

Five goals compose the key elements to achieving historic preservation in the community:

- Integrate preservation into the City's planning, land use and property management codes.
- Increase awareness of historic preservation.
- Develop and expand appropriate mechanisms for the identification, evaluation, and protection of historic and cultural resources.
- Develop and complete a coordinated effort to update and replace obsolete and decaying infrastructure.
- Encourage the utilization of existing incentives and the development of traditional and nontraditional economic incentives.



For more information

Contact the Planning and Development Department at (816)969-1600 or visit the historic preservation website at www.cityofls.net/development/historic-preservation.aspx

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND PLANNING

How does preservation benefit Lee's Summit?



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Historic Preservation Commission

The Lee's Summit Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) implements the city historic preservation ordinance. The Commission consists of seven (7) members which are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the majority of the members of the City Council. Two additional liaisons are appointed, one from the City Council and one from the Planning Commission. The appointments for the seven members are for four (4) year staggered terms and an appointed member may serve consecutive terms.

Five of the seven commissioners shall be residents of the City of Lee's Summit. They shall be persons who have demonstrated special interest, knowledge, or experience in fields related to historic preservation; as an archeologist; an architect who has professional experience in restoration or historic preservation; a licensed building contractor with historic building experience; a real-estate professional; a historian; a member of the Lee's Summit Historical Society; a homeowner in a historic district or proposed historic district; or a merchant in an existing commercial historic district or proposed commercial historic district.

The Commission is responsible for developing, establishing, and implementing the City's Historic Preservation Plan. The HPC reviews and recommends Historic Landmark and Historic District designations to the Lee's Summit Local Historic Register. The HPC recommends approval of historic surveys, as well as approving Certificates of Appropriateness. The HPC also may review amendments to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) or other parts of the Code of Ordinances as they relate to Historic Preservation.



Preservation Planning

On June 24, 2004, the Planning Commission approved a Historic Preservation Plan as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The goal of the plan is to move toward change in a positive manner and to serve as a catalyst for capitalizing on the synergy of the old and new. To achieve this goal, it is necessary first to recognize and understand the assets that contribute to the City's unique physical character; to forge a consensus in the community regarding their preservation activities; and to develop goals, policies and initiatives to assist the City in future identification, interpretation, evaluation, and protection of its remaining cultural resources.

Benefits of Historic Preservation

- Cultural resources reflect a community and region's evolution and history, and they distinguish one community from another.
- The physical appearance of its buildings and streetscapes reflect the community's overall vitality and economic health.
- Maintaining the vitality of our older areas can attract larger commercial ventures to the community.
- Rehabilitating buildings is a more efficient way to stabilize the local economy.
- Rehabilitating buildings directly benefits adjacent property owners.
- The value of rehabilitated properties in a city's historic core increases more rapidly than the real estate market in the larger community.
- Older buildings are ideal for many smaller and start-up businesses.

