

Heritage Stewardship Policy

Category: Operations

Approval: Board of Governors

Responsibility: VP Finance & Administration

Date: June 16, 2017; revised June 19, 2026

Definitions:

Heritage Stewardship: Actions directed at the careful management, identification, conservation, and maintenance of significant University structures, spaces, and cultural resources of historical value.

Built-Heritage Resources: buildings and structures that have heritage value or interest.

Cultural Heritage Landscapes: a defined geographical area that may include building and structures, natural elements, and spaces that have heritage value, often involving a variety of elements that together create specific meaning or value.

Sacred Spaces: areas of intrinsic, cultural, or spiritual value, typically natural, but may involve human-made additions.

Cultural Resources/ Property: Human-made items deemed to have value or interest due to historical, artistic, social, or scientific importance. Includes moveable objects (e.g. art, artifacts, books, archival material), and immovable objects (e.g. monuments, architecture, archaeological sites). Many of the movable objects at Trent University are guided by specific policies (i.e., Archives: Policy Statement and Art Collection Policy).

Archaeological Resources: Artifacts or any other physical evidence of past human use or activity as defined and regulated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Heritage Attributes: The main features or characteristics that define or create the historic and/or cultural value of interest.

Conservation Plan: A document that outlines how a heritage property will be conserved and/or preserved. The report provides an examination of the current condition of the cultural heritage resource property so it can help to identify risks to the historic fabric and heritage attributes, establish priorities for repairs as well as, outline a schedule for heritage maintenance.

Purpose/Reason for Policy:

The Heritage Stewardship Policy provides direction on the identification, conservation, and maintenance of significant University structures, spaces, and cultural resources to support their

availability and appreciation by future generations. The Policy provides guidance on how to maintain the integrity of important heritage elements while meeting academic and administrative requirements of the University, complying with local building codes, provincial and federal legislative requirements, financial limitations, and other considerations. It acknowledges the need for the university to change and grow, while respecting the intrinsic value and continuity that traditional spaces, buildings and cultural items offer the university experience.

Scope of this Policy:

The University will identify built-heritage resources, sacred spaces, cultural heritage landscapes, and furnishings that are of significance to the University, and these will be addressed by the Heritage Stewardship policy. In particular, University built-heritage and cultural heritage landscapes shall be categorized under one of the following levels:

- A. **Level 1** – items, buildings/structures, archaeological sites, landscapes or spaces deemed of significant and lasting value that are inherently part of the Trent fabric, or of significant monetary/cultural heritage value
- B. **Level 2** – items, buildings/structures, archaeological sites, landscapes or spaces that are connected to, or have a direct relationship with Level 1 Resources and those designed with elements used by Ron Thom (i.e., use of levels, concrete, interplay with nature) or are historic buildings with architecturally noteworthy design. These resources have the potential to have cultural heritage value or interest.
- C. **Level 3** – all other items, buildings/structures, archaeological sites, landscapes or spaces that are not, at the present time, deemed to have significant or lasting cultural value.

Where a building or property is 40 years of age or older and has not been reviewed to determine whether it is a Level 1 or Level 2 cultural resource or a Level 3 resource (i.e. does not possess cultural heritage value or interest), the University should complete an evaluation to determine its potential heritage value prior to alteration. Evaluations of buildings, landscapes, or sacred spaces should be conducted by a qualified heritage consultant, such as a Professional Member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals (CAHP). Level 3 resources should be periodically re-evaluated to ensure they remain appropriately categorized.

Policy Statement:

Trent University is committed to offering an outstanding student experience in a setting that balances natural beauty and thoughtfully executed design. Trent's award-winning architecture, and particularly its original, mid-century Modern precinct, inspires and elevates learning. As an academic institution with finite resources and a fiduciary responsibility to the public, the University acknowledges it is also in the public interest to maintain the spaces and objects of lasting academic and cultural value. Trent University is committed to establishing appropriate heritage and cultural resource management policies; to engaging others in their active

promotion; and in raising funds to ensure that these heritage assets, sacred spaces, and cultural resources are available for future generations to enjoy.

The Trent University Heritage Stewardship Policy:

- a) respects the University's primary academic mission, the need to provide appropriate and competitive student accommodations, and the real financial limitations of the University budget;
- b) seeks to balance necessary development and modification of spaces with appropriate heritage conservation, providing guidance and flexibility essential for meeting evolving academic, administrative, residential, and financial objectives.
- c) contributes to the university's distinctive reputation as a high-calibre institution with an inspiring natural and built environment;
- d) promotes an active interest in buildings, landscapes, sacred spaces, and cultural resources, their role in the learning environment and their aesthetic value, to the University community and beyond; and provides guidance on the responsible, long-term management and preservation of these resources;
- e) is directed primarily at structures, landscapes, sacred spaces, and cultural resources with a demonstrable and lasting cultural value;
- f) creates an awareness of and encourages an open dialogue on the management of Trent properties, heritage features, sacred spaces, heritage landscapes, and cultural resources.

Responsibilities:

Board of Governors: Responsible for oversight of property, capital and buildings, ensuring that heritage matters have been appropriately addressed in accordance with this policy before approving projects under its purview.

Finance and Property Committee: The Committee is responsible for the overall monitoring of campus capital building programs, stewardship of cultural heritage resources/property, and makes recommendations to the Board of Governors for the approval of revisions to the Master Plan (siting of new facilities), the appointment of architects, final building designs, and major construction contracts.

Heritage Advisory Committee: As an advisory committee to the Vice President Finance and Administration, assists Facilities Management with the identification, inventorying, assessment, monitoring and management of the University's built heritage, cultural resources and sacred spaces; fosters curricular links to cultural resources, and promotes an interest in and understanding of these spaces and resources; provides input on the development of relevant policies; reviews and recommends the heritage assessment levels annually, and assists the Development office with events and fundraising activities to support heritage stewardship.

Facilities Management Department: Responsible for understanding and implementing this policy.

University staff and faculty: Be aware of the policy and seek advice from Facilities Management and/or the Heritage Advisory Committee on its implementation. Take an interest in the heritage elements of the University, and the impact of any decisions on the value of these elements to the learning experience and the heritage value.

Contact Officer:

AVP Facilities Management

Date for Next Review:

June 2031

Related Policies:

- a) Art Collection Policy
- b) Archives Policy

Policies Superseded by This Policy:

- a) N/A