

## Historic Places

Property owners may choose to nominate their building or site as a City of Salem **Local Landmark** or to the federal **National Register of Historic Places**.

Salem's Community Development Department can assist owners in determining whether a property qualifies for local listing.

For federal recognition, contact the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.



## Historic Districts

Any property within a federally recognized **National Register Historic District** is historic. There are several Historic Districts in Salem, including Court-Chemeketa, Downtown, and Gaiety Hill/Bush's Pasture Park.

## Making Changes

Certain changes to historic properties must be approved by the Historic Landmarks Commission at one of its monthly meetings.

Find more information about that process on Salem's website, [www.cityofsalem.net](http://www.cityofsalem.net), under the Planning section.

# Historic Property Designation

## Understanding the Design Review Process



## Historic Landmarks Commission

Salem's Historic Landmarks Commission recognizes structures, districts, sites and objects significant to the city's past. Locally recognized properties are generally 50 years old, maintain their historic appearance and are connected to an important aspect of the past. A property may be the site of a historical event, the home or business of a notable person, or an example of a particular architectural style or type of construction.

This brochure will help you understand the benefits and responsibilities associated with owning historic property in the City of Salem, Oregon.



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# Owning Historic Property in Salem, Oregon



## Benefits of Historic Ownership

Demonstrates an appreciation of historical residences and businesses that helped create our community.

- ◆ Older buildings display craftsmanship and style no longer available.
- ◆ Historic preservation enhances “green” development and sustainability by recycling valuable natural materials.
- ◆ It also stimulates the local economy by making the community attractive to heritage tourism.

## Financial Incentives

- ◆ City of Salem offers rehabilitation funds for some owners over age 60.
- ◆ Special Assessment program can freeze the assessed value for 15 years.
- ◆ Owners may receive tax advantages for donating a historic building or easement for conservation.
- ◆ Federal tax credits may be available.

## What is Design Review?

Historic Design Review is a process that enables preservation of the physical qualities that make Salem’s historic properties unique. The **Historic Landmarks Commission** reviews exterior changes to a recognized historic property.

### These changes include:

- ◆ Replacement of siding or windows with a different type, style or material
- ◆ New construction
- ◆ Applications for permits to demolish or remove historic buildings

### Design Review does not:

- ◆ Prevent owners from remodeling the interior
- ◆ Require the owner to make improvements or restore their building
- ◆ Require purchase of a sign or plaque
- ◆ Prevent or restrict ordinary maintenance, including painting



## What to do

First of all, plan ahead. The Historic Landmarks Commission meets the **fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.** in the Salem City Council Chambers. Because this is a public hearing, applications, including a description of the project with diagrams and drawings, must be presented to the Community Development Department before beginning the project. City staff may be able to identify cost-effective options.



## Resources

**Salem Community Development:**  
(503) 588-6173

**State Historic Preservation Office:**  
(503) 986-0671

**City Planning Desk:** (503) 588-6173 x7427

**HLC Member Joy Sears:** (503) 986-0688