
Cultural Heritage Evaluation Report Questionnaire

Infrastructure Ontario (IO) is undertaking a Cultural Heritage Evaluation report (CHE) of the property known as John Sopinka Courthouse located at 45 Main Street East, in the City of Hamilton. As a key stakeholder we are looking to gather your input into the cultural heritage value of the property through this comment form. The CHE refers to provincial heritage criteria to assess if a potential heritage resource is locally significant (Ontario Regulation 9/06 as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22) or provincially significant (Ontario Regulation 10/06).

We anticipate that the form will take 15-20 minutes to complete. In order to more easily integrate information into the CHE we ask that only one form for your organization be returned.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the comment form. We appreciate your insight!

There are four sections to the comment form:

1. Property Information
2. Participant Information
3. Feedback Section
4. Closing

Instructions are provided at the start of each section. Information gathered in this form will be combined with information collected from other stakeholders. Input will not be associated to a specific group and/or individual within the CHE.

Please provide your completed form by November 20, 2023. If you are not able to provide input within this timeframe, please email kayla.jonasgalvin@arahertige.ca by November 10, 2023 to request an extension.

1. Project Information

Instructions: Please read the following section which includes background information on the property.

The John Sopinka Courthouse property is located in Hamilton's downtown core at the prominent corner of Main Street East and John Street South. It is bounded by Gore Park and King Street East to the north, John Street South to the east, Main Street East to the south, and an alleyway and commercial buildings to the west. The JSC is owned by the Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI). The property contains one building, the JSC. Originally constructed as the Dominion Public Building between 1935-36, the structure was erected as part of a Depression works program introduced by the government in 1934 under the Public Works Construction Act. The subject property was built to serve as Hamilton's main Post Office and to house various federal departments including customs and excise, national health, and immigration. The main Post Office was located in the building for over 50 years, closing in 1991 when the Province of Ontario purchased the structure for conversion to a new court facility, consolidating the Provincial and General Division courts. The John Sopinka Courthouse officially opened on May 31, 1999, and consolidated the court operations of the Regional Head Office, the Provincial and General Divisions and the Crown Attorney's office into one facility.

The 1.2-acre subject property is comprised of one building that occupies the entirety of the site. As the structure is built to the lot line, there is little landscaping aside from mature street trees growing along the John Street South and King Street East boulevards and a small courtyard with interlocking brick at the southwest side of the site (see Map 1). The property includes one building; the JSCP (B21658), which consists of the original building (1935-36) and upper storey and west additions (1998). The structure includes 18 courtrooms, jury deliberation rooms, public waiting areas and administrative offices in addition to service rooms and holding cells.

The property was designated by the City of Hamilton under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) through By-law 93-011 on February 11, 1993.

The property boundaries are mapped on the Map 1 below, a selection of photos are included in Image 1 to Image 4.



 Subject Property



1:600

0 10 20m



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Map 1: John Sopinka Courthouse



**Image 1: View of Southeast Corner
(October 18, 2023; Facing Northwest)**



**Image 2: View of East Elevation
(October 18, 2023; Facing West)**



**Image 3: Detailed View of East Elevation
(October 18, 2023; Facing West)**



**Image 4: Northeast Corner
(October 18, 2023; Facing Southwest)**

Additional Heritage Resources:

Ontario Regulation 9/06 (as amended by Ontario Regulation 569/22) Criteria for Determine Cultural Heritage Value or Interest: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/060009>

Ontario Regulation 10/06 Criteria for Determine Cultural Heritage Value or Interest of Provincial Significance: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/060010>

Learn more about the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Provincial Properties here: http://www.mtc.gov.on.ca/en/heritage/heritage_s_g.shtml

2. Participant Information

Instructions: Please fill out the information below. The information provided in this section will only be used for future communication within the engagement process for this project.

Name:

Organization:

Title/Role:

Association with the Property:

Are you a resident of the City of Hamilton?

Yes

No

What is your preferred method of communication?

Email: Phone: Other:

Contact information (i.e., phone number, email, or address):

3. Feedback Section

Instructions: To the best of your ability, please provide feedback on the cultural heritage value or interest of the John Sopinka Courthouse. Feedback should focus on your understanding of the cultural heritage value of the property. Feedback may be positive, negative, or neutral, and can be as general or specific as desired. Answers to all questions are not required, so you may skip any question(s).

1. In your opinion, what makes the John Sopinka Courthouse property special or unique?

2. Are there any stories you can tell us about the John Sopinka Courthouse from your experience or organization's point of view? Please include any details which may relate to the architecture, history or landscape.

3. In your opinion, what are the most important elements on the John Sopinka Courthouse property (i.e., structures, building materials, landscape features, monuments, layout, etc.)? Please list the top three elements and why they are important to you.

1.

2.

3.

4. In your opinion what elements of the John Sopinka Courthouse property that are not important (i.e., structures, building materials, landscape features, monuments, layout, etc.)? Please list the top three elements and why they are not important to you.

1.

2.

3.

5. From your point of view, what is the one historical detail you think that the consulting team should know about the John Sopinka Courthouse?

6. Is there any additional information (i.e., cultural heritage related, newsworthy, historical tidbits, etc.) that you feel should be consider as part of the built heritage assessment?

4. Closing

Thank you for your feedback! A follow up email will be sent to you after all feedback has been received and reviewed.

Please check which statement applies to you:

I feel that I was able to communicate my heritage related feedback regarding this project.

I do not feel that I was able to communicate my heritage feedback regarding this project.

I would like to speak with you more about:

The best time to reach me is morning evening.