

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

2012 FACT SHEET

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 Historic District two years later.

In 1973, the Seattle City Council adopted a Landmarks Preservation Ordinance to safeguard properties of historic and architectural significance around the city — and more than 400 structures and sites have now been designated ranging from the Ward House, our oldest standing residence, to the futuristic Space Needle.

Historic Districts

Since 1970, Seattle established seven historic districts:

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

Each historic district has a citizen review board, committee, or commission, staffed by the Historic Preservation Program, that meets to consider alterations to historic properties and to ensure that changes maintain the architectural and historic integrity of structures and public spaces in accordance with processes and criteria established by City ordinance.

The Landmark Preservation Board oversees citywide regulation.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM DETAILS

Our Website — the Go-to for All Things Preservation

Our website serves as the gateway to participation in 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, business and 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

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: <http://web1.seattle.gov/dpd/historicalsites/>.



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
- Historic Seattle Landmark Nomination Workshops
- Outreach to community groups
- One-on-one outreach to individual property owners

2011 Activities

- 20 landmark nominations considered by the Landmarks Preservation Board
- 397 Certificates of Approval issued by the Landmarks Preservation Board and the Historic District Boards
- 5 projects with special tax valuation, totaling \$20,629,958 of private reinvestment
- Designation of the Sand Point Naval Air Station, the City's 8th historic district
- Continuing renovation of the King Street Station with restoration of the front grand staircase
- Renovation of the Pioneer Building in Pioneer Square which is now cleaned and tuck pointed with the owner's addition of interior storm windows for greater energy efficiency
- Renovation of the historic HTK Building at S. Main St. and 6th Ave South in the International District
- Renovation of the Hudson Building (formerly the Columbia Motors Building) on S. Hudson St.
- Renovation of the Supply Laundry in South Lake Union where developer Vulcan is attempting to meet Seattle District 2030 goals of reducing building energy use, water use, and greenhouse gases in addition to preservation of a historic laundry building

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Historic Preservation Program

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

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