



# Committee Report

<b>To:</b>	Warden Hicks and Members of Grey County Council
<b>Committee Date:</b>	October 13, 2022
<b>Subject / Report No:</b>	EDTC-CW-15-22
<b>Title:</b>	Criteria for National Historic Site Designation
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<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Savanna Myers
<b>Lower Tier(s) Affected:</b>	All
<b>Status:</b>	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW138-22; Endorsed by County Council October 27, 2022, per Resolution CC87-22.

## Recommendation

- 1. That Report EDTC-CW-15-22 regarding Criteria for National Historic Site Designation in Grey County be received; and**
- 2. That staff be available to assist interested parties with appropriate historical information to support the development of their own applications.**

## Executive Summary

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) advises the Minister responsible for Parks Canada on the designation of nationally historic places, persons and events. The HSMBC has developed criteria and guidelines that frame their recommendations. Grey County is home to several National Historic Sites and some historical subjects have connections to Grey County but are commemorated in other parts of Canada.

## Background and Discussion

During the April 14, 2022 Council meeting, correspondence was received from the Municipality of Grey Highlands regarding an application to the HSMBC for Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery to be declared a National Historic Site. Out of that discussion, Council asked that a staff report be brought forward outlining criteria to substantiate an application for a National Historic Site designation and that a list be brought forward with potential sites.

As a first step in this process, staff consulted with the Heritage Designations and Programs Branch of Parks Canada to understand the criteria and process required for designation, presented through this report.

## Criteria and Guidelines

The booklet [Criteria and Guidelines for evaluating subjects of potential national historic significance](#) lists the detailed Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada's criteria and guidelines to date. The subject proposed must only meet one or more of the Board's criteria.

This excerpt from the guidelines sums up the criteria:

*Any aspect of Canada's human history may be considered for Ministerial designation of national historic significance. To be considered for designation, a place, a person or an event will have had a nationally significant impact on Canadian history, or will illustrate a nationally important aspect of Canadian human history.*

*Subjects that qualify for national historic significance will meet one or more of the following criteria:*

*1. A place may be designated of national historic significance by virtue of a direct association with a nationally significant aspect of Canadian history. An archaeological site, structure, building, group of buildings, district, or cultural landscape of potential national historic significance will:*

*a) illustrate an exceptional creative achievement in concept and design, technology and/or planning, or a significant stage in the development of Canada; or*

*b) illustrate or symbolize in whole or in part a cultural tradition, a way of life, or ideas important in the development of Canada; or*

*c) be most explicitly and meaningfully associated or identified with persons who are deemed of national historic importance; or*

*d) be most explicitly and meaningfully associated or identified with events that are deemed of national historic importance.*

*2. A person (or persons) may be designated of national historic significance if that person individually or as the representative of a group made an outstanding and lasting contribution to Canadian history.*

*3. An event may be designated of national historic significance if it represents a defining action, episode, movement, or experience in Canadian history.*

In addition there are general guidelines (See attachment 2) such as:

- Uniqueness or rarity are not, in themselves, evidence of national historic significance, but may be considered in connection with the above criteria for national historic significance.*
- Firsts, per se, are not considered for national historic significance.*
- In general, only one commemoration will be made for each place, person, or event of national historic significance.*
- Buildings, ensembles of buildings, and sites that are 40 years of age or older may be considered for designation of national historic significance.*
- Large-scale movable heritage properties that would not normally be considered suitable for museum display may be considered for designation of national historic significance.*

- *Persons deceased for at least twenty-five years may be considered for designation of national historic significance, with the exception of Prime Ministers, who are eligible for commemoration immediately upon death.*
- *Events that occurred at least 40 years ago may be considered for designation of national historic significance. Historic events that continue into the more recent past will be evaluated on the basis of what occurred at least 40 years ago.*

In terms of process, when the proposal relates to a place or an area such as a site in the Grey County area, there are additional requirements (see attachment 3), including the written consent of the property owner and clear boundaries of the area proposed for designation. Parks Canada requires owner's consent to move forward with a site nomination as no further evaluation can be undertaken without receipt of this document. If a place belongs to a large number of owners or falls under a municipal authority, consent may take the form of a municipal resolution supporting the area to be nominated for a national designation. In most circumstances, a place can only be considered if it is in a condition that respects the integrity of its design, materials, workmanship, function and/or setting.

Please note that while the written consent of the site or property/land owner is required for site nominations, it is not required for the nomination of events or persons.

### **Current Grey County Sites, Events and People with Federal Heritage Designation**

- Canadian Pacific Railway Station, Heritage Railway Station of Canada. Owen Sound
- Survey of the Great Lakes, National Historic Event. Owen Sound
- Air Marshal William Avery Bishop, National Historic Person. Owen Sound
- Agnes Campbell Macphail, National Historic Person, Grey Highlands
- Nahnehahwequay National Historic Person, Address TBD
- Billy Bishop Boyhood Home National Historic Site of Canada. Owen Sound
- Nellie Mooney McClung, National Historic Person Chatsworth
- Margaret Marshall Saunders, (author of Beautiful Joe), Outside Grey (Nova Scotia)
- Tom Thomson, Outside Grey (Algonquin Provincial Park)
- Underground Railroad, Outside Grey (Windsor)
- Petun Site, Outside Grey, (Duntroon, Simcoe County)

In terms of potential new designations, staff are noting possible designates based on historical expertise. That said, to create a comprehensive list, community consultation will be required, in addition to consultation with individuals and landowners to determine preliminary interest, especially given most nominations cannot be submitted without prior written consent. Though Grey County and Grey Roots are not precluded from nominating individuals, places or events, the process is typically initiated at the grassroots level and supported by our roles.

Staff will include a research project in the workplan when resources allow, to develop a comprehensive list through consultation, should Council wish to further consider this information.

## **Legal and Legislated Requirements**

None.

## Financial and Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications with this report.

## Relevant Consultation

- Internal – Grey Roots Museum and Archives Staff
- External - Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

## Appendices and Attachments

1. [Criteria and Guidelines for evaluating subjects of potential national historic significance](#)
2. <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/culture/clmhc-hsmbc/ncp-pcn/evaluation>
3. <http://www.pc.gc.ca/en/culture/clmhc-hsmbc/ncp-pcn/ele-com/regs2>