with an identifiable end point. (i.e. a view that includes a block of buildings on a street and ends at tall one). Some features draw the eye and/or act as an end point to our spatial perception. A hill that signals the end of a valley, or a bridge that emphasizes the near banks of a river but obscures the river beyond creates a vista.. Vistas are “views” that capture a particular quality. They can be character-defining elements of a historic site as can their termination points.
well-being	The state or condition of being in good health. In the case of a historic place, this means its heritage value is well supported.
wellness	The wellness of a site is its good health.
wholeness	The wholeness of a site is the quality of having all its parts represented in full and robust way. The standard for measuring this comes from the past at a time or under circumstances when the site has been acknowledged for its value.