

More information for usage, designation and protection can be found in the Historical Resources Act.

MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE DESIGNATION PROCESS

At a Glance

- Determine if a place is worthy of protection, understand its heritage value and write a Statement of Significance and Statement of Integrity.
- Compensation agreement is signed and submitted.
- The Historic Resource Committee considers designation and submits request to County Council for approval.
- Council considers designation.
- Compensation agreement is reached with the property owner.
- Council issues property owner with Notice of its Intention (NOi) to designate the place a Municipal Historic Resource.
- Council advertises the Notice of Intention.
- Sixty (60) day waiting period elapses.
- Council considers bylaw to designate as Municipal Historic Resource.
- Bylaw registered against title of designated property and served on the property's registered owner.
- Site is nominated for listing on the Alberta Register of Historic Places.

County of Grande Prairie No. 1 Planning and Development Department

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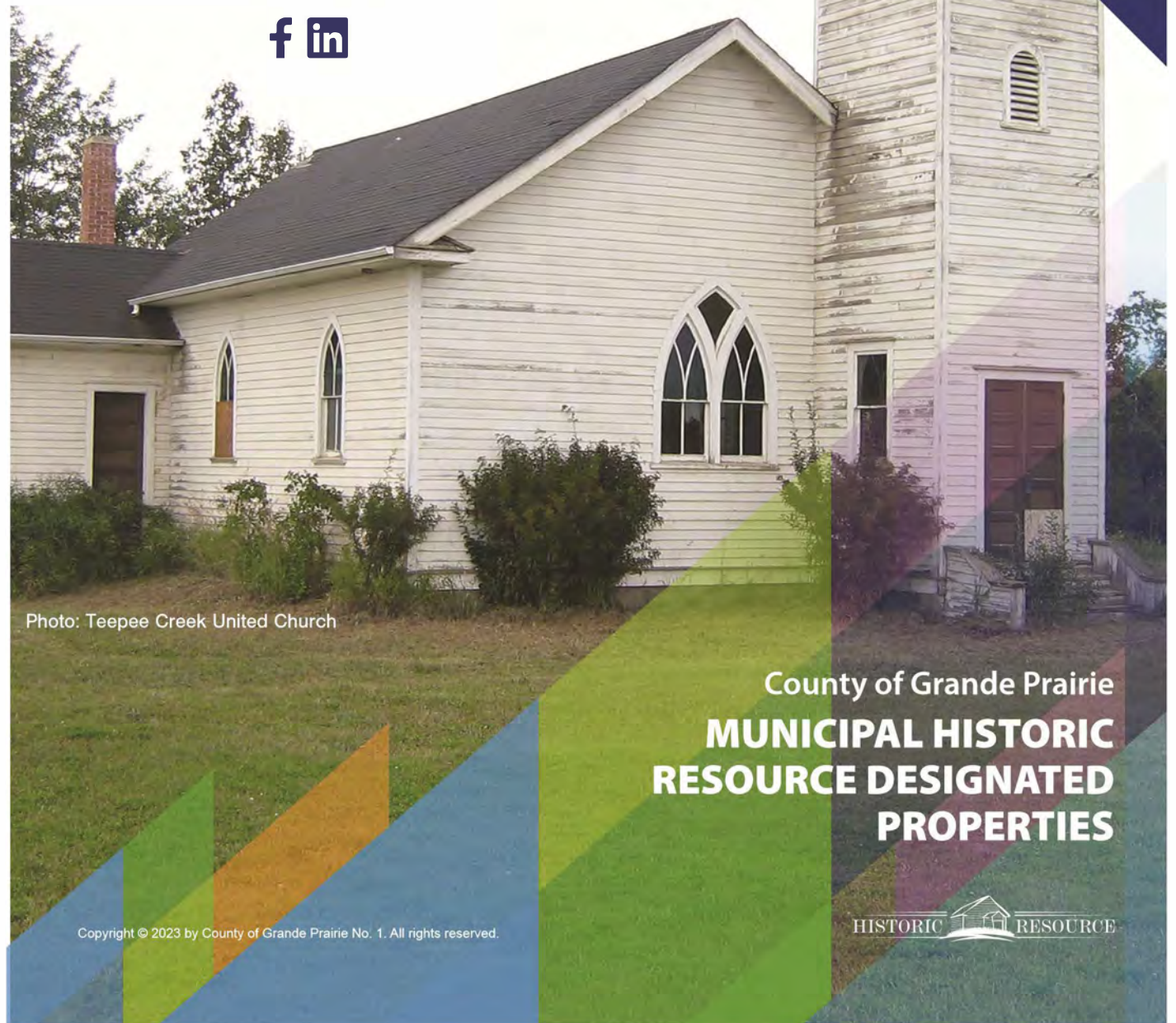


Photo: Teepee Creek United Church

County of Grande Prairie MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE DESIGNATED PROPERTIES

Overview

The Historical Resources Act (Revised Statutes of Alberta, 2000, Chapter H-9) empowers Alberta's municipalities to protect and conserve historic places. Municipalities are best able to identify and understand the importance of many historic places before other levels of government because they are the level of government closest to the community. Municipal Historic Resource designation protects these significant places, ensuring that they are not altered haphazardly or destroyed.

Once designated, a Municipal Historic Resource remains the property of the registered owner. Municipal Historic Resource designation does not change how a property can be used, although municipalities may re-zone the land if they wish. Law prohibits physically altering (or demolishing) a Municipal Historic Resource without the municipality's written permission. The designation is registered against the title for the property, ensuring that future owners and interest holders understand that the place is designated a Municipal Historic Resource.



Photo: Broadview Farms

What Can Be Designated

Any significant resource that has "cultural heritage value or interest" can be designated. Significance can be based on aesthetic, historic, scientific, economic, cultural, social, natural or spiritual values that are important to the County or neighbourhood in which the resource is located. Age alone is not enough justification to recognize a historic resource. There are many instances when "younger" resources hold heritage value.

What Municipal Historic Designation Does

- Bestows formal public recognition on significant heritage properties with the passing of a municipal by-law. Designation provides clarity as to the cultural importance of a given property. It serves as formal, public recognition that a property has heritage value and is worthy of on-going care and protection. Property owners are eligible for a plaque marking the property as heritage.
- A designation by-law identifies, itemizes and describes the specific heritage attributes and other character-defining elements that give a property its heritage value so that everyone knows what features should be given special consideration. Heritage attributes can be:
 - design/physical
 - contextual/natural; and/or
 - historical/associative
- All property owners are obligated to maintain their properties, whether heritage or not. Heritage buildings can be threatened if maintenance is neglected or deferred. Designation can be used to ensure that routine maintenance and care of heritage attributes are undertaken as required.
- Puts in place a simple permit mechanism to encourage preservation of the various heritage attributes as found. Any alteration likely to result in the loss, damage, alteration or removal of one or more designated heritage attributes requires approval from County Council before the work can begin. Usually this applies only to major exterior renovations, additions or demolition. As such, an intervention/restoration application is required.
- Can be used to control demolition. Council has the power to prevent demolition of a building or structure located on a designated property. If the owner of a designated property wishes to demolish or remove a building or structure, the owner must obtain approval from Council. Council decides whether to consent to demolition, to consent with terms and conditions, or to refuse the application altogether.
- Makes a property eligible for grants, tax relief or other incentives that may be approved by County Council or other levels of government from time to time.



QUICK FACTS :

- Has to be within the County of Grande Prairie.
- Minimum of 50 years old.
- Have historic significance to the area.
- Has to have aspects of integrity.
- Must be on its original site.