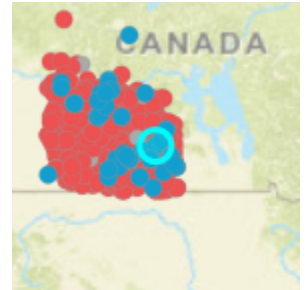


# Heritage Property - CN Station

Street Address	Municipality	Designation Type	Designation Date
	Melville	Municipal Heritage Property	August 23, 2010



## Statement of Significance

The CN Station is a Municipal Heritage Property situated on approximately ten hectares of land at the south end of Main Street in the City of Melville. The designation applies to a two storey, wood frame railway station that was constructed in 1908.

The heritage value of the CN Station lies in its association with the railroad industry and the important role this industry played in the founding and development of Melville. Built by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in 1908, the site was chosen as a divisional point and junction on the GTPR's transcontinental line. The town site that the GTPR also developed at this location was named Melville after company president, Charles Melville Hays. Similar to other prairie towns established on new rail lines, Melville's street plan was laid out in a grid pattern oriented to a Main Street extending out from the station. Melville's original commercial district developed in the blocks near the station, while the railway would become the city's principal industry. To this day, the station remains a focal point of Melville's historic commercial streetscape and the railroad industry continues to be a major contributor to the city's economy.

The heritage value of the CN Station also lies in its architecture. Given Melville's importance as a divisional point on the GTPR's transcontinental line, its rapid early growth and the expectation that the city would become a large, prosperous centre, Melville was given a comparatively large and imposing station. Built according to the company's #100-156 plan, the station's architectural style makes it one of the larger passenger and freight stations among the three divisional points across western Canada. The station is also more unique and prominent when compared to the many other, smaller passenger stations built across the prairies in the early twentieth century. Its large dimensions (12 x 41 metres), two stories, two gable dormers, two gable roofs and shingled awning evoke a sense of prominence among the city's commercial district.

The heritage value of the CN Station resides in the following character-defining elements:

- elements that reflect the railroad's importance to the development of Melville, such as placement and existence on its original location, a prominent parcel of land adjacent to the CN line at the end of Melville's main street;
- those architectural elements associated with the #100-156 architectural plan such as its large size (12 x 41 metres); two stories (main floor passenger services and second floor office space); the shingled awning supported by wooden trusses at the main entrance and loading area to protect passengers and freight from the elements; hipped roof with ornate, two-gabled dormers on each end; and, symmetrical placement of the double hung windows on each level.

Source:

City of Melville Bylaw No. 15/2010.

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