

It is useful to think of the Historic Structure Report as documentation of a building's PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.

The HSR documents a building's PAST in order to:

Record how the building evolved over time (when it was built, when additions and changes were made, etc.)

Determine the building's significance, i.e. what is valued about the building, and when that significance was achieved (the "period of significance").

Document what physical characteristics of the building existed during that period of significance

The HSR documents a building's PRESENT in order to:

Determine what physical characteristics remain from the period of significance and what elements were added later

Document physical deficiencies in the existing building fabric (failed roofs, structural problems, etc)

The HSR documents a building's FUTURE in order to:

Determine the most appropriate course of action for future work on the building (restoration to a prior time period, rehabilitation for future use, etc).

Recommend the steps necessary to carry out that course of action through a detailed description of work to be done.

Guide budget and schedule planning for future work

HSRs gather together in one place all the information currently known about a building.

The information in an HSR can also be used for other purposes, for example as a source of information for interpretation (visitor tours and brochures), or funding (grant applications).