

Historic Landmark Criteria & Historic District Criteria

Chapter 15.36 of the Louisville Municipal Code sets forth the criteria for designation as a historic landmark or historic district.

The following criteria will be used by the Historic Preservation Commission and City Council in reviewing applications for the historic designation of properties.

INDIVIDUAL LANDMARKS

Landmarks must be at least fifty (50) years old and meet one (1) or more of the criteria for architectural, social or geographic/environmental significance as described below. The City Council may exempt a landmark from the age standard if it is found to be exceptionally important in other significance criteria.

1. Historic landmarks shall meet one (1) or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Architectural
 - 1) Exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period.
 - 2) Example of the work of an architect or builder who is recognized for expertise nationally, statewide, regionally, or locally.
 - 3) Demonstrates superior craftsmanship or high artistic value.
 - 4) Represents an innovation in construction, materials or design.
 - 5) Style particularly associated with the Louisville area.
 - 6) Represents a built environment of a group of people in an era of history that is culturally significant to Louisville.
 - 7) Pattern or grouping of elements representing at least one of the above criteria.
 - 8) Significant historic remodel.
 - b. Social
 - 1) Site of historic event that had an effect upon society.
 - 2) Exemplifies cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community.
 - 3) Association with a notable person or the work of a notable person.
 - c. Geographic/environmental
 - 1) Enhances sense of identity of the community.
 - 2) An established and familiar natural setting or visual feature that is culturally significant to the history of Louisville.
2. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites shall meet one (1) or more of the following:
 - a. Architectural
 - 1) Exhibits distinctive characteristics of a type, period or manner of construction.
 - 2) A unique example of structure.
 - b. Social
 - 1) Potential to make an important contribution to the knowledge of the area's history or prehistory.
 - 2) Association with an important event in the area's history.
 - 3) Association with a notable person(s) or the work of a notable person(s).
 - 4) A typical example/association with a particular ethnic group.
 - 5) A unique example of an event in Louisville's history.
 - c. Geographic/environmental
 - 1) Geographically or regionally important.

3. All properties will be evaluated for physical integrity and shall meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Shows character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community, region, state, or nation.
 - b. Retains original design features, materials and/or character.
 - c. Remains in its original location, has the same historic context after having been moved, or was moved more than fifty (50) years ago.
 - d. Has been accurately reconstructed or restored based on historic documentation.

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

A district is geographically definable as including a concentration, linkage or continuity of surface or subsurface sites, buildings, structures or objects, or any combination thereof. The district is related by a pattern of either physical elements or social activities. Significance is determined by applying criteria to the pattern(s) and unifying element(s).

- 1) It shall require the consent of at least forty percent (40%) of the owners in a proposed district for an application to be considered under the Designation with Owner's Consent section.
- 2) Applications for designation of a district will not be considered if there is written opposition to such district formation from at least forty percent (40%) percent of the property owners within the district boundaries. When calculating the district's owner percentage, each property will receive one vote.
- 3) Properties that do not contribute to the significance of the historic district may be included within the boundaries, as long as the noncontributing elements do not noticeably detract from the district's sense of time, place and historical development. Noncontributing elements will be evaluated for their magnitude of impact by considering their size, scale, design, location, or information potential.
- 4) District boundaries will be defined by visual changes, historical documentation of different associations or patterns of development, or evidence of changes in site type or site density as established through research or inventory. District boundaries may be non-contiguous.
- 5) In addition to meeting at least one (1) of the criteria outlined in subsection 15.36.050.B.6, below, the contributing features of the district must be at least fifty (50) years old. The City Council may exempt the district from the age standard if the resources are found to be exceptionally important in other significant criteria.
- 6) Historic districts shall meet one (1) or more of the following criteria:
 - a. Architectural
 1. Exemplifies specific elements of an architectural period or style.
 2. Example of the work of an architect or builder who is recognized for expertise nationally, statewide, regionally or locally.
 3. Demonstrates superior craftsmanship or high artistic value.
 4. Represents an innovation in construction, materials, or design.
 5. Style particularly associated with the Louisville area.
 6. Represents a built environment of a group of people in an era of history that is culturally significant to Louisville.
 7. Pattern or grouping of elements representing at least one of the above criteria.
 8. Significant historic remodel.
 - b. Social
 1. Site of historic event that had an effect upon society.
 2. Exemplifies cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community.
 3. An association with a notable person(s) or the work of a notable person(s).

- c. Geographic/environmental
 - 1. Enhances sense of identity of the community.
 - 2. An established and familiar natural setting or visual feature that is culturally significant to the history of Louisville.
- d. Archaeology/subsurface.
 - 1. Potential to make an important contribution to the area's history or prehistory.
 - 2. An association with an important event in the area's development.
 - 3. An association with a notable person(s) or the work of a notable person(s).
 - 4. Distinctive characteristics of a type, period or manner of construction.
 - 5. Geographical importance.
 - 6. A typical example/association with a particular ethnic group.
 - 7. A typical example/association with a local cultural or economic activity.
 - 8. A unique example of an event or structure.

ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY

Any site listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places shall be presumed to qualify for local designation under this Chapter. Any district designated as an historic district by the State or National Register of Historic Places shall be presumed to meet the minimum standards for local designation. However, such presumption is rebuttable and the Commission and City Council will also take into consideration the written and oral testimony of owners of the affected properties, in addition to any other evidence presented at its hearing.