

DC Historic Preservation 101



Goals of Historic Preservation

- ✓ **Identify**
 - Survey and Document Potential Historic Resources
- ✓ **Protect**
 - Nominate and Designate Historic Landmarks and Historic Districts
 - Review Alterations, Additions, New Construction, Demolitions, and Subdivisions to Ensure Compatible Treatments
- ✓ **Promote**
 - Encourage Reuse and Stewardship of Historic Properties
 - Support and Enforce Standards, Guidelines, and Regulations
 - Boost Financial Incentives
 - Educate the Public about Historic Properties

DC QUICK FACTS

- 800+ Listings in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites
- Over 27,000 Contributing Buildings in 70 Historic Districts
- 600+ Listings in the National Register of Historic Places
- 75 National Historic Landmarks

Find out more at:
historicsites.dcpreservation.org

Data from DC Office of Planning/Historic Preservation Office

WHAT MAKES A SITE SIGNIFICANT?

- Events
- History
- Individuals
- Architecture and Urbanism
- Artistry
- Work of a Master Architect
- Archaeology

Additionally, a site must retain physical integrity.

Benefits of Historic Preservation



- ✓ Allow for Community Involvement in Managing Change
- ✓ Maintains Community Character and "Sense of Place"
- ✓ Helps Ensure Compatibility and Minimize the Loss of History, both Tangible and Intangible
- ✓ Promotes Restoration and Rehabilitation (Adaptive Reuse)
- ✓ Provides Incentives, including Tax Credits, Easements, and Waivers from Certain Building Codes



PERMITS AND DESIGN REVIEW

- Permits are not required for "routine" work, such as painting, installing storm windows, and adding portable window AC units.
- When a permit is required, a project impacting a historic landmark or a building/structure in a historic district must be reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Office (HPO). HPO staff review "minor work," including in-kind repairs to stone and brick masonry, roof replacements, alterations determined to be "unobtrusive," and smaller additions.
- "Major work" must be reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) at a public hearing. This includes new construction, larger additions, and significant changes to a historic property.
- HPO staff work with applicants/architects, advising them on the most appropriate and compatible design options.

HISTORIC HOMEOWNER GRANT PROGRAM

Up to \$25,000 is available to property owners in 15 Historic Districts (\$35,000 in Anacostia).

Funds can be used for exterior restoration, with restoration of original materials preferred over replacement.

Contact HPO at historic.preservation@dc.gov for more information.

Connect with DCPL!
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