

Commissioners are residents appointed by the City Council. They volunteer their time to review exterior alterations that will impact the historic integrity of a building or district. The Commission also serves as a resource to help inform the community on historic preservation issues and help preserve and enhance the historical characteristics of a property. The Commission recognizes that historic properties and neighborhoods are not frozen in time. They need to honor the past and make preservation part of the future. The Commission welcomes investment in historic neighborhoods and serves to help manage change so the historic character of a property or district is respected while accommodating compatible improvements.

Not every alteration to a building in a historic district requires review by the HPC. City Planning Services Staff can approve changes to a building that result in “no material effect” to the appearance of the building. In other words, if a property owner is simply replacing or repairing a portion of a building and using the same construction materials that do not change the visual appearance of the feature or building, city staff can approve the required building permit. Items that require Commission review include those items where there is a proposed change in materials and/or design.

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If a proposed alteration requires HPC design review, the Commission will discuss the project application with the applicant. The Commission will decide whether the proposed work complies with historic standards and guidelines and whether the proposed work will have an adverse impact on the aesthetic, historic or architectural significance of the property and neighborhood.



For more information visit
www.cityofdubuque.org/HistoricPreservation
 City of Dubuque Planning Services Department
 50 W. 13th Street, Dubuque, IA 52001
 (563) 589-4210 or planning@cityofdubuque.org

Benefits of Historic Preservation Districts

“ Preservation ensures that future generations will have a past to appreciate. Preservation is more than just saving buildings. It’s about creating and enhancing environments that support, inform, and enrich the lives of all Americans. ”

Richard Moe, National Trust President, Forum 2000

What is a Historic District?

Historic Districts are neighborhoods or areas within the city that contain historically significant buildings and cultural resources that are important to the community. Dubuque has 5 historic districts. Please see the back panel for a map of Dubuque’s historic districts.

Why does the community care about what happens to my property?

Historic buildings are one of the top reasons people visit Dubuque. Preserving historic buildings preserves the stability of neighborhoods and the community. The removal of a historic feature such as a porch, trim boards, brackets, chimneys or other character defining features are not easily reversed and usually means they are lost forever. The building’s historic integrity is significantly damaged and, little by little, the integrity of the entire historic neighborhood and community is altered over time.

HISTORIC FEDERAL BUILDING



What are the benefits of being in a Historic District?

The benefits of preserving local historic resources goes beyond the lot line of an individual building. Some benefits include: 1) increased property values; 2) enhanced quality of life, sense of neighborhood and community pride; 3) private investment is stimulated; 4) areas of deterioration reversed; 5) new jobs created; 6) new businesses formed; 7) stimulated tourism, and 8) financial incentives for property improvements.



Financial Incentives for Properties Located In Historic Districts:

Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Fund:

A low interest loan offered to property owners in historic districts for exterior improvements that meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation. Qualified property owners can receive up to \$25,000 at a 3% interest rate amortized over 10 years.

Historic Preservation Housing Grant:

Grants (in the form of a forgivable loan up to \$5,000) are available on a competitive basis to income-qualifying owner-occupants and to qualified non-profit organizations in any local historic district or City-designated Landmark for specific rehabilitation projects that preserve the original building materials and character-defining features of the home.

Urban Revitalization Program:

This program offers a property tax exemption to qualified residential properties and limited commercial properties. Owners who upgrade their residential properties located within a designated Urban Revitalization district may receive a 10-year exemption from the property tax liability that would normally accompany numerous property improvements. All 5 Historic Districts participate in the Urban Revitalization Program.

*The above financial incentives are subject to change. Additional financial incentives to assist with historic properties may be available through federal, state, and other local agencies.

