



Monroe's Historic Preservation Program

Frequently Asked Questions (...and Answers)

What is the City's Historic District Ordinance?

The Historic District Ordinance is a law passed by the City Council that establishes a local program to identify and protect the city's historic districts. The ordinance established a Historic District Commission whose members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council.

How is a Historic District designated?

When there is support from the property owners in a neighborhood, the City Council will appoint a Historic District Study Committee to gather information about the buildings under consideration. The committee's preliminary report will be reviewed, and it will hold a public hearing with notice to the property owners. The City Council will approve or disapprove the proposed historic district.

How will changes to buildings in the Historic District be reviewed?

The Historic District Commission will review plans for changes to the exterior of designated buildings and for new construction, moving and demolition. The Commission will issue a Certificate of Appropriateness after working with the owner to come up with a satisfactory solution that meets the current needs of the owner and stays within the budget of the owner. In reviewing plans, the Commission will use the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* as its guideline.

How long will it take to get an approval?

The Commission will typically act on an application at the meeting after the owner has presented his/her plans. The Commission *must* act within 60 days or the application will be considered approved.

How will the Historic District designation affect the value of my property?

Historic district designations help to preserve neighborhoods, and protect property owners from unwise changes taking place "across the street" or "down the block." In selling homes, realtors frequently advertise homes and properties as being located in historic districts. Studies have shown that a historic district designation is likely to have a favorable effect on the value of your house.

Can I change the use of my building?

The Historic District Commission does not have any control over the use of a historic building. The use is controlled by the city's zoning regulations.

Am I required to restore my building to its original appearance?

No.

Do I need permission to make repairs and do ordinary maintenance?

No.

For more information on Monroe's Historic Preservation Program contact:

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