

PREPARED FOR:

**Walker South Landfill Phase 2
Environmental Assessment**
Walker Environmental Group

File no. 9811BM

**February 2025
(Interim Draft)**

CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES EXISTING CONDITIONS AND SCREENING REPORT

Your Vision

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Appendices

Appendix A: Screening Checklist: Criteria for Evaluating for Potential Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of the existing Cultural Heritage Resource conditions within the study areas for the South Landfill Phase 2 Environmental Assessment (EA). The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (Minister) Approved Terms of Reference (ToR) for the EA included a preliminary description of the existing environmental conditions and made a commitment to expand upon this description during the EA.

Walker Environmental Group (Walker) initiated a Comprehensive EA under the Ontario *EA Act* seeking approval to expand the capacity of its existing South Landfill located at the Walker Resource Management Campus (Campus) in Niagara Falls. The South Landfill is an essential component of Walker's Campus since it began operating in 2009 under Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) No. 008-78RKAM, as amended, and provides safe, reliable, and affordable disposal capacity for solid, non-hazardous waste from residential and industrial, commercial, and institutional (IC&I) sources to its customer base within the City of Niagara Falls, the Regional Municipality of Niagara, and the Province of Ontario. The South Landfill's total approved disposal capacity is 17.7 million m³ and is expected to reach maximum capacity by 2029 to 2031.

The proposed Phase 2 of the South Landfill would extend its approved capacity by approximately 18 million m³ over a 20-year period, ensuring Walker can continue to provide essential residual waste disposal services to its existing customer base. Walker is proposing to locate the additional disposal capacity (Phase 2) to the east of the existing South Landfill within the area currently occupied by Walker's Southeast Quarry. The proposal would maintain the existing landfill service area, as well as the annual volume of solid, non-hazardous waste from the sources currently accepted.

The *EA Act* requires that proponents describe the environment that may potentially be affected or may reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly, by the Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Undertaking (Alternative Methods) proposed as part of an EA. The description of the existing environmental conditions will provide the baseline for the assessment of potential effects for the proposed Undertaking, which will be conducted during the EA. This report focuses on characterizing the existing conditions within the study areas for the South Landfill Phase 2 EA for Cultural Heritage Resources. This report includes information with respect to both built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes.

2.0 Study Areas

From a Cultural Heritage resource perspective, the characterization of existing conditions within the following study areas is/are appropriate to this EA:

- **Site Study Area (SSA)**, including all lands (76.12 ha) owned and operated by Walker that are within the existing approved boundaries of the Southeast Quarry; and
- **Local Study Area (LSA)**, with a focus on lands within a 1 km radius of the SSA boundaries for the purposes of the cultural heritage resource assessment.

The Site Study Area was selected as being of interest because of the requirement to confirm the presence of any potential cultural heritage resources on the subject lands, while the Local Study Area was selected as being of interest due to the requirement to confirm the presence of any potential cultural heritage resources on adjacent and nearby properties. The Regional Study Area was reviewed in a preliminary manner but not identified as being required to assess further due the nature of the resources and also proposed site operation.

The Cultural Heritage Resource study areas are illustrated in **Figure 2.1**, below.

Figure 2.1 Site Study Area and Local Study Area Map (source: MHBC)

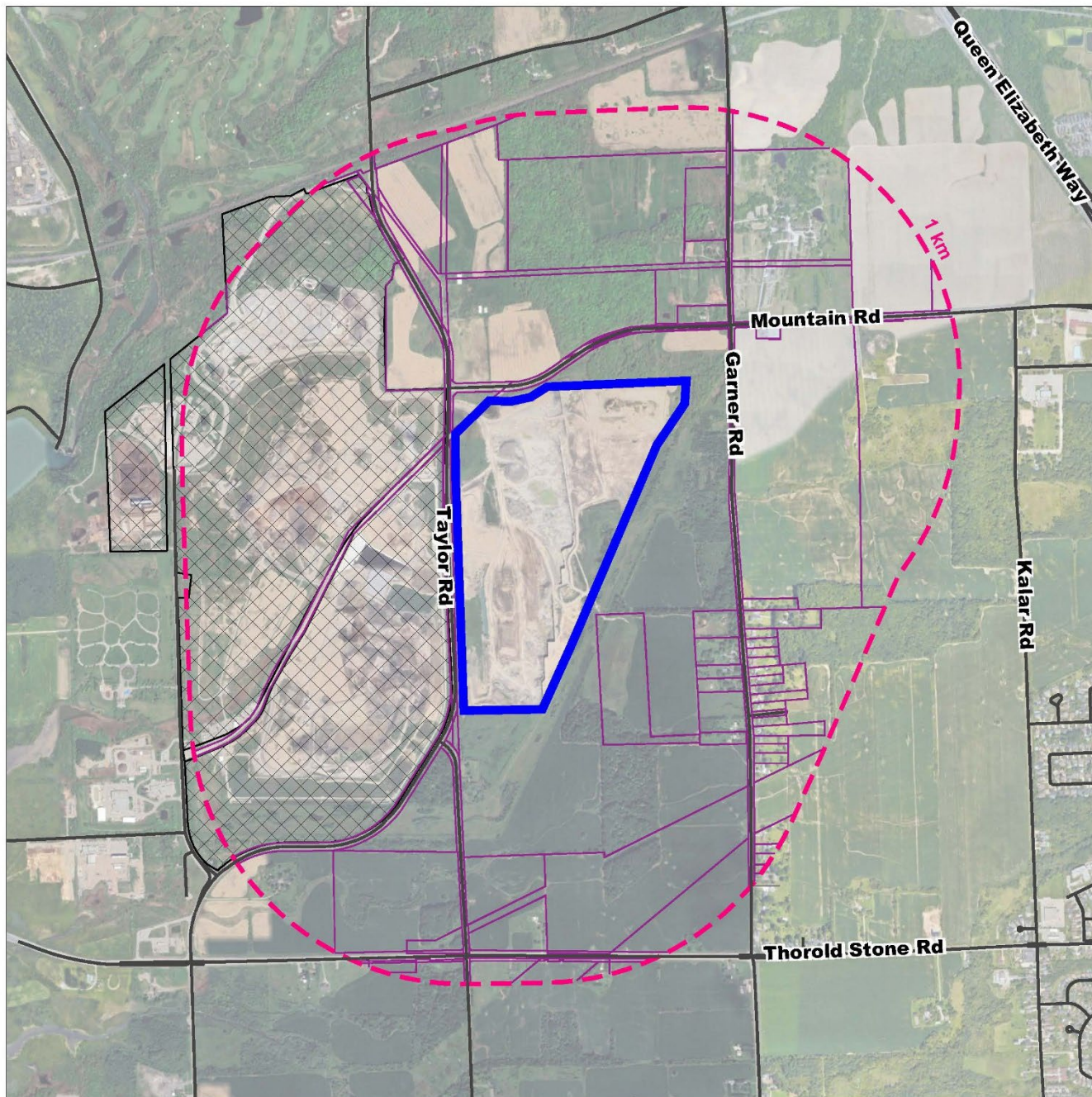


Figure 2.1- Study Area Context

Map LEGEND

- Site Study Area
- Local Study Area
- Walker Resource Management Campus
- Property Boundary
- Road Network



3.0 Methodology

Available secondary sources of information were collected and reviewed to characterize cultural heritage resources within the Site Study Area and the Local Study Area. Background historical research was undertaken in order to provide a historical context to past development within the area. Background data collection consisted of a review of historical source materials, including local histories, Historical County Atlases and topographical maps, municipal inventories of cultural heritage resources, as well as historical aerial photos.

The following secondary sources of information were collected and reviewed:

- Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) Screening checklist Criteria for Evaluating Potential Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes
- Current and historic airphotos available from Niagara Region
- Municipal registers of heritage properties (City of Niagara Falls, City of Thorold, Niagara Region)
- Ontario Heritage Trust register of historic properties
- Parks Canada Register of Historic Places
- Published data sources for local history (City of Niagara Falls, City of Thorold, Niagara Region, Niagara Falls Museum)

In addition to the secondary sources that were reviewed above, field data was collected by MHBC staff as part of work to establish existing conditions. This fieldwork comprised two site visits: a preliminary site assessment which was undertaken in December 2022 followed by a more detailed site assessment which was undertaken in January 2025. Fieldwork methodology consisted of visiting locations of identified cultural heritage resources generally within the Local Study Area, as well as a visual survey of portions of the Local Study Area to identify additional potential cultural heritage resources.

The research and fieldwork undertaken provided the necessary background information to complete the Provincial Criteria for Evaluating for Potential Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes.

4.0 Characterization of the Existing Environment

4.1 Area overview

The subject lands are situated within the traditional territory of multiple Indigenous Nations, including the Six Nations First Nation (Haudenosaunee Confederacy), Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Attiwonderonk (Neutral) First Nation. These lands and immediate surrounding area are acknowledged as being associated with the Niagara Purchase (Treaty 381, 1781).

The subject lands are located within the geographic Township of Stamford, which was originally known by European settlers as Township Number 2 (since it was the second township surveyed after the Township of Niagara). The Township was later known as Mount Dorchester, named for Governor General Sir Guy Carleton. In 1791, John Graves Simcoe gave the name of Stamford to Township Number 2, after the Town of Stamford in Lincolnshire, England. The Township of Stamford remained a self-governing municipality until 1963 when it became part of the City of Niagara Falls.

The City of Niagara Falls is located within Niagara Region. Niagara Region includes the municipalities of: Fort Erie, Grimsby, Lincoln, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham, Port Colborne, St. Catharines, Thorold, Wainfleet, Welland and West Lincoln. The current population of Niagara Region is approximately 484,000 (2021).

4.2 Local Study Area overview

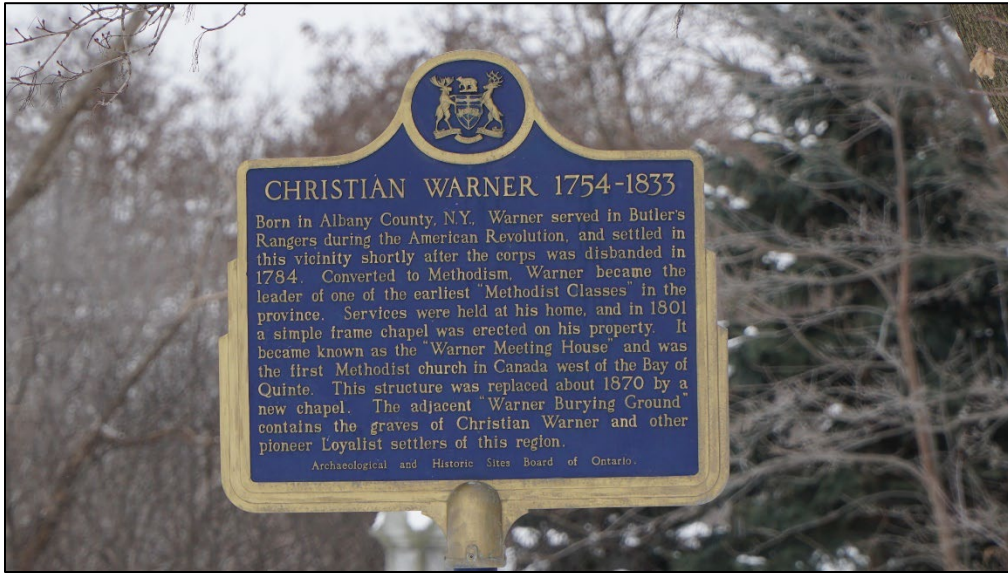
The site is located along the edge of the eastern boundary of the City of Thorold, and south of the southern boundary of the City of St. Catharines. The existing Welland Canal is located approximately 2.3 km west of the subject lands, with portions of the historic Welland Canal being located approximately 1.5 km away. The nearest designated heritage property is located approximately 1.8 km to the northeast, consisting of a historic cemetery and plaque (see **Figure 4.1** on following page). A municipal cemetery is also located approximately 1 km west of the subject lands (see **Photos 4.1 & 4.2**).

Figure 4.1 Cemetery location (source: Niagara Region, 2023 air photo)



Photos 4.2 & 4.2 Photos of Warner Methodist Cemetery (source: MHBC)





The broader area is characterized as a mixed agricultural and rural residential area, with a range of land uses. A rural residential cluster of approximately 20 dwellings is located to the east of the Site Study Area. The buildings are of various construction dates ranging from the mid to late-20th century through to the early 21st century (see **Figure 4.2** and **Photo 4.3** below).

Figure 4.2 Rural cluster located to east of Site Study Area (source: Niagara Region, 2023 air photo)



Photo 4.3

Photo of Garner Road rural residential cluster (source: MHBC)



An additional rural residential cluster of approximately 20 dwellings is located to the south of the Site Study Area. The buildings are of various construction dates ranging from the mid to late-20th century through to the early 21st century (see **Figure 4.3** and **Photo 4.4** below).

Figure 4.3

Rural cluster located at Garner Road and Thorold Stone Road (source: Niagara Region, 2023 air photo)

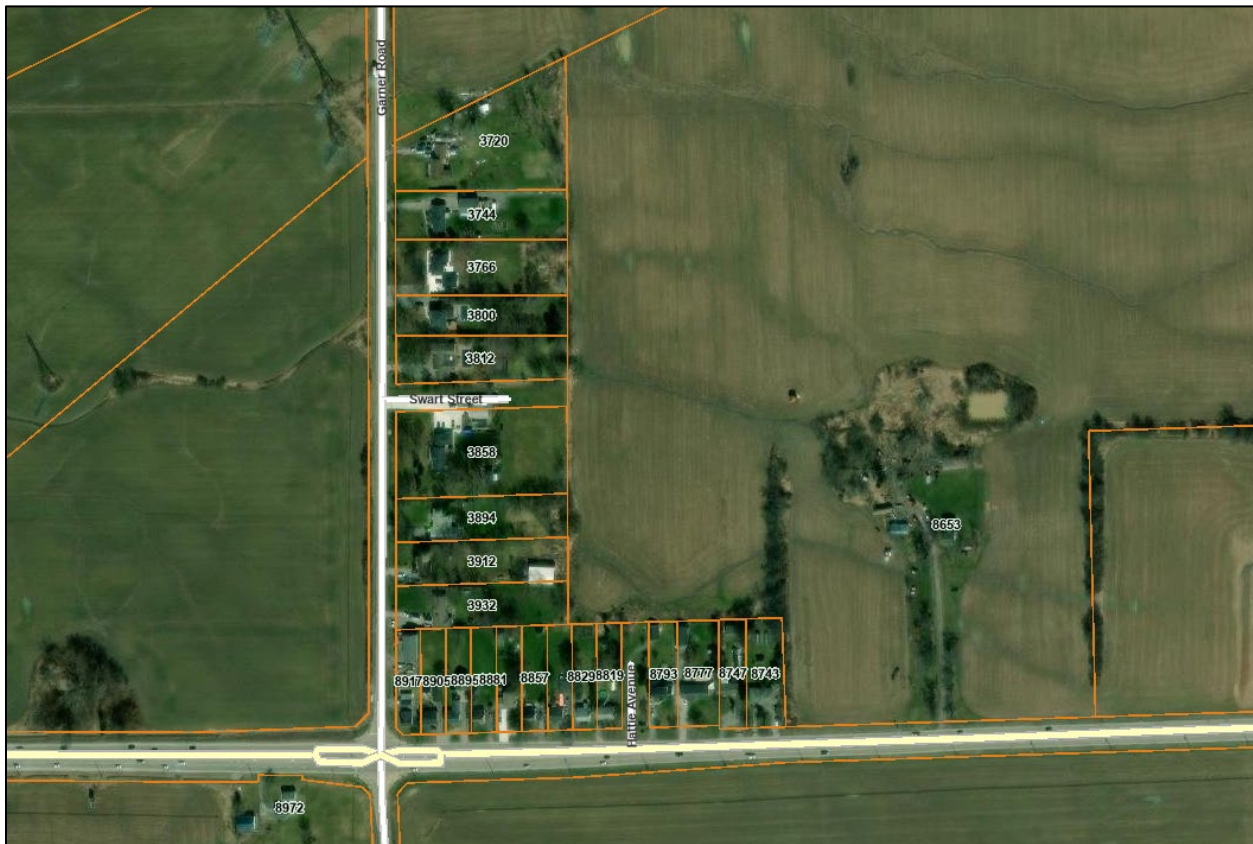


Photo 4.4

Photo of Garner Road rural residential cluster (source: MHBC)



Adjacent to the rural cluster noted above is the remnants of a 19th-century agricultural cluster. The cluster consists of a residential dwelling and outbuildings of various eras. The property is addressed as 8653 Thorold Stone Road.

Photo 4.5

Photo of dwelling located at 8653 Thorold Stone Road (source: MHBC)



4.3 Site Study Area overview

The Site Study Area is currently utilized predominantly as an active quarry operation. The lands are located within the Walker Niagara Campus, which began operations in 1887 with early quarrying operations being located to the west of the Site Study Area lands. Quarry operations within the Site Study Area began in the early 2000's, with extraction commencing in the northwestern area of the site.

Figure 4.4 Site Study Area depicting early quarry operations (source: Niagara Region, 2006 airphoto)



4.4 Screening results

Based on the review undertaken, neither the Site Study Area or the discipline-specific 1 km Local Study Area contain identified or potential cultural heritage resources. The nearest designated cultural heritage resource is located approximately 1.8 km to the northeast of the Site Study Area. The Provincial Criteria for Evaluating for Potential Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes checklist was completed in order to provide the required information requested by Ministry staff. A copy of the completed checklist is included as **Appendix A**.

5.0 Conclusions

The Local Study Area is characterized by a range of land uses, including a mix of rural residential and agricultural uses. There is an identified cultural heritage resource located approximately 1.8 km to the northeast of the Site Study Area. No other resources are identified within the Local Study Area.

The Site Study Area is characterized by an active quarry operation which began operations in the early 2000's and is primarily disturbed. There are no potential or identified cultural heritage resources located within the Site Study Area.

The MCM Criteria for Evaluating for Potential Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes was completed as part of the evaluation. It was determined there is not potential for built heritage resources and/or cultural heritage landscapes within the project area.

Based on the results of the checklist and this screening report, no further reporting related to cultural heritage resources is required.

6.0 References

City of Niagara Falls. Heritage Properties. Online source available at:

<https://niagarafalls.ca/living/heritage/listing.aspx>. Accessed January 2025.

City of Thorold. Heritage Properties. Online source available at: <https://www.thorold.ca/en/city-hall/heritage-properties.aspx>. Accessed January 2025.

Heritage Thorold. Designated Heritage Properties. Online source available at:

<https://heritagethorold.com/designated-historical-properties/>. Accessed January 2025.

Niagara Navigator. Niagara Region Navigator. Online source available at:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/exploring/navigator.aspx>. Accessed January 2025.

Niagara Region. Designated Heritage Properties. Online source available at:

<https://open.niagararegion.ca/datasets/NiagaraRegion::designated-heritage-properties/explore?location=43.123992%2C-79.169165%2C14.21>. Accessed January 2025.

Page, H.R.. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Lincoln and Welland Counties. 1876 (Reprint 1972: Ross Cumming, Port Elgin, Ontario).

Parks Canada. Canadian Register of Historic Places. Online source available at:

<http://www.historicplaces.ca/en/pages/register-repertoire.aspx>. Accessed January 2025.

The Exchange. A Brief History of Niagara Falls. Online source available at:

<https://nfexchange.ca/museum/discover-our-history/brief-history-of-niagara-falls>.

Accessed January 2025.

A

Appendix A: Screening Checklist

The **purpose of the checklist** is to determine:

- if a property(ies) or project area:
 - is a recognized heritage property
 - may be of cultural heritage value
- it includes all areas that may be impacted by project activities, including – but not limited to:
 - the main project area
 - temporary storage
 - staging and working areas
 - temporary roads and detours

Processes covered under this checklist, such as:

- *Planning Act*
- *Environmental Assessment Act*
- *Aggregates Resources Act*
- *Ontario Heritage Act* – Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties

Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER)

If you are not sure how to answer one or more of the questions on the checklist, you may want to hire a qualified person(s) (see page 5 for definitions) to undertake a cultural heritage evaluation report (CHER).

The CHER will help you:

- identify, evaluate and protect cultural heritage resources on your property or project area
- reduce potential delays and risks to a project

Other checklists

Please use a separate checklist for your project, if:

- you are seeking a Renewable Energy Approval under Ontario Regulation 359/09 – [separate checklist](#)
- your Parent Class EA document has an approved screening criteria (as referenced in Question 1)

Please refer to the Instructions pages for more detailed information and when completing this form.

Project or Property Name
Walker South Landfill Phase 2 EA

Project or Property Location (upper and lower or single tier municipality)
9555 Mountain Road, 2841 Garner Road, City of Niagara Falls, Region of Niagara

Proponent Name
Walker Environmental Group

Proponent Contact Information
Darren Fry, Project Director - Environmental Division | 905-680-3783 | DFry@walkerind.com

Screening Questions

	Yes	No
1. Is there a pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process in place?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If Yes, please follow the pre-approved screening checklist, methodology or process.

If No, continue to Question 2.

Part A: Screening for known (or recognized) Cultural Heritage Value

	Yes	No
2. Has the property (or project area) been evaluated before and found not to be of cultural heritage value?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If Yes, do **not** complete the rest of the checklist.

The proponent, property owner and/or approval authority will:

- summarize the previous evaluation and
- add this checklist to the project file, with the appropriate documents that demonstrate a cultural heritage evaluation was undertaken

The summary and appropriate documentation may be:

- submitted as part of a report requirement
- maintained by the property owner, proponent or approval authority

If No, continue to Question 3.

	Yes	No
3. Is the property (or project area):		
a. identified, designated or otherwise protected under the <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> as being of cultural heritage value?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. a National Historic Site (or part of)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. designated under the <i>Heritage Railway Stations Protection Act</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. designated under the <i>Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act</i> ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. identified as a Federal Heritage Building by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. located within a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If Yes to any of the above questions, you need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report, if a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value has not previously been prepared or the statement needs to be updated

If a Statement of Cultural Heritage Value has been prepared previously and if alterations or development are proposed, you need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) – the report will assess and avoid, eliminate or mitigate impacts

If No, continue to Question 4.

Part B: Screening for Potential Cultural Heritage Value

	Yes	No
4. Does the property (or project area) contain a parcel of land that:		
a. is the subject of a municipal, provincial or federal commemorative or interpretive plaque?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. has or is adjacent to a known burial site and/or cemetery?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. is in a Canadian Heritage River watershed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. contains buildings or structures that are 40 or more years old?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part C: Other Considerations

	Yes	No
5. Is there local or Aboriginal knowledge or accessible documentation suggesting that the property (or project area):		
a. is considered a landmark in the local community or contains any structures or sites that are important in defining the character of the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. has a special association with a community, person or historical event?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. contains or is part of a cultural heritage landscape?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

If Yes to one or more of the above questions (Part B and C), there is potential for cultural heritage resources on the property or within the project area.

You need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report (CHER)

If the property is determined to be of cultural heritage value and alterations or development is proposed, you need to hire a qualified person(s) to undertake:

- a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) – the report will assess and avoid, eliminate or mitigate impacts

If No to all of the above questions, there is low potential for built heritage or cultural heritage landscape on the property.

The proponent, property owner and/or approval authority will:

- summarize the conclusion
- add this checklist with the appropriate documentation to the project file

The summary and appropriate documentation may be:

- submitted as part of a report requirement e.g. under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Planning Act* processes
- maintained by the property owner, proponent or approval authority



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