

2. Criteria for Heritage Designation

2.1 Heritage Value

- **Heritage value** refers to the aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance or significance for past, present or future generations. *Character-defining elements* contribute to the *heritage value* of a *heritage asset*. The degree to which a building or site possesses *heritage value* determines its status within the Heritage Register. In order to be considered a *heritage asset* and be included in the Register, a building or site must possess *heritage value*.

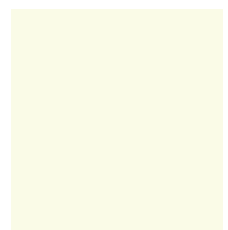
2.2 Character-Defining Elements

- **Character-defining elements** refer to materials, forms, style, location, spatial configurations, structural systems, uses and cultural/chronological associations or meanings that contribute to the *heritage value* of a *heritage asset*.

Therefore, the *heritage value* of a building or site may be assessed by identifying and examining its *character defining elements*. The following set of *character -defining elements* may be used as a standard set of criteria, the presence of whose components in a building or site may contribute to the *heritage value* of the property.

- **Materials** Materials typical of a particular historical period, such as stone construction, slate roofs, slate floors, oak doors and windows, steel windows or brass and bronze fittings may constitute character defining elements. Architectural decoration on a building or monument may also constitute a *character defining element*. These materials and symbols may be of significance if they are reflective of the age and history of the building. The existence of these materials in their original form may indicate *heritage value*.

- **Form** The form of a building or monument may also indicate *heritage value*. With respect to the University of Saskatchewan, buildings characterized by a narrow building footprint and a scale of two to four storeys are typical of those constructed according to the original campus plan of 1909 by architects David Brown and Hugh Vallance. Buildings with low, narrow massing characterized the early campus and today contribute to the university's overall sense of place by defining the character of both interior and exterior places. Exterior courtyards framed by buildings are another *character-defining element* of form.



- **Style** An identifiable architectural style such as the Collegiate Gothic or Modern may constitute a *character-defining element*. Elements defining a building as Collegiate Gothic may include: arches, balustrades, buttresses, crenelation, dormers, decorative drainage spouts, slate materials, elaborate fenestration, finials, spires, carvings and grotesques, oriel windows, recessed and arched entrances, parapets, plaques, rustication or quoins applied to building corners, relief sculptures, tracery and the use of bay windows. On a building's interior, the element of vaulting is typical of the Collegiate Gothic. Collegiate Gothic architecture was selected as the style to be used for the University of Saskatchewan by the first University President, Walter Murray. Murray looked to American Universities, particularly Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, to set a precedent for the style that would come to embody the University of Saskatchewan. Thus, older buildings adhering to this style may be considered to have *heritage value*.

The Modern architectural style may be identified by elements such as the absence of decoration, simplified massing, stripped down, repetitive detailing and the employment of new materials. Modern architecture at the University of Saskatchewan is emblematic of a wider shift in architectural paradigms away from decoration and towards functionalism, which occurred in North America following the Second World War. With respect to the university, modern buildings represent a new phase of building and construction and may be associated with a change in the planning priorities of the university.

- **Location** The siting of a building or monument in relation to the larger context of the university or city may contribute to its significance. Buildings located at the termination of axes or situated around the 'Bowl' may be indicative of their relationship to the original 1909 Campus Plan. Locations and orientations may also offer clues as to how the university was previously used or viewed and how things have changed since. The siting of a monument to mark the place of a significant event may be considered a *character defining element*.

- **Structural Systems** In a general sense, the existence of certain structural systems within a building may be a character defining element. Structural systems typical of their time or no longer commonly employed such as load bearing brick or stone, wooden post and beam systems, cast iron columns or stone foundation walls may be *character defining elements*.



- **Spatial Configuration** Outdoor spaces may constitute heritage sites. For example, outdoor courtyards and quadrangles were a critical feature of the University of Saskatchewan 1909 Campus Plan and are therefore *character defining elements* of the campus. The form, materials, scale and massing of the buildings adjacent to these courtyards may be *character defining elements* of the outdoor spaces.

Spatial configurations may also define the interior character of a building. Specifically, early campus buildings were typified by narrow interiors and double loaded corridors in order to allow for maximum natural light and ventilation. Deeper, larger floor plans are typical of later construction.

- **Uses** The use of a building by a figure historically significant to the history of the university or its greater context is an element that may be considered *character defining*. Historical events or activities that have occurred in a building or place may be *character defining elements* that may contribute to the historical significance of that building. The chronology of uses that a building undergoes may be an element that defines its character.

- **Cultural Associations or Meanings** The association of a building or monument with historically significant cultural meanings may be considered a *character defining element*. The building or monument may have significant associated meaning at a variety of scales: university, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, or internationally. Architectural elements which convey the character of a historically significant time period may be considered *character defining elements*. Similarly, elements of a building or monument that reveal what was important to planners, builders, students and citizens of the time may be considered *character defining*. *Character defining elements* under this category may include important discoveries, patents, political appointments or movements, myths or stories contributing to the meaning of that place, plaques, designations, markers, monuments, building styles, construction methods or construction of the site by an architecturally significant figure. The architectural or design quality of a place may associate it with a certain style, time period or designer. The naming of a building or monument after a public figure or event does not necessarily deem it historically significant.



2.3 Commemorative Integrity

In order for a *character-defining element* to contribute to the *heritage value* of a place, it must retain its *commemorative integrity*. For a *character-defining element* to contribute to the *heritage value* of a building or site, it must be sufficiently intact to convey that meaning. In order to be considered a viable element of *heritage value*, the *character-defining element* must not be impaired or under threat and must effectively communicate its historical significance. Wear or weathering may also record the effects of time and express the age of an element; and therefore may contribute to the *commemorative integrity* of an element. Also, if the *commemorative integrity* of the *character-defining element* is salvageable by reasonable means, it can still be considered to possess commemorative integrity.

2.4 Associated Objects

Any objects associated with a *heritage asset* that contribute to its *heritage value* should be held in the same regard as *character-defining elements*.

2.5 Guide for Criteria

Character defining elements function as a set of indicators of *heritage value*; the existence of *character defining elements* in a building, monument or space indicates that *heritage value* may be present. The determination of *heritage value* is partially subjective, but can be reasonably assessed according to the age, architectural quality, historical significance, condition and *character defining elements* of a building or site. Even if a place is in possession of one or all of the *character defining elements*, its *heritage value* cannot be assumed, but rather should be considered and analyzed for suitability as a historically significant property. Assessing the *commemorative integrity* of a site's *character-defining elements* may aid in identifying the presence of *heritage value* in a building or site.

