

City of Vaughan's Official Plan

Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

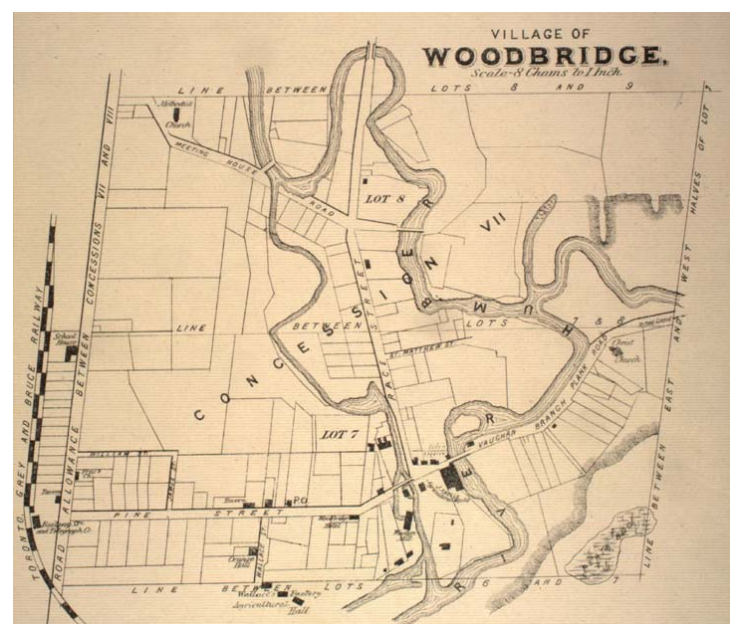


The Provincial Policy Statement (2005) defines **built heritage resources** as significant buildings or structures associated with “architectural, cultural, social, political, economic or military history and identified as being important to a community.” **Cultural heritage landscapes** consist of “a defined geographical area of heritage significance which has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community.” These heritage resources may be identified by local, provincial, and federal jurisdictions.

Cultural heritage landscapes can include a range of resources that have been either formally designed or which have evolved organically. Examples of cultural heritage landscapes can include resources that date to precontact times such as a sacred landscape between a village and its burial area or the 19th century, such as farmscapes, pioneer cemeteries, and settlement centres. However, cultural heritage landscapes can also include more recent resources, such as 20th century streetscapes, public parks, or early to mid 20th residential subdivisions.

Increasingly, municipalities have begun to establish inventories of cultural heritage landscapes. Such an exercise considers how heritage significance may be linked to the relationship between individual resources within a bounded area. This approach enables municipalities to identify character-defining elements, such as natural landscape elements, viewsheds, and spatial patterns that contribute to, and help maintain a site's heritage significance. Establishing and maintaining a cultural heritage landscape inventory can enable development of effective strategies for managing change in areas that are culturally significant.

The public's input and participation is an invaluable component of an effective heritage conservation program. As new policies for built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes are developed, members of the general public can provide important information about the areas, landscapes, and structures that help tell the cultural history of the City of Vaughan and which make it a distinguishable and dynamic place to live and work.



What if...

All cultural heritage resources were provided statutory protection under the *Ontario Heritage Act*?