



Heritage Interest Inventory Review and Update

City of Chilliwack

Final Report – January 2024



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the members of the City of Chilliwack Heritage Advisory Committee and City of Chilliwack staff for supporting this project.

This work acknowledges the location of Chilliwack, which is on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Stó:lō Coast Salish peoples.

1.2. OVERVIEW AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Chilliwack is undertaking a comprehensive review of its heritage program, which began in 2022 with Council approval of a Heritage Strategic Action Plan (HSAP). As part of this initiative, one of the most critical first steps is to assess and update the Heritage Inventory, which was established in 1991. This update will identify the existence, overall condition, and evaluate the 129 sites that were originally part of that Inventory. A key objective of an updated Heritage Interest Inventory is to inform the public, City staff and Council, of resources which could be included in a future Heritage Register. The updated Heritage Interest Inventory provides a starting point to allow the City to work towards broadening the scope of represented heritage in the future, inclusive of resources not captured in the earlier Inventory, such as cultural landscapes, previously overlooked structures, places which demonstrate multicultural settlement of the area and Stó:lō heritage sites.

An updated Inventory will meet Goal #5 of the City of Chilliwack's Official Community Plan which, through healthy communities, emphasizes public awareness, education and support for local heritage initiatives. It will provide the foundation for other essential heritage planning policies and related tools (i.e. zoning incentives, legal agreements). Most importantly, as the cornerstone of any municipal heritage program, it provides the opportunity for the City to broaden the scope of heritage, which has changed radically in recent years, to look beyond what is the built form and strengthen the strategic directions of both City-led and community-led initiatives as laid out in the HSAP to create a comprehensive, creative and sophisticated heritage program.

The work program has been completed under the following components:

1. Site Verification
2. Archival Research
3. Assessment of Integrity
4. Development of Evaluation Criteria and Site Evaluations
5. Compilation of an Updated Heritage Inventory
6. Preliminary Ideas for a Thematic Framework
7. Review with City staff and Heritage Advisory Committee

As a result of a comprehensive review of the 133 heritage resources that were part of the 1991 Heritage Inventory and removing of all that have since been demolished, relocated outside of Chilliwack, or have been severely compromised due to inappropriate alterations or advanced deterioration, it is recommended that 92 buildings and structures be included on an updated Heritage Interest Inventory for the City of Chilliwack.

The supporting material supplementing this report is found in appendices, as separate documents, as follows:

- Appendix A – Updated Heritage Interest Inventory
- Appendix B – Field Notes
- Appendix C – Archival Photographs
- Appendix D – Integrity
- Appendix E – Evaluations

2. CHILLIWACK HERITAGE INTEREST INVENTORY UPDATE OVERVIEW

2.1. BACKGROUND PREPARATION

A comprehensive review of all materials pertaining to the original 1991 Heritage Inventory and its supporting documents was undertaken. This was a comprehensive report which provided additional historical information and an evaluation of each resource as the basis for inclusion on the municipality's Heritage Interest Inventory. The 1991 Heritage Inventory documented a total of 129 sites, comprising 133 resources within the City's municipal boundaries. It is important to note that for the purposes of this report, each resource is to be individually identified rather than being clustered on a site. This allows for a case-by-case verification of the existence, integrity and worthiness of inclusion, and can be completed as outlined in Sections 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 of this report respectively.

In addition, to familiarize the consultants with the sites through maps and other reports, their location and characteristics, local newspaper articles were reviewed to assist in determining which resources had been demolished in more recent years. Archival materials were obtained from City of Chilliwack planning staff, and from the City of Chilliwack Museum and Archives, to familiarize the consultants with the sites, their location and characteristics. Finally, a visit to each site was undertaken to document and verify the existence. In a small number of cases, the whereabouts of a resource could not be determined, and this is addressed further in this report.

2.2. SITE VERIFICATION

Between May and July 2023, each of the 129 sites comprising 133 resources were visited to verify the existence of, and document, each resource. As all resources are located within the City's municipal boundaries, no site verification work took place within neighboring First Nations communities. A small number of sites were challenging to review due to obstructed sightlines caused by vegetation or distance from the road, and particularly for those in the outlying rural and agricultural areas. Entering the property was not possible, and of those, one site in particular will require further investigation.

Field notes with detailed information, and archival images collected from the Chilliwack Museum and Archives, were prepared for each heritage resource. These have been compiled in Appendix B and Appendix C respectively, which are presented as a separate document from this report.

It was determined that of the 129 sites reviewed comprising a total of 133 heritage resources, that between 1991 and 2023:

- 37 were demolished
- one had deteriorated to the point where none of the material was salvageable
- one was relocated outside Chilliwack
- one remains on site but permits for its demolition have been issued.

With 40 heritage resources demolished, deteriorated, relocated, or have pending demolition, it leaves 93 for further review of integrity and an evaluation of tangible and intangible heritage values as part of this report.

2.3. INTEGRITY AND AUTHENTICITY

Many buildings and structures that have undergone renovation over the years can still be considered worthy of being on a heritage inventory. This is due to either the alterations themselves becoming character-defining elements and expressing the evolution of that building or structure, or the intangible values playing a predominant role in expressing the overall heritage value without depending on the tangible values as much.

An assessment of the integrity and authenticity was performed on all remaining heritage resources to determine which, if any, were worthy of further consideration for inclusion on an updated heritage inventory.

Many of the heritage resources have undergone alteration, some sensitive and some not so. However, it was determined that **all but one resource** retain sufficient integrity to warrant their inclusion on an updated heritage inventory. The one resource that is no longer worthy of consideration due to alterations is the Moore House at 46013 Gore Avenue. This brings the total number of resources lost to demolition, deterioration, pending demolition, relocation outside the City, or lacking sufficient integrity to 41.

An integrity summary for each resource is provided in Appendix D, separate from this report.

2.4. REVISED NUMBER OF SITES

Based on the steps completed in Sections 2.2 and 2.3, it was determined that of the 133 heritage resources that were reviewed, 40 have been demolished, deteriorated, relocated, or have demolition pending, while one no longer retains enough integrity to remain worthy of consideration to be included in an updated heritage inventory. This brings the number of heritage resources to 92 that are being brought forward for consideration, and which are summarized further in an updated inventory in Section 4 of this report.

The 41 resources that have been demolished, deteriorated, relocated, have demolition pending, or no longer lack integrity are summarized below.

Building or Structure	Address	Circumstances for Exclusion
Evans Barn	7953 Atchelitz Road	Both buildings demolished prior to 2009
Evans Grainary		
Hewer House	8772 Butchart Street	Demolished between 2011 and 2014 (rezoning)
Chapman Barn	10788 Chapman Road	Demolished between 1995 and 2000
Brock House	9153 Edward Street	Demolished prior to 2011
Davies House	9194 Edward Street	Demolished in 2019
Voight House	49582 Elk View Road	Demolished, date unknown
Moore House	46013 Gore Avenue	Insufficient integrity
Dandy House	45987 Higginson Road	Demolished, pre-2011

Building or Structure	Address	Circumstances for Exclusion
Jesperon House	11028 Jesperon Road	Demolished in 2017
Rosedale Elementary School	10125 McGrath Road	Demolished in 2011
Newby House	47768 McGuire Road	Demolished, early 2000s
Pearson House	7158 Maitland Avenue	Demolished by 2019
Ord House	41910 Majuba Hill Road	Demolished by 2015
Sardis Elementary School	45765 Manuel Road	Demolished by 1992
Thompson Barn	51260 Nevin Road	Destroyed by fire in 2001
Nixon Log Barn	7650 Nixon Road	Deteriorated to a point where no longer salvageable
Hall Log House	8050 Old Orchard Road	Demolished, date unknown
Edwards House	47638 Prairie Central Road	Demolished by 2009
“Glengarry”	6590 Prest Road	Demolished before 1995
Thornton House	5655 Promontory Road	Demolished by 2016
MacLeod House	43756 South Sumas Road	Demolished around 2022
Wells House	45593 Spruce Drive	Demolished in 2018
Strathcona Elementary School	46377 Strathcona Road	Demolished, replaced with a new school between 1995 and 2000
Greendale Elementary School	6621 Sumas Prairie Road	Demolished between 2000 and 2003
Log Cabin	5535 Vedder Road	Relocated to North Vancouver in 2000
Coqualeetza Director’s House	7201 Vedder Road	Demolished by 2012
Webb House	7447 Vedder Road	Demolished by 2009
Webb Barn		
Ashwell House	46029 Victoria Avenue	Demolished in 2022

Building or Structure	Address	Circumstances for Exclusion
Paisley House	45632 Wellington Avenue	Pending Demolition
Chadsey House	45750 Wellington Avenue	Demolished by 2021
Commercial Building	45950 Wellington Avenue	Demolished, early 2000s
B.C. Electric Railway Sardis Station	45660 Wells Road	Demolished by 2006
Chilliwack Junior Secondary School	46354 Yale Road	Both buildings demolished, replaced with a new school prior to 2000
Chilliwack Junior Secondary School Gym/Auditorium		
Grossman House	46419 Yale Road	Demolished by 2003
Mercer House	51380 Yale Road	Demolished by 2016
Kipp House	8975 Young Road	Demolished by 2006
Empress Hotel	9260 Young Road	Demolished in 2010
Irwin Block	9282-9298 Young Road	Demolished in 2014

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA

All remaining resources were evaluated using the previously-collected historical information, and supplemented by more research conducted as part of this project, to assess association, pattern and rarity, and placed in the current context of the resource's landmark and aesthetic qualities. Detailed evaluations of each heritage resource are included in Appendix E which is presented as a separate document from this report.

The evaluation criteria for the sites recommended to be retained for future consideration is based on a combination of tangible and intangible components. In the past, heritage evaluations traditionally relied primarily on a “drive-by” assessment that required a notable number of character-defining elements in place, also known as “tangible” components, while the historical information was limited to what was immediately known or retrievable from local or broader archival sources, also known as “intangible” components. Even if there was a substantial amount of documentation around the historical, cultural, spiritual or other social values, the tangible assessment generally took priority; a minimal effort went into assessing the deeper intangible components, typically due to budget and time constraints.

In recent times, this approach has shifted. It has been acknowledged that intangible heritage values are at least as equally important, or more so, than tangible values, as they speak to why a building, structure or other feature has been valued in the community. This values-based approach signals a move away from the traditional emphasis on architectural typologies and aesthetics that is the basis for many of the Heritage Registers and Inventories in place today. Values-based heritage management has been most thoroughly formalized in Australia where the practice is guided by the *Burra Charter*. This approach starts by analyzing the values and importance attributed to cultural resources, with the subsequent step being how those values can be most effectively protected. The wide range of values, comprising historic, economic, architectural, spiritual or rarity, requires a comprehensive awareness of all values attributed to any one site, a full understanding of the resource, and community consultation that draws out the full value complement, that includes cultural diversity. Why a resource is important to any community must be at the heart of evaluating, and creating, an Inventory or Register. It is also the foundation by which the sustainability of any heritage resource is achieved over the long-term.

The recognition of intangible heritage is defined by UNESCO as *“the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups, and, in some cases*

individuals, recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.” (UNESCO, 2003)

Further information on the application of a values-based approach to Chilliwack’s updated Heritage Interest Inventory is outlined in Section 3.2 of this report.

3.1. 1991 HERITAGE EVALUATION

The evaluation criteria applied to the 1991 Heritage Inventory was based on a commonly used methodology for heritage inventories and registers, developed in the 1970s by Dr. Harold Kalman. The criteria were heavily weighted towards the aesthetic, and was divided into Architectural History, Cultural History, Context and Integrity.

Reflecting this weighting and bias, a numerical score was applied to each of the criterion, with a maximum of 45 for Architectural History, a maximum of 35 for Cultural History, a maximum of 20 for Context, and between zero and minus 25 for Integrity. To warrant inclusion on an inventory, a resource was required to achieve a total of at least 50, to a maximum of 100.

3.2. UPDATED CRITERIA – VALUES-BASED APPROACH

All remaining resources were evaluated using the previously-collected historical information, and supplemented by more research conducted in this project, to assess association, pattern and rarity, and placed in the current context of the resource’s landmark and aesthetic qualities. Based on the improvements made in recent years to what is an ever-evolving standard of evaluation, a values-based approach was applied to bring Chilliwack into the currently accepted means of evaluating heritage resources, and eventually to the point of expanding its knowledge of the heritage resources found within the City, with the ultimate goal to establish a Heritage Register.

Five criteria have been used to evaluate the existing Heritage Interest Inventory: Association, Aesthetic, Landmark, Rarity and Pattern, along with Integrity. It is important to note that a numerical rating is not part of this exercise, unlike the common evaluations used in the past.

An additional criterion, Thematic Framework, should ultimately be used to supplement the high-level evaluation. Regardless, its exclusion from this stage of the evaluation did not prevent a thorough evaluation of each heritage resource.

The five categories are described as follows:

Association:

This assesses the association of the resource with a particular person, group of people or institutions, including where applicable, the importance of the architect or builder.

Criteria:

- *None or poor:* Limited or no known historic association.
- *Low:* Connected with a person, social or cultural group, or institution that is of some importance to the neighbourhood.
- *Moderate:* Connected with a person, social or cultural group, or institution that is of considerable or representative importance to the neighbourhood, or moderate importance to the City.
- *High:* Connected with a person, social or cultural group, or institution that is of considerable importance to the City, province or nation.

Aesthetic:

This assesses architectural significance; expression of style; design details and features; building materials; method of construction; and planning context.

Criteria:

- *None or poor:* An average example of a style or type or design or technology.
- *Low:* A good example of a style or type or design or technology.
- *Moderate:* A very good example of a style or type or design or technology.
- *High:* An excellent example of a style or type or design or technology.

Landmark:

This assesses the landmark status or symbolic value.

Criteria:

- *None or poor:* No landmark or symbolic significance.
- *Low:* Landmark in an immediate area or a place of symbolic importance to an immediate area.
- *Moderate:* Landmark within a neighbourhood or a place of symbolic importance to a neighbourhood.
- *High:* Landmark of civic importance or a place of symbolic value to the City, province, or nation.

Rarity:

This assesses the rarity within Chilliwack, or whether a resource is among a small number of its type that demonstrates an important style, phase, event, etc.

Criteria:

- *None or poor:* Significant number of resources that are similar style, era, phase, event.
- *Low:* Demonstrates an uncommon, rare or physically endangered aspect of the immediate area's history.
- *Moderate:* Demonstrates an uncommon, rare or physically endangered aspect of the neighbourhood's history.
- *High:* Demonstrates an uncommon, rare or physically endangered aspect of the City's history.

Pattern:

This assesses the significance within the historic urban planning and development of the neighbourhood and/or City, including placement within a group of similar buildings, landscapes, or cultural landscapes. Continuity is not necessarily required, rather it is the wider expression of pattern.

Criteria:

- *None or poor:* Presents little evidence of a recognizable historic pattern.
- *Low:* Provides some evidence of an historic pattern of importance for the immediate area.
- *Moderate:* Directly linked to the establishment of an historic pattern of neighbourhood importance.
- *High:* Directly linked to the establishment of an historic pattern of civic importance.

Thresholds for Inclusion:

The thresholds that are used to determine whether a resource in Chilliwack is worthy of inclusion on a Heritage Inventory are based on its ability to achieve a number of 'high' or 'moderate' rankings, comprising **at least one 'high' or at least three 'moderate'** rankings and its integrity remains at a reasonable level to convey the significance.

For the purposes of this report, the following framework has been applied to complete the evaluation of each resource.

The detailed evaluations of each heritage resource are included in Appendix E of this report.

Date of Evaluation		Neighbourhood		
Address		Date of Construction		
Criteria	Level of Heritage Significance			
	None/Poor	Low	Moderate	High
Association Associated with the life or work of a person, group of persons, social or cultural groups or institutions of importance in Chilliwack's history.				
Aesthetic Demonstrates aesthetic characteristics and/or represents a creative achievement in design, architecture, landscape architecture, construction, materials or technology.				
Landmark By virtue of its location, its symbolism, or another element, communicates the heritage of Chilliwack.				
Rarity Possesses uncommon, rare or physically endangered aspects of Chilliwack's history.				
Pattern Communicates the historic development, whether planned or organic, of the neighbourhood or wider City.				
Integrity Does the resource retain sufficient degree of its form, fabric or other components to convey significance to the public?	NO		YES	
Final Evaluation	Does not Qualify for Inclusion		Qualifies for Inclusion	

4. UPDATED HERITAGE INTEREST INVENTORY

It is recommended that consideration be given to including 92 heritage resources as part of an updated Heritage Interest Inventory for the City of Chilliwack. This is based on site verification, archival and other research to supplement the work completed for the 1991 Heritage Inventory, an assessment of integrity and a values-based evaluation as the rationale for the inclusion of each resource.

In addition, further consideration should be given for additional resources to be added to create a more comprehensive Heritage Interest Inventory. These include:

- the Royal Hotel and the Royal Bank building (45886 Wellington Avenue) are two distinct resources due to their different values, character defining elements and historical development;
- the buildings and cultural landscapes that have been legally designated by by-law as protected heritage resources, including:
 - Jean McNaughton Park, 45951 Victoria Avenue now known as “Central Community Park”
 - Yarrow Post Office, 4132 Wilson Road located at “Majuba Heritage Park”
 - Portion of Highway known as Old Yale Wagon Road, Majuba Hill Road
 - Adanac House, 46860 Adanac Avenue
 - Hazel House, 9865 Hazel Street

Although the Heritage Interest Inventory raises general awareness of the City’s local history and built heritage, it is important to note that it does not “designate” or legally protect properties or sites: this is the reason why the updated inventory is referred to as the “Heritage Interest Inventory” in order to minimize implied protection. Property owners with a building, structure or feature listed in the Heritage Interest Inventory may make alterations, redevelop, or demolish, provided that appropriate permits are in place. Property owners may also pursue obtaining formal heritage recognition or protection, such as adding it to the City’s future Heritage Register, or pursue legal protection through the City’s voluntary heritage designation program. Benefits can include a range of incentives or regulatory exemptions that can be offered to assist owners with their conservation efforts.

The 92 resources recommended to be included in an updated Heritage Interest Inventory for the City of Chilliwack are summarized below, with contextual maps (Figures 1 to 6).

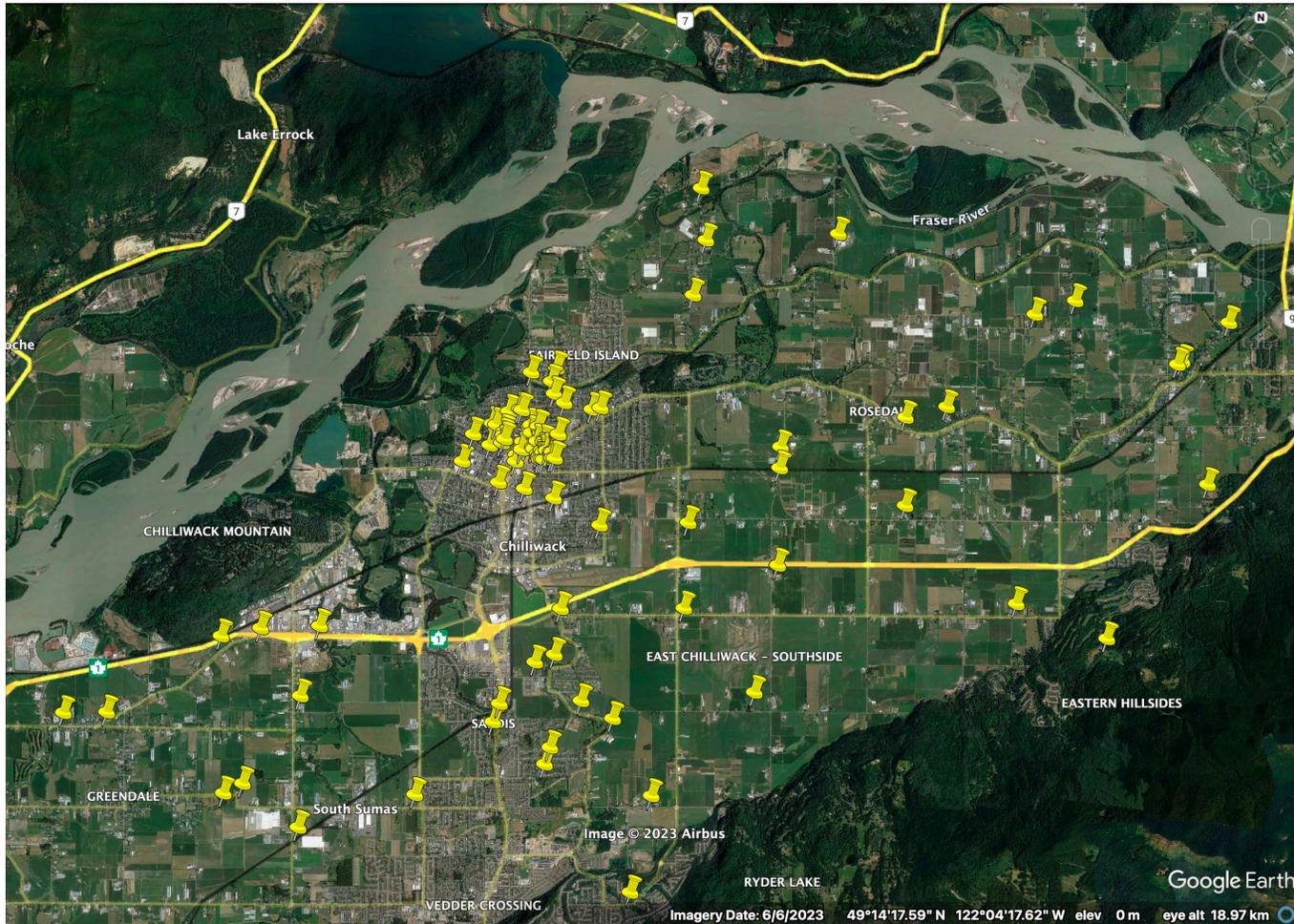


Figure 1: City-wide locations of sites to include in the Heritage Interest Inventory

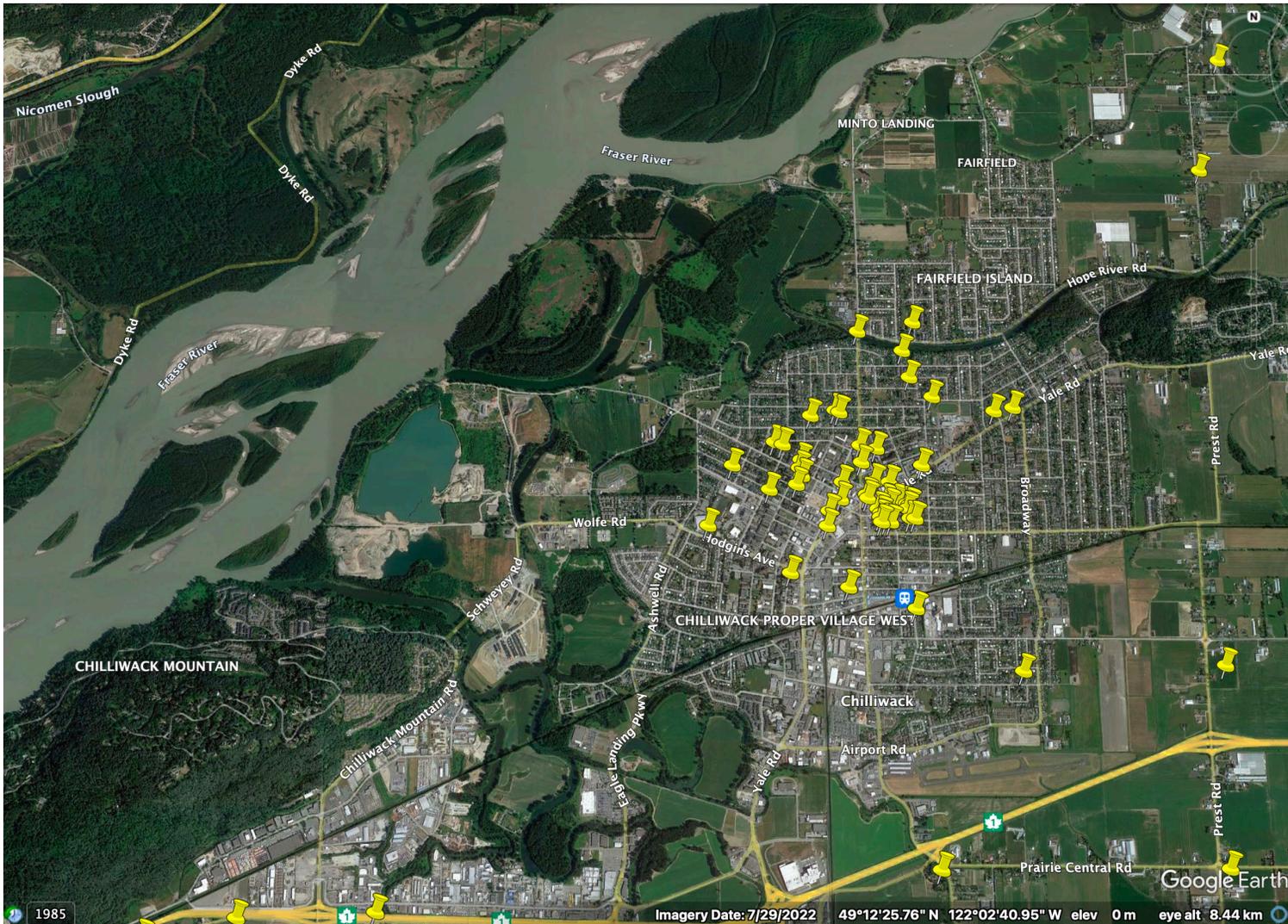


Figure 2: Sites in Chilliwack Proper to include in the Heritage Interest Inventory

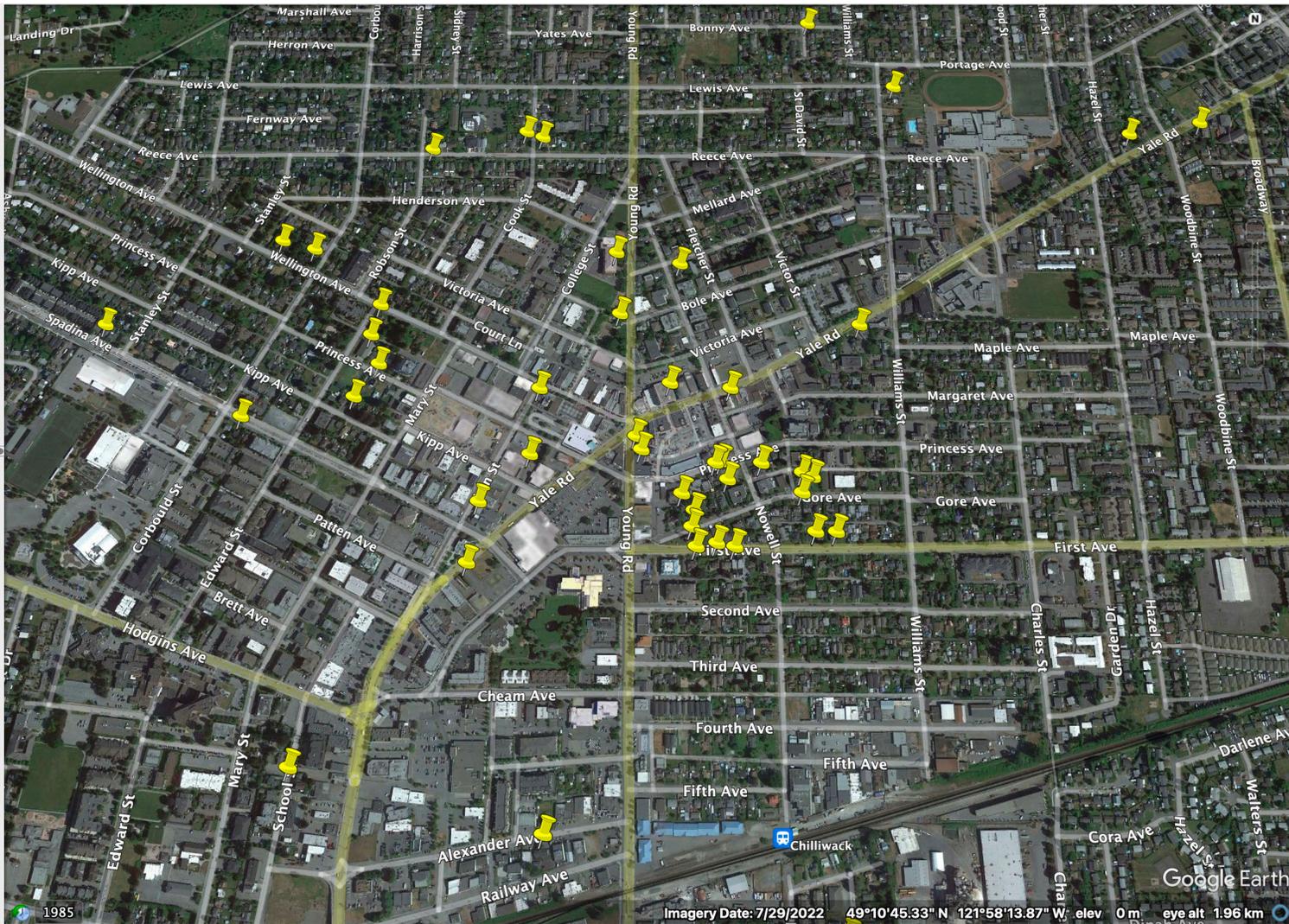


Figure 3: Sites in Downtown and surrounding area to include in the Heritage Interest Inventory

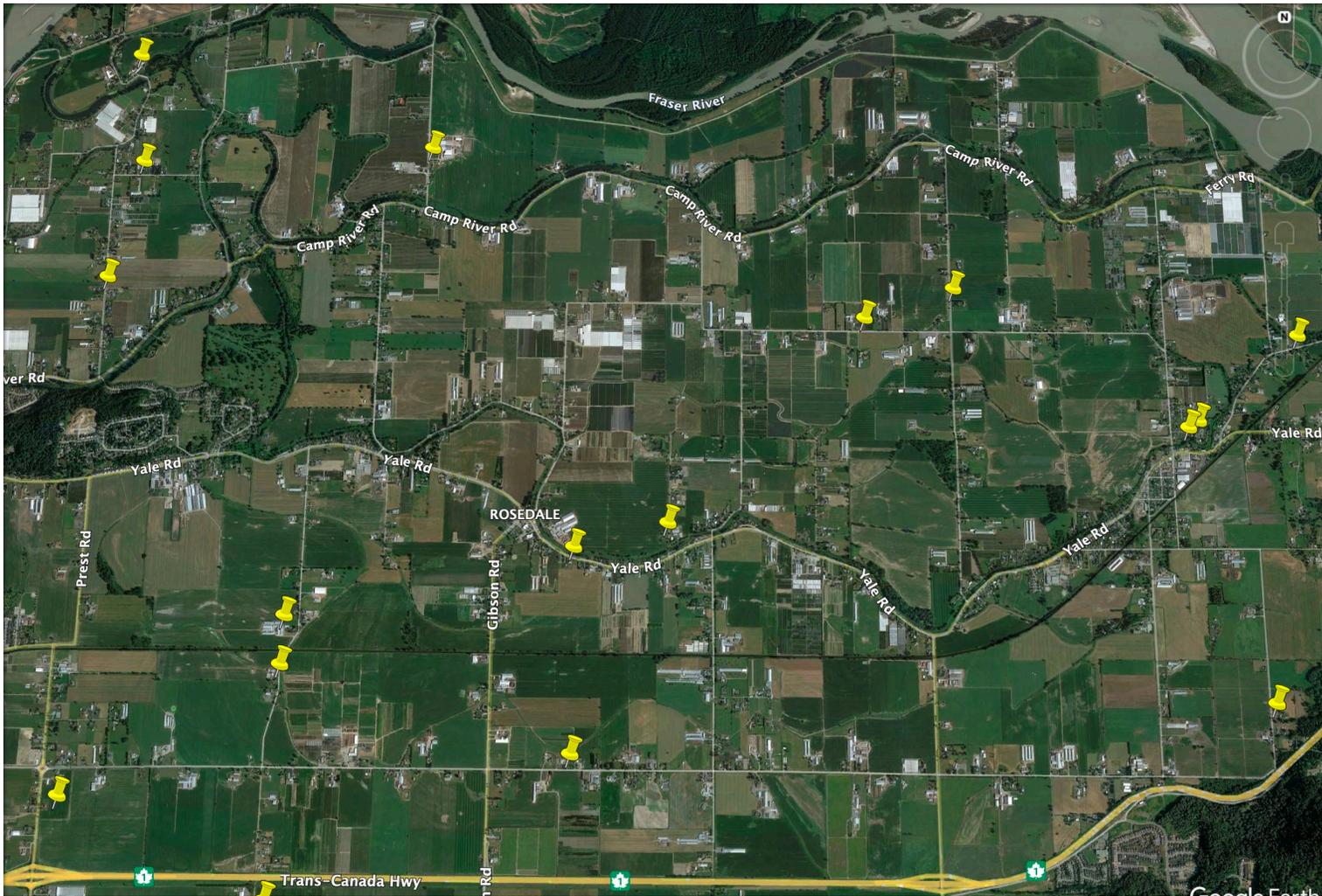


Figure 4: Sites east of Prest Road and north of Highway 1 to include in the Heritage Interest Inventory

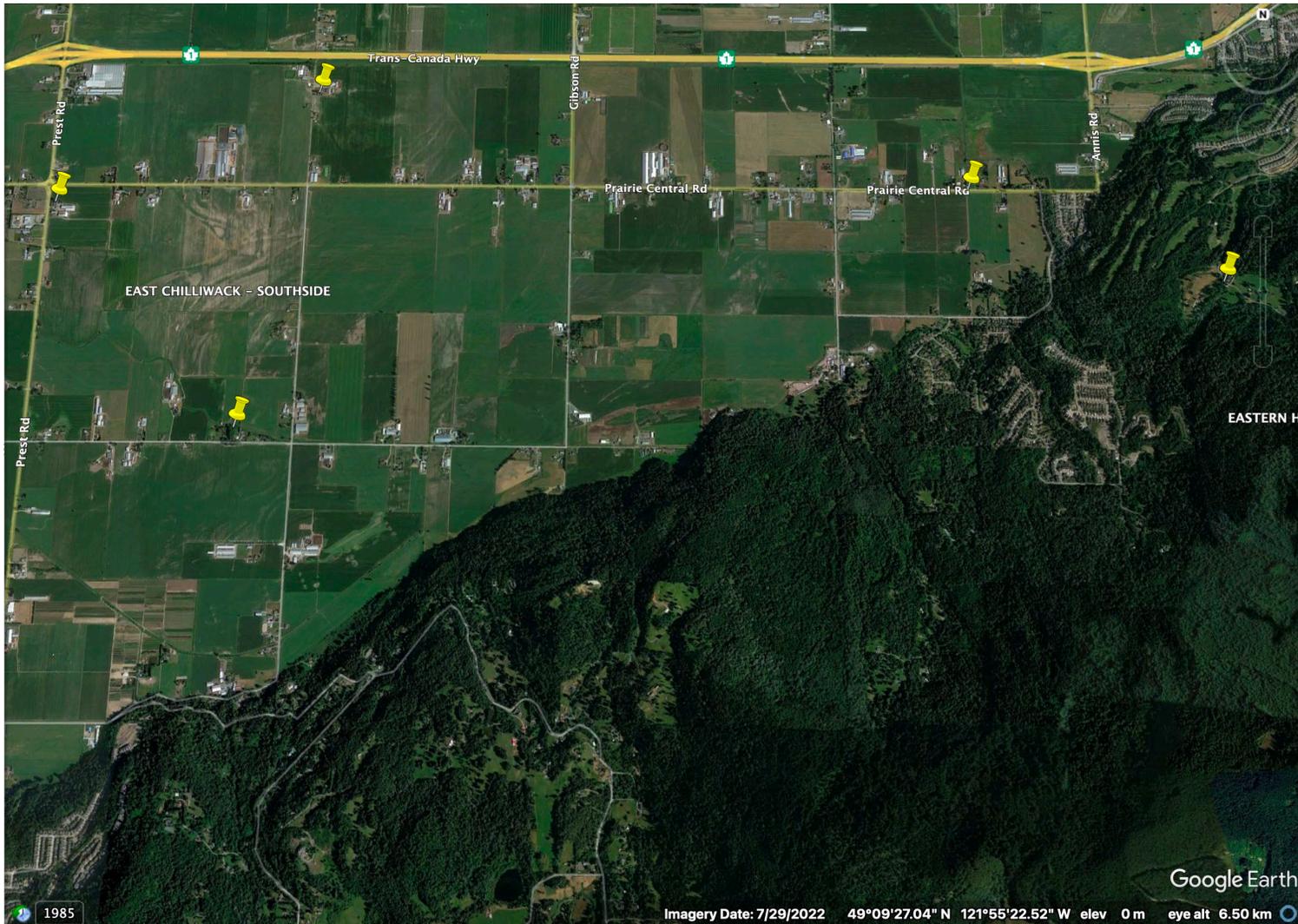


Figure 5: Sites east of Prest Road and south of Highway 1 to include in the Heritage Interest Inventory



Figure 6: Sites west of Prest Road and south of Highway 1 to include in the Heritage Interest Inventory

Building, Structure or Feature	Address
Sumas Methodist Church	42415 Adams Road
Chilliwack Municipal Hall	45910 Alexander Avenue
Bailey House	46986 Bailey Road
Gillanders House	8310 Banford Road
Walker House	9079 Banford Road
Parker House	9285 Banford Road
Ramsay House	46510 Brooks Avenue
Cooper House	50459 Castleman Road
Aitken House	10506 Chapman Road
East Chilliwack Women's Institute Hall	49089 Chilliwack Central Road
Log Barn	7032 Chilliwack River Road
Lapum House	7195 Chilliwack River Road
"Glencove"	7519 Chilliwack River Road
Kickbush House	7955 Chilliwack River Road
Caskey House	9467 Corbould Street
"Edenbank"	7001 Eden Drive
Robertson Elementary School	8855 Elm Drive
Johnston House	47409 Fairfield Road
David Spencer Company Ltd. - Manager's House	46028 First Avenue
Gervan House	46054 First Avenue
Marston House	46066 First Avenue
Jack Henderson House	46155 First Avenue
R.A. Henderson House	46035 Gore Avenue

Building, Structure or Feature	Address
St. Thomas Anglican Church	46048 Gore Avenue
Brock House	46063 Gore Avenue
Ramsdell House	46110 Gore Avenue
W.T. Jackman House	46122 Gore Avenue
Watson House	46123 Gore Avenue
Western Home and Improvement Company House	46131 Gore Avenue
Log Barn	9661 Grigg Road
“Kinkora”	46040 Higginson Road
St. John the Baptist Anglican Church	46098 Higginson Road
Isaac Kipp House	45360 Hodgins Avenue
Driscoll/Gwynne-Vaughn House	46181 Hope River Road
Dundas House	45723 Kipp Avenue
Knight House	45961 Knight Road
Keith House	6112 Lickman Road
Clark House	7248 Lickman Road
Chinese Labourer’s Log Cabin	44150 Luckakuck Way
Hamilton House	9008 McElwee Road
Walker House	47813 McGuire Road
Chilliwack Fairgrounds Barn	47813 McGuire Road
Sieroslowski House	10537 McSween Road
Wigham Barn	11370 McSween Road
Prowse House	7189 Maitland Avenue
Rosedale Mennonite Church	9999 Nelson Road
Nixon Log House	7715 Nixon Road

Building, Structure or Feature	Address
Patten House	9254 Nowell Street
Barker House	9442 Nowell Street
Isaac Henderson House	51773 Old Yale Road
Gardner House	50000 Prairie Central Road
Hawkshaw House	7954 Prest Road
Raine House	8652 Prest Road
Princess Avenue Drill Hall	45707 Princess Avenue
Adamson House	45724 Princess Avenue
Fadden House #1	46064 Princess Avenue
Fadden House #2	46070 Princess Avenue
Dixon House	45766 Reece Avenue
Webb House	45855 Reece Avenue
Leary House	45873 Reece Avenue
Gibbens House	46125 Riverside Drive
White House	8979 School Street
Hall House	43390 South Sumas Road
McGillivray House	43527 South Sumas Road
Carter House	44988 South Sumas Road
Skelton House	45483 Spadina Avenue
Carmichael House	45614 Spadina Avenue
Chilliwack City Hall	45820 Spadina Avenue
Promontory Flats Elementary School	5650 Teskey Way
Edenbank Trading Company Ltd. Store	7107 Vedder Road
Bradshaw House	46001 Victoria Avenue
Rolfe House	45621 Wellington Avenue

Building, Structure or Feature	Address
Murphy House	45738 Wellington Avenue
Royal Hotel and Royal Bank	45886 Wellington Avenue
Commercial Building	45930-45934 Wellington Avenue
Menzies Hardware Building	45938 Wellington Avenue
Skelton Building	45957 Wellington Avenue
Gordon House	9634 Williams Street
Ford House	9745 Williams Street
Chadsey House	42045 Yale Road
Samson and Emma Toop House	43407 Yale Road
Hector Toop House	43708 Yale Road
Methodist Church	45974 Yale Road
B.C. Telephone Building	46037 Yale Road
First Baptist Church	46200 Yale Road
“Stonehurst Manor”	46290 Yale Road
Henry and Caroline Kipp House	46435 Yale Road
Stacey House	46526 Yale Road
McAdam House	49090 Yale Road
Rosedale Presbyterian Church	51337 Yale Road
Chilliwack Central Elementary School	9435 Young Road
“Hollylodge”	9915 Young Road

4. THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

The City of Chilliwack Heritage Strategic Action Plan compiled in 2022 provided eight Key Strategic Directions. Key Strategic Direction number four is to “Create a Community Heritage Register.” Among the short term recommended actions to accomplish this is to:

“Undertake a Thematic Framework and Historic Context Statement for Chilliwack. Gap Analysis to determine what themes are under-represented and identify sites that may broaden the list of potential Heritage Register sites” with the projected outcome providing “Updated information base for the Heritage Program. Improved understanding of the entire context of Chilliwack’s heritage. Enhanced framework for understanding and evaluating historic and cultural resources.”

As part of the 2023 work updating the 1991 Heritage Inventory, the City of Chilliwack requested that preliminary ideas for a Thematic Framework be added to this report. A complete Thematic Framework and Historic Context Statement is based upon extensive historical research and public engagement and is a key part of values-based heritage planning. Public engagement must involve a wide representation of the community from the Stó:lō Nation, to heritage stakeholders, local government and be inclusive of the area’s multicultural groups. It normally begins with community workshops and engagement allowing the community to identify what is important to them. This step happens in concurrence with researching the history of the area. In the future further investigation and community involvement will be needed to more conclusively identify intangible values and tangible heritage places that the community wishes to protect and potentially share information about.

A Historic Context Statement is typically written before compiling the themes for a Framework. This document is a written narrative with the purpose to identify and explain the major themes and factors which influenced the area’s history. It takes into consideration the geography, environment, the physical changes made to the land, movements, events and the broader circumstances shaping the area’s history. It is not intended to be a detailed account of all aspects of history of an area, nor replace histories designed to serve other purposes. From the Context Statement, alongside community consultation, themes for the framework will usually become evident. From this information a Thematic Framework can be formed.

A Thematic Framework is a living document which utilizes historic themes that have influenced and shaped a region. The themes will provide historical context for sites, people, and events. The themes should provide an inclusive range of significant historic activities that took place on the land surrounding Chilliwack. Themes may convey patterns and trends related to social, cultural, political, and economic forces. The themes developed are not placed in chronological order, nor are they listed in a preference of importance. It should be kept as an active record because it is possible that through future community consultation attention will be brought to gaps and additional themes may be recognized.

There are two major uses for a Thematic Framework. It is a tool to assist in the selection of heritage sites for management including helping with the selection of historic and cultural sites for nomination to a future Community Heritage Register. Each historic place or site selected to be included in a Heritage Register or additions to the Heritage Inventory would be classifiable to one or more of the themes. It is also a tool for the interpretation of sites, especially where the aim is to connect such places into a wider historic picture and to tell the stories of the sites from a variety of points of view thereby connecting the physical experience of being in a place while gaining a better understanding for the past.

The preliminary Ideas for Chilliwack's Thematic Framework included in this report have been guided by the Parks Canada National Historical Sites System Plan Thematic Framework which was first established in 1981 and updated in 2000 and again in 2019. The Parks Canada process identifies five base areas of relevance into which most places of historic significance can be categorized. Since Chilliwack's history is unique these themes can be adapted to suit Chilliwack and be added to in the future. Each theme can be divided into several subthemes. There will be overlap of subject matter between themes.

5.1. SUGGESTED THEMES

The following is an outline of possible themes which can serve as a starting point for this process. Each is followed by a question which can be asked in public engagement, a prototype introductory statement and few bulleted examples of subthemes.

Themes identified for Chilliwack include:

1. Peopling the Land

Why have people wanted to live here past and present?

This theme explores why Chilliwack's natural setting is important. The physical attributes of the land and waterways have continuously influenced local ways of life since time immemorial for the Stó:lō and subsequently for the settlers who immigrated and emigrated to the area from around the world. The land and water have shaped transportation methods and routes, food supply, resource extraction, recreation, spirituality and other human pursuits.

- Fraser River
- Fertile soil
- Fishing
- Flooding
- Dyking
- Old growth forests
- Surrounding mountains
- Formation of neighbourhoods/communities

2. Economies

How and why is economic development important to Chilliwack's heritage?

This theme investigates early subsistence economies, commercial activities such as fishing, farming, forestry, mining, manufacturing, food processing and the ways in which the people have worked to sustain themselves in the Chilliwack area. It examines how transportation played a role in the economy of the area.

- River travel to Blue Waterways
- Stó:lō food procurement and trade
- Gold rush's impact
- Forestry
- Five Corners
- Canadian National Railway and BC Electric Railway
- Farming and food processing, dairy, hops, fruits and vegetables
- Yale Wagon Road to Highway 1
- Trade and Commerce, breweries, factories, retail, pipeline
- Communications- Chilliwack Telephone Company

3. Governing

How and why is Chilliwack's role as an administrative centre significant?

This theme focuses on governance of Chilliwack, from the social and political organization of the Stó:lō, to the development of local municipal government and the presence of the Canadian Military in the area.

- Organization of the Stó:lō Nation
- Indian Act and other policies impact on Stó:lō
- Policies effecting ethnic minorities
- City of Chilliwack, Municipality of Chilliwack and surrounding communities' amalgamation
- Royal Engineers to Area Support Unit Chilliwack, Canadian Forces Base

4. Building Social and Community Life

What is distinctive about the social and community life of Chilliwack?

This theme examines the development of Chilliwack's community life. Over time people have found numerous ways to improve the social fabric of the community by providing well-being and education services, practicing spiritual beliefs, participating in shared activities and events, and starting clubs and organizations.

- Community organizations – Women's Institute, fraternal organizations, Atchelitz Threshermen's Association, 4-H
- Religious Institutions – Stó:lō spiritually significant sites, Gurudwara Sahib Chilliwack, Dhamma Hall, Churches, Synagogues
- Education – University of the Fraser Valley, RCMP Training Centre
- Social movements – Rainbow banners

5. Expressing Intellectual and Cultural Life

What is unique about Chilliwack's cultural and intellectual life?

This theme considers the multitude of artistic and cultural expressions, activities and institutions which have evolved in Chilliwack over the course of time.

- Architecture and design – Thomas Hooper-designed buildings
- Sports and leisure, Chilliwack Chiefs, outdoor recreation
- Numerous parks and trails
- Chilliwack Cultural Centre
- Painted murals on the Public Art Trail
- Community halls
- Stó:lō Bad Rock Tours

- Museums- Atchelitz Thresherman’s Association Museum, Chilliwack Military Museum, Chilliwack Museum and Archives, Stó:lō Interpretive Centre

5.2. ADDITIONAL WORK

With the above outline for a Thematic Framework, it is **strongly recommended** that community engagement is undertaken to make sure that the Thematic Framework and Historic Context Statement is community-driven, and truly values-based.

Step 1: Prepare a research based draft historical context statement as a concise written narrative of the City’s history and change over time.

Step 2: Host at least two workshops to collect the whole community’s ideas and gain an understanding of what its heritage values are and what places matter most. The workshops should expand on the community’s understanding of its identity and significance to include a wide range of heritage values inclusive of indigenous values, natural heritage, intangible and tangible values such as buildings, structures, landscapes, natural features, streetscapes, trails, industrial sites or other features and the City’s more recent heritage.

Step 3: Provide an engaging and easy to use online and paper survey to collect the above information from the community members who may not attend workshops.

Step 4: Hold individual meetings or interviews with identified key stakeholders to understand their heritage values.

Step 5: Analyze the information gathered in Steps 2 through 4. Summarize this information into meaningful value statements. Draft a Thematic Framework that identifies and explains the major themes, factors and processes that have influenced the history of Chilliwack and revise draft Historic Context Statement as needed.

5.3. CONCLUSION

The Historic Context Statement and Thematic Framework are heritage planning tools that follow the community heritage values. They provide the foundation for a values-based management which has been proven to be the most effective approach for the long-term conservation of heritage places and sites. These documents should be used by Chilliwack in the process adding sites and historic places to its Heritage Inventory and Heritage Register in the future. Community engagement is critical to capturing a truly values-based and accurate collection of themes under which further work can take place.



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