

Eugene's Historic Preservation Program

The Historic Review Board (HRB) is a subcommittee of the Eugene Planning Commission, and oversees the main components of Eugene's historic preservation program.

Role of the HRB

According to the HRB's by-laws, the duty of the board is to take necessary steps to preserve historic properties pursuant to the Eugene Code and to support projects and programs which will help make citizens of the City and its visitors aware of its origin, development, and historic significance. The board's role under the authority of the Eugene Code is to:

- (1) Review and make determinations on the following requests:
 - City Landmark designations
 - Listing of properties in the National Register of Historic Places (recommendation to State)
 - Appeals of historic alterations and demolition permits
 - Establishment of new historic zones (recommendation to City Council)
- (2) Conduct or oversee architectural surveys of historic resources
- (3) Advise residents and local government officials on preservation issues
- (4) Consult with or hire professional experts when warranted
- (5) Promote preservation and conduct educational outreach within the community.

The City of Eugene, working with the HRB and consultants, is pushing to increase the incentives for recognized historic property owners to invest in their resource and seek historic landmark status. Previous programs will undergo review and the hope is that new programs and funding sources will be identified and obtained to this end.

Historic Preservation in Eugene

Eugene's older neighborhoods and houses are a critical part of our city's history and character. Just as the Willamette River, Skinner and Spencer buttes, and the Cascades define Eugene's natural surroundings, our historic neighborhoods of settlement era houses, modest bungalows, and stately craftsman homes trace Eugene's history and help define the character of the city and of the Northwest.

Background

Eugene's Historic Preservation Program began on July 9, 1973, with the passage of a City Council resolution forming a Historic Preservation Committee. The major result of the committee's work was a recommendation for adoption of preservation ordinance. Components of the original ordinance included:

1. A public process for identifying and designating historic landmarks.
2. A new zoning designation "H Historic."
3. Providing incentives for exterior maintenance and renovation of historic landmarks.
4. Increasing the range of allowable uses of historic landmarks.

The current historic preservation ordinance is a product of seven revisions. A string of historic demolitions between 1985 and 1987 emphasized the need for ordinance procedures that would provide greater protections for historic or potentially historic properties and clearer procedures for handling requests to move or demolish such structures.

Historic Review Process

Formal land use applications are required for certain proposals that affect Historic Landmarks, Historic Zoning, or Historic District Listings. Reviews are processed through Administrative or Quasi-Judicial Type I, II, or III application approval processes. The type of review determines the procedural requirements decision-making authority according to the Eugene Code.

For more information, see the Historic Preservation website - <http://www.eugene-or.gov/405/Historic-Preservation>.