

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT KENOSHA'S
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE**

Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE?

A: THE KEY PURPOSE OF A HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE IS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT A COMMUNITY'S HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE.

Q: WHAT IS THE CRITERIA FOR THE DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS, STRUCTURES, AND SITES?

A: HISTORIC DESIGNATION IS GRANTED TO PROPERTIES WHICH ARE HISTORICALLY OR ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT. IN GENERAL TERMS, TO BE HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT, THE PROPERTY EXEMPLIFIES OR REFLECTS THE COMMUNITY'S HISTORY. ALSO IN GENERAL TERMS, TO BE ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT, IT MAY BE CHARACTERISTIC OF AN ARCHITECTURAL PERIOD OR STYLE, METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION, CONSTRUCTION WITH INDIGENOUS MATERIALS OR FINE CRAFTSMANSHIP. TO BE ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT, IT MAY ALSO BE REPRESENTATIVE WORK OF A MASTER BUILDER, ARCHITECT, OR DESIGNER.

Q: HOW IS THE ORDINANCE ADMINISTERED?

A: A SEVEN MEMBER COMMISSION COMPRISED OF ONE ALDERMAN AND SIX CITIZENS WITH AN INTEREST IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADMINISTERS THE ORDINANCE. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES PERSONS WITH SPECIAL EXPERTISE INCLUDING: A REGISTERED ARCHITECT, A HISTORIAN, A LICENSED REAL ESTATE BROKER, AND A PRESENT OR PAST OWNER OF A HISTORIC PROPERTY.

Q: HOW ARE THE COMMUNITY'S HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES PRESERVED AND SAFEGUARDED IN THIS ORDINANCE?

A: THE COMMISSION REVIEWS WORK AFFECTING THE EXTERIOR APPEARANCE OF A DESIGNATED HISTORIC STRUCTURE, SITE, OR DISTRICT. WORK IS DEFINED AS ALTERATION, REHABILITATION, RESTORATION, CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, OR DEMOLITION.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE COMMISSION REVIEWS PAINT COLORS?

A: WHILE RECOMMENDATIONS MAY BE MADE FOR PAINTING SCHEMES, PAINTING IS VIEWED AS MAINTENANCE BY THE COMMISSION AND WOULD NOT BE REVIEWED.

Q: WHAT OTHER ITEMS ARE EXEMPT FROM REVIEW?

A: A REVIEW IS NOT REQUIRED FOR INTERIOR WORK INCLUDING ALTERATION, REHABILITATION, OR RECONSTRUCTION OF A HISTORIC STRUCTURE. ORDINARY EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS MAY BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT A COMMISSION REVIEW PROVIDED THAT THE WORK INVOLVES REPAIRS TO EXISTING FEATURES OF A HISTORIC STRUCTURE OR THE REPLACEMENT OF ELEMENTS OF A STRUCTURE WITH PIECES IDENTICAL IN APPEARANCE AND PROVIDED THAT THE WORK DOES NOT CHANGE THE EXTERIOR APPEARANCE OF THE STRUCTURE.

Q: HOW COULD THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW BE EXPEDITED?

A: TIME, MONEY, AND EFFORT ARE BEST USED IF THE PROPERTY OWNER GOES BEFORE THE COMMISSION IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGES OF A PROJECT. ADVANCE PLANNING INCLUDING FURNISHING THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS ALLOWS THE COMMISSION TO SERVE OWNERS IN A TIMELY FASHION.

Q: HOW LONG DOES THE COMMISSION HAVE TO REVIEW PROPOSED WORK?

A: WHILE PROPOSED WORK WHICH PRESERVES AND MAINTAINS THE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER OF THE DESIGNATED RESOURCE MAY BE GRANTED APPROVAL AT THE TIME OF THE REVIEW, THE COMMISSION WOULD HAVE A MAXIMUM OF SIX MONTHS TO ISSUE WRITTEN DETERMINATIONS. THIS TIME PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMISSION TO WORK WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER IN PRESERVING AND MAINTAINING THE HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER OF THE LANDMARK.

Q: IS THERE A FEE FOR THE COMMISSION REVIEW?

A: NO FEE IS REQUIRED FOR COMMISSION REVIEW AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING. THERE IS A \$45 FEE REQUIRED TO HOLD A SPECIAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING.

Q: MUST THE DECISION OF THE COMMISSION BE FOLLOWED?

A: WHILE THE REVIEW IS REQUIRED, THE COMMISSION'S DECISION IS ADVISORY. THE INTENT OF THIS REVIEW IS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC THROUGH OFFERING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DESIGN GUIDANCE. HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION DOES NOT FUNCTION AS AN ARCHITECT OR DESIGNER. WHERE A PROPOSAL FOR DEMOLITION IS DENIED, THE APPLICANT AND COMMISSION HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO WORK WITH EACH OTHER IN GOOD FAITH FOR A PERIOD UP TO SIX MONTHS IN AN ATTEMPT TO PRESERVE THE PROPERTY.