

## THE NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE INVENTORY PROGRAMME

### INTRODUCTION

The Province of Nova Scotia, Canada has a history encompassing nearly 400 years of settlement. In 1605, North America's first permanent English or French settlement, the Habitation, was founded at Port Royale by Samuel Champlain. Champlain, a skilled surveyor and draftsman by trade, detailed these first buildings in pen and ink sketches. Our fortune in Nova Scotia is to have both records and a reconstruction of the Habitation, and surviving examples of the architecture of every other old world culture that has evolved in Nova Scotia since Champlain's time.

Encapsulated within the built-heritage of Nova Scotia are examples of: Acadian farm and city houses of the 17th century, Loyalist houses and Georgian public buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries, and Scottish, English, Irish and German buildings constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Given this wealth of built-heritage in Nova Scotia, it is somewhat surprising to learn that the history of heritage conservation in Nova Scotia is only seven years old. The Nova Scotia Heritage Property Act (1980, p.2) was adopted to provide for "the identification, designation, preservation, protection and rehabilitation of buildings, streetscapes, and areas of historic, architectural or cultural value and to encourage their continued use".

By 1984 some progress had been made by the Heritage Section to encourage municipalities to enact heritage legislation. Unfortunately, only a few local units had taken the additional step of conducting a built-heritage inventory. Consequently, in the spring of 1985 the Heritage Section initiated an inventory of Nova Scotia's built-heritage, to increase public awareness of the built resource and to assist municipalities to manage this resource. The scope of the inventory was defined by the Heritage Section to include all buildings, sites, and monuments predating 1914, and exceptional examples post-dating 1914.

### THE INVENTORY DESIGN

The design, implementation and management of the Nova Scotia Heritage Inventory project was assigned to the author in his position as Heritage Officer for the Province of Nova Scotia.

To achieve the two goals noted above, three inventory design objectives were established:

- 1) to identify, research and document an estimated 50,000 properties;
- 2) to develop a province-wide public awareness campaign; and
- 3) to encourage and assist the local administrative units to adopt built heritage conservation techniques.

The design strategy evolved from a graduate thesis recently undertaken by the author, examining community-development options in Nova Scotia. The community development options studied, suggested the following implementation strategy: to best facilitate community change, local self-help education and public participation techniques should be utilized. This strategy, in terms of the inventory, suggested that an individual should be engaged in each of the 66 local administrative units, trained to develop community awareness, of the built-heritage and heritage management techniques. The roles of these individuals, referred to as Inventory Coordinators, were then outlined as follows:

firstly, the Inventory Coordinators would be engaged to identify, research and record the built-heritage of the local area;

secondly, the Inventory Coordinators would be requested to facilitate the development of a public heritage awareness campaign in their local area; and

thirdly, the Coordinators would be challenged to transform the development of community concern for heritage into a local plan for built-heritage management.

The Community Development options studied also suggested that certain individual prerequisites are desired to optimize success. The first prerequisite is mandatory: the Inventory Coordinator should be resident in the area being inventoried, or have intimate knowledge of the area. This prerequisite is fundamental for many reasons, including the need by an Inventory Coordinator to have a working knowledge of the area's geography, be aware of local sources of information, and to know how to gain access to and acquire information.

The second prerequisite is not mandatory, but desired: the Inventory Coordinator should have a basic knowledge of the area's history and architecture. Alternately, a desire and capacity to learn about these subject areas is required. The engagement of individuals simply to decrease unemployment or to employ students in summer is discouraged. The Nova Scotia Inventory is, in contrast, designed to develop those individuals who have basic training in history or architecture, and the desire to further personal careers in these subject areas.

The third prerequisite is critical to the long-term success of the projects: the Inventory Coordinator should be respected by the public, or have the potential to gain the respect of the local area administration. The third prerequisite is critical because the respect of the community is required to transform public concern into effective heritage conservation. Consequently, the selection of the Inventory Coordinators is assigned to each local administrative unit to maximize the likelihood that a locally respected individual will be hired.

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

To assist the individual who is selected by the local administrative unit to fulfill the roles outlined above, a four part skill development programme has been developed.

The first module develops the basic research skills required to complete the Inventory Site Form. The form (attached as appendix A) consists of a two sided, 21.5 x 28.0 cm, three-hole punched piece of paper.

The front of the form is utilized to: 1) identify the property, 2) present a narrative analysis of the architecture, history and context and optionally, 3) to evaluate the property. Property identification is provided via a microfiche reference number, four geographic locators, an estimation of the date of construction and a 9.0 x 13.0 cm black and white photograph. The narrative analysis incorporates the architectural, historical and contextual comments of the Coordinators, guided by a series of 9 questions pertaining to following topic areas: design, construction and style; age, architect/builder and historical association; integrity, landmark status and environment. These nine fields are then utilized as a means of guiding an optional evaluation of the property.

The reverse side of the form is utilized for recording of: 1) existing historical information and 2) for the recording of new historical research. The present owner; name and mailing address, as well as all printed and non-printed sources of information are identified first. Then a history of the building is developed by a comprehensive deed search to identify all previous owners of the property, up to and including the original owner/builder. The original owner's name and occupation, and the original use/present use are then given special note. Finally, where applicable, note worthy historical highlights are identified, and any problems encountered in the historical research by the Inventory Coordinator are stated and explained.

The second module introduces the Inventory Coordinators to the set of skills required to develop a public awareness campaign. The second training module provides 1) examples of successful public relations materials, 2) public relations seminars hosted by knowledgeable speakers, and 3) positive reinforcement of successful campaigns by Province-wide publication and/or distribution of innovative efforts. The Inventory Coordinators are encouraged to be as pro-active as possible, to utilize all forms of media, and as much as possible to work in cooperation with private enterprise.

The third training module focuses upon the skills required to facilitate the development of a community heritage ethic. The purpose of this objective is to achieve attitudinal change. To effect an attitudinal change within the community, an activity which is perceived by most communities to be important is: the education of school-aged children. To assist the Coordinators to acquire the skills they will need to teach in schools the Province of Ontario's heritage education model: Discovering Your Community (1985). The Ontario curriculum model details a number of activities specifically designed to assist school-aged children to learn about the built-heritage of their community. The Inventory Coordinators, who possess perhaps the best knowledge of the area's built-heritage, upon transmittal of their knowledge to the youth of the community, become the recipients of community respect. This action, in turn, has in many cases created a new public concern for built heritage of the community.

The fourth and final educational module builds upon the technical knowledge, and public support developed by the Inventory Coordinators within the local area, to transform the local concern for built-heritage into a heritage conservation plan. Inventory Coordinators are introduced to built-heritage management techniques currently available within the Nova Scotia and Canada. The Inventory Coordinators are then encouraged to work with the administrators of the community and the public to develop new heritage management techniques, and a long term heritage conservation plan.

#### CONCLUSION

The Nova Scotia Built Heritage Inventory Programme has generated significant results in its first 18 months of operation. Firstly, over 5,000 properties have been identified, researched and documented. Secondly, 30 individuals in 22 communities throughout the province have acquired the skills, knowledge and respect to launch local heritage awareness campaigns. Thirdly, the general public now supports the work of the heritage Coordinators, and many communities desire to participate in the programme. Fourthly, and most importantly, the management of Nova Scotia's built-heritage resource is gaining recognition as an important public issue in the Province. To ensure that the management of this resource is conducted in an efficient and knowledgeable manner, Nova Scotia created the Heritage Inventory Programme to educate local heritage Coordinators. This approach, based on our results to date, is working well.



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MICROFICHE REFERENCE NUMBER

### Inventory Site Form

Photo

**STREET ADDRESS**

**CITY/TOWN/VILLAGE**

**MUNICIPALITY**

**COUNTY**

**YEAR BUILT**

**ARCHITECTURAL COMMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**HISTORICAL COMMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**CONTEXTUAL COMMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

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ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION					
Design	U	VR	R	C	VC
Construction	U	VR	R	C	VC
Style	U	VR	R	C	VC

HISTORICAL EVALUATION					
Age	U	VR	R	C	VC
Arch./Builder	U	VR	R	C	VC
Hist. Assoc.	U	VR	R	C	VC

CONTEXTUAL EVALUATION					
Integrity	U	VR	R	C	VC
Landmark	U	VR	R	C	VC
Environment	U	VR	R	C	VC

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT OWNER:  
 ADDRESS:

YEAR BUILT: Factual  
Estimated  
 SOURCES:

ORIGINAL OWNER:  
 OCCUPATION:

BUILDER:  
 ORIGINAL USE:  
 PRESENT USE:

**HISTORY OF BUILDING:**

OWNER	FROM:	TO:	OCCUPATION	Book · Page

**COMMENTS ON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

## THE NOVA SCOTIA HERITAGE INVENTORY PROGRAMME

### SUMMARY

In the Spring of 1985 the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada, initiated a built-heritage inventory. The scope of the inventory was defined to include all buildings, sites and monuments pre-dating 1914, and exceptional examples post-dating 1914. The two purposes of the inventory were first to take stock of Nova Scotia's built-heritage, and second, to utilize the inventory process to develop within the public the desire and ability to manage Nova Scotia's built-heritage resource.

To achieve the two goals, three objectives were defined: to identify, research and document Nova Scotia's built heritage; to launch a heritage awareness campaign; and three to introduce to the public heritage-management techniques.

Central to our strategy for the achievement of all three objectives are the employment and training of local Inventory Coordinators. The design premise is that effective heritage action can be introduced only through individuals who are skilled and respected for their knowledge in the community. Our approach therefore has been to engage only individuals who are 1) members of and knowledgeable about a local area; 2) have the capacity to learn about the subject matter; and 3) are respected within the community in which they live and work.

The Nova Scotia coordinator skill-development programme is composed of four inter-related training modules. The first module introduces the Coordinators to basic research techniques through an introductory training session, supplemented by quarterly refresher sessions. The second module helps the Inventory Coordinators to develop the public relations skills required to launch a public awareness campaign. The third module introduces the Inventory Coordinators to community education activities (such as conducting heritage education in schools). The fourth and final module challenges the Coordinators to learn the skills required to guide the community in the future management of the built heritage stock.

The Nova Scotia Built Heritage Inventory Programme has generated significant results in its first 18 months of operation. Firstly, over 5,000 properties have been identified, researched and documented. Secondly, 30 individuals in 22 communities throughout the province have acquired the skills, knowledge and respect to launch local heritage awareness campaigns. Thirdly, the general public now supports the work of the heritage Coordinators, and many communities desire to participate in the programme. Fourthly, and most importantly, the management of Nova Scotia's built-heritage resource is gaining recognition as an important public issue in the Province. To ensure that the management of this resource is conducted in an efficient and knowledgeable manner, Nova Scotia created the Heritage Inventory Programme to educate local heritage Coordinators. This approach, based on our results to date, is working well.

## RESUME PROGRAMME D'INVENTAIRE DU PATRIMOINE DE NOUVELLE-ECOSSE

Au Printemps 1985, la Province de Nouvelle-Ecosse, Canada, a commencé un inventaire de son patrimoine foncier. Toutes les constructions, les sites et les monuments datant d'avant 1914, ainsi que quelques cas exceptionnels construits après 1914 sont inclus dans cet inventaire. Les deux buts de cet inventaires étaient, en premier lieu, d'enregistrer le patrimoine foncier de Nouvelle-Ecosse et en deuxième lieu, d'utiliser ce procédé pour développer chez le public, le désir et la capacité de gérer la ressource du patrimoine foncier de Nouvelle-Ecosse.

Pour atteindre ces deux buts, trois objectifs ont été définis: identifier, rechercher et établir une documentation sur le patrimoine foncier de Nouvelle-Ecosse, lancer une campagne de prise de conscience, et, enfin, de familiariser le public avec les techniques de gestion du patrimoine.

L'élément central de la stratégie utilisée pour atteindre ces trois objectifs est l'emploi et la formation de coordinateurs locaux pour l'inventaire. Le projet suppose qu'une opération effective ne puisse être entreprise que par des individus expérimentés et respectés pour leurs connaissances, par la communauté. Notre approche consistait donc à n'engager que des individus qui 1) appartenaient ou connaissaient bien une région, 2) avaient la capacité d'étudier le sujet, et 3) étaient respectés dans la communauté où ils vivaient et travaillaient.

Le programme de formation des coordinateurs en Nouvelle-Ecosse est composé de quatre modules inter-reliés. Durant le premier module, les coordinateurs se familiarisent avec les techniques de base de recherche, au cours d'une session de formation complétée par des sessions de révision trimestrielles. Le second module aide les coordinateurs à développer les compétences en relations publiques nécessaires pour lancer la campagne de prise de conscience publique. Le troisième module sert à familiariser les coordinateurs avec les activités liées à l'éducation publique (par exemple, organiser des cours de connaissance du patrimoine dans les écoles). Enfin, le quatrième module invite les coordinateurs à apprendre les techniques nécessaires pour organiser la gestion future du patrimoine par la communauté.

Le programme d'Inventaire du Patrimoine Foncier de Nouvelle-Ecosse a donné des résultats significatifs durant les 18 premiers mois d'application. En premier lieu, plus de 5000 propriétés historiques ont été identifiées et documentées. En deuxième lieu, 30 individus dans 22 communautés ont acquis les connaissances et la compétence nécessaires pour lancer des campagnes de prise de conscience publique. En troisième lieu, le public appuie maintenant le travail des coordinateurs et de nombreuses communautés désirent participer au programme. En quatrième lieu, le point le plus important est que la gestion des ressources du patrimoine de Nouvelle-Ecosse est enfin reconnue comme une question publique importante pour la Province. Pour s'assurer que la gestion de cette ressource soit effectuée de façon efficace et bien conçue, la Nouvelle-Ecosse a créé le programme d'Inventaire du Patrimoine dans le but de former des coordinateurs. En se basant sur les résultats déjà obtenus, ce programme semble bien fonctionner.