



## FAQs: Historic Preservation

### What is historic preservation?

The preservation of historically significant structures and neighborhoods to facilitate restoration and rehabilitation of the building(s) to a former condition.

### Why is historic preservation important to our community?

Two guiding principles for the historic preservation efforts in the Canton Historic District are "retain a sense of place" and "recognize change." When combined, these guiding principles encourage the best elements of place to be preserved while also encouraging new development that is of its time, but in context with the existing development.

### What is a historic district?

A historic district is a portion of a city which contains older buildings that are considered valuable for historical and/or architectural purposes. Not every building within a historic district must be historic and new construction is allowed within the historic district. Upon designation, all properties within a historic district are subject to design review. In the City of Canton, only commercial properties are subject to design review.

### What is the difference between a local and national historic district?

The local historic district, designated by the city ordinance, regulates changes in appearance. Districts on the National Register of Historic Places make properties within a district eligible for federal historic preservation incentives. Both districts can be utilized as preservation tools to maintain a community's historic resources. "A National Register District Identifies; a Local District Protects."

### What are the boundaries of the City's Historic District?

Determining whether a property is located within the historic district using the Canton City Map can be found [here](#). Please be sure that the "Historic District Boundary" layer is on. The "Layer List" can be found on the right side

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of the web page. Design reviews are only for commercial applications within Canton's Historic District.

### What is the responsibility of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)?

The purpose of the Historic Preservation Commission is to promote historic preservation, educate the public about the importance of historic preservation, monitor the condition of all historic properties and structures, and review and provide decisions on all applications which involve changes in exterior architectural appearance or exterior environmental appearance within the historic district.

### What is a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)?

A certificate of appropriateness is issued by the HPC to approve any exterior changes, additions, or new construction within the district. A Certificate of Appropriateness is required before a building permit or demolition permit can be issued for any designated historic landmark or any building, structure, or site within the historic district.

### Are there design guidelines specifically for the City's Historic District? If so, where are the guidelines located?

Yes, the guidelines address the types of changes within the district that have the potential to alter the district's unique character, including exterior alterations and additions to existing buildings, new construction, conversion of historic residential structures to commercial uses, and demolition. The Canton Historic District Design Guidelines can be found [here](#).

### What is the process to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness?

A completed COA application, found [here](#), along with supporting documentation can be submitted via the LAMA portal found [here](#). Please be sure to select "Certificate of Appropriateness" as the permit type.