

SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Historic Preservation Program is responsible for the designation and protection of more than 450 historic structures, sites, objects, and vessels, as well as eight historic districts throughout Seattle. By involving residents in maintaining high standards for rehabilitation and new construction, the program allows them to recognize and keep the quality, character, and uniqueness of their neighborhoods.

SAVING THE PAST FOR THE FUTURE

Seattle's commitment to historic preservation began with citizen efforts in the 1960s to block the demolition of several beloved buildings and proposed "Urban Renewal" plans that would have destroyed most of downtown's Pioneer Square and Pike Place Market. In 1970, the Seattle City Council secured Pioneer Square's survival with the City's first historic preservation district, and voters approved an initiative for the Pike Place Market Historical District two years later.

In 1973, the Seattle City Council adopted the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance to safeguard properties of historic and architectural significance around the city — and more than 450 structures and sites have been designated ranging from the Ward House, our oldest standing residence, to the futuristic Space Needle.

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Since 1970, Seattle has established eight historic districts. Each historic district has a citizen review board, committee, or commission staffed by the Historic Preservation Program. It meets to consider alterations to historic properties within its district and to ensure that changes maintain the architectural and historic integrity of structures and public spaces in accordance with processes and criteria established by the city's ordinance. Here are the historic districts:

- Ballard Avenue
- Columbia City
- Fort Lawton
- Harvard-Belmont
- International District
- Pike Place Market
- Pioneer Square
- Sand Point Naval Air Station

The Landmark Preservation Board oversees citywide regulation of historic buildings, sites, and objects.

**STRENGTHENING
SEATTLE BY ACTIVELY
ENGAGING ALL
COMMUNITIES**



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SEATTLE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOODS HISTORIC PRESERVATION

OUR WEBSITE — THE GO-TO FOR ALL THINGS PRESERVATION

Our website serves as the gateway to the exciting and important work of conserving Seattle’s rich legacy of historical and architectural treasures for present and future generations. It is organized to guide residents, businesses, property owners, architects, planners, and other interested citizens through Seattle’s legal processes that govern individual landmarks and historic districts. It also provides:

- An overview of historic preservation incentives for property owners
- Information on the city’s eight historic districts, including meeting agendas and minutes for each district
- Links to local and national resources on historical interest
- A list of the designated historic landmarks
- Online Certificate of Approval application for making changes.

HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

In 2000, the city of Seattle began a systematic and comprehensive effort to survey and inventory its historic resources. Professional architectural historians and volunteers have surveyed and inventoried more than 8,500 properties throughout the city, including neighborhood commercial districts, residential properties built prior to 1906, and city-owned resources. They are now included in an online database available to the public on our website.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Historic Preservation Program provides direct education and outreach to individuals and groups interested in the landmark nomination process and historic preservation in general:

- Survey and Inventory projects
- Outreach to community groups
- One-on-one outreach to individual property owners

