City of Ontario
Historic Landmarks

Historic landmarks within Ontario are physical testaments of our community's heritage. The information contained within these pages describe dozens of designated historic landmarks that contribute to our rich architectural and cultural history. There are many more potential historic landmarks that await property owner consent for local landmark designation.

Historic Landmarks

Facts, such as date of construction, early owners or occupants, functions, and activities, not only verify a property's history, but also place a property in a particular time, place, and course of events. With this information, a property can be related to patterns of history that extend beyond the doorstep or immediate neighborhood. From this perspective, we sort out the facts that give a property its historic identity and significance. Certain events, associations, or physical characteristics of a property will take on greater or lesser importance. Properties of the same time and place can be compared to determine whether their character and associations are unique, representative, or pivotal in illustrating the history of a community, State, or the nation. It is easier to make the case for significance when a property is associated with historic themes or trends that have been widely recognized and fully studied, such as a "textbook" example of an architectural style or the railroad depot that fostered the suburbanization of many American cities. However, this is not always the case.

Three key concepts—**historic significance, historic context, and historic integrity** (patterns, themes, events, places, and time) are used to decide whether a property qualifies for designation.

Historic significance is the importance of a property to the history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture of a community, State, or the nation. It is achieved in several ways: association with events, activities, or patterns; association with important persons; and distinctive physical characteristics of design, construction, or form.

Historic contexts allow you to understand a historic property as a product of its time and as an illustration of aspects of heritage that may be unique, representative, or pivotal. Contexts often relate to the historic development of a community, such as commercial or industrial activities for example.

Historic integrity is the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's prehistoric or historic period. Historic integrity is the composite of seven qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and associations. Historic integrity enables a property to illustrate significant aspects of its past.

Historic Landmarks are structures, places, or objects which are significant to the City, State, or nation. Their significance may be architectural, historical, cultural, or any combination thereof. Individual Historic Landmarks must meet the criteria contained in Article 26 of the City's Development Code on its own merit.

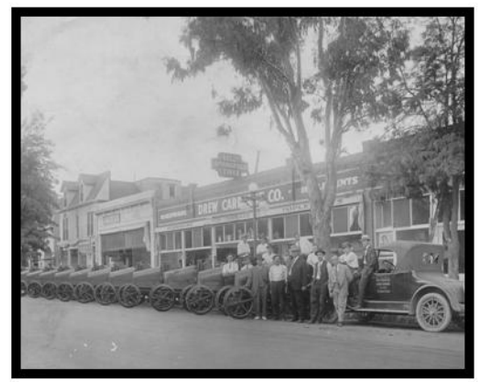
** Location maps of landmarks are available at the City's Website www.ci.ontario.ca.us*

Lost But Not Forgotten

Ford Lunch (demolished 1973)

Carnegie Library (demolished1959)

Daily Report Building circa 1930s (demolished 1989)


Drew Carriage Co. Building 1916 (demolished 2006)

Casa Blanca Hotel, 1915 (demolished 1998)

Armstrong Nursery 1936 (demolished 1950s)