



Historic District Commission

The Ypsilanti Historic District Commission (HDC) administers compliance with the City's Historical Preservation Ordinance and reviews requests for work done within the historic district. It has the following principal duties and powers:

- The power to issue certificates of appropriateness, notice to proceed, denial or no exterior effect for all new construction, reconstruction, restoration, alteration, color change or any other work on any resource located within historic districts.
- The power to issue certificates of appropriateness, notice to proceed or denial for the moving or demolition of any resource located within historic districts.
- The power to recommend to the city council the designation of additional historic districts from resources chosen according to the criteria listed in section 54-66 which, when designated, shall be subject to all the provisions of this article.
- The power to render advice and guidance with respect to any proposed work on a resource located within historic districts.
- The power to accept and administer grants and gifts given for historic preservation purposes within historic districts.
- The power to enter into agreements and contracts with public or private agencies or individuals for the purpose of assisting the commission in carrying out its duties.
- The duty to issue a written report to the city council on or before January 30 of each year concerning the work of the commission during the preceding year.
- The power to disseminate information to the public concerning those resources deemed worthy of preservation and to encourage and advise property owners in the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of resources of historic and/or architectural interest.
- The power to conduct a survey and maintain a roster of resources located within historic districts, which shall include a description of the characteristics of the resources which justified its designation, and a description of the particular features that should be preserved, and shall include the location and boundaries of the resource.
- Variances. Due to peculiar conditions of design and construction in historic neighborhoods, it may be in the public interest to retain a neighborhood's historic appearance by making variances to normal requirements. Where it is deemed that such variances will not adversely affect neighboring properties, the commission shall recommend to the zoning board of appeals that such variance to standard requirements be made.

Members of the Historic District Commission must be residents of the City and include one registered architect or builder, two residents of the City's designated historic districts, one member chosen from a nomination by the Ypsilanti Historical Society. Interest or training in historic preservation is highly beneficial. There are seven seats on the Historic District Commission.

The Historic District Commission's regular meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month, unless a Holiday or City Closure falls on that day. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 1 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti, Michigan. Meetings generally last between 15 minutes and four hours; an average meeting is approximately two hours. Special meetings may be called as needed.