

WHAT LIMITATIONS DOES HISTORIC DESIGNATION PLACE ON MY PROPERTY?

The Landmark Preservation Ordinance covers the entire exterior of a building (even the back) and the site. Any changes must be compatible with the architectural and historic character of the individual property itself and of the historic district as a whole. Examples of elements that might be covered are windows, kitchen additions, and roofs.

HOW ABOUT INTERIOR CHANGES?

Interiors are not covered by the ordinance, nor are previously painted surfaces, so you can paint your house any color you'd like.



WHAT IS THE PERMISSION PROCESS?

The Ithaca Landmarks Preservation Commission (ILPC) is charged with administering and interpreting the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance. If you plan to make an exterior change to your listed property, you must get approval for this work from the ILPC. This approval is called a Certificate of Appropriateness, and you will also need a building permit <http://www.cityofithaca.org/130/Building-Division>.

Your first step should be to contact Bryan McCracken, the City Historic Preservation and Neighborhood Planner, at bmccracken@cityofithaca.org or 607.375.7269. Bryan will advise you on how to proceed with your application to the ILPC and let you know about tax incentives and grants that may apply to your project. The ILPC meets the third Tuesday of each month <http://www.cityofithaca.org/346/Ithaca-Landmarks-Preservation-Commission>. Most applications are reviewed and approved at a single meeting; however, larger or more complicated projects may need a few meetings to complete the approval process.



WHY HISTORIC DISTRICTS?

Ithaca has had a local Landmarks Preservation Ordinance since 1969, partly in response to urban renewal projects of the 1960s that destroyed many blocks of our downtown commercial and residential areas. The goal of the ordinance is to preserve and protect physical reminders of Ithaca's history—those visual characteristics that make our city unique, identifiable, and familiar to both residents and visitors. Most owners are proud and happy to be part of this effort.

They may even benefit from higher home valuations, and federal and state tax incentives that reward their efforts.



RESOURCES

The ILPC page (<https://www.cityofithaca.org/346/Ithaca-Landmarks-Preservation-Commission>) on the Ithaca City website is a great source of information for owners of historic properties. It includes comprehensive maps and lists of historic properties, the text of the local ordinance, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, information about tax incentives and grants, and articles about weatherization and windows.

Historic Ithaca is the area's preservation agency. Visit our library at 210-212 Center Street to learn more about your house, 607-273-6633 historicithaca.org.

You should also check out the collections of the History Center in Tompkins County, 110 North Tioga Street, Ithaca, 607-273-8284
<https://thehistorycenter.net/>



HISTORIC ITHACA

GUIDE FOR OWNERS HISTORIC DISTRICTS ITHACA, NEW YORK

Congratulations! You have purchased a home in one of Ithaca's eight historic districts, joining dozens of other owners who preserve and cherish significant older homes and buildings in our community.

This guide has been compiled by Historic Ithaca to answer the most commonly asked questions by those who live in or own listed buildings. The guide will cover the most popular topics and provide links to further information.

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