

*Wichita*

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**HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
GUIDE**

*for* **PROPERTY OWNERS**

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**PRESERVING THE PAST  
BY PROTECTING WICHITA'S  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

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## HOW DO I KNOW IF MY PROPERTY IS INDIVIDUALLY LISTED OR LOCATED WITHIN A HISTORIC DISTRICT?

Properties listed in the Wichita Register of Historic Places are listed by address in an index in the Metropolitan Area Planning Department's Historic Preservation Office. Contact the Historic Preservation Planner for the most current information at 316-268-4421.



## WHAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE ALLOWED FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES (INCLUDES INDIVIDUALLY LISTED AND HISTORIC DISTRICT PROPERTIES)?

Any activity that requires a building permit, replacing windows or building a fence requires a design review. The review ensures the changes are done in a complementary manner to the original structure, the surrounding houses and the neighborhood.

### **The following do not require design review:**

- Painting the exterior of your property the color of your choice with the exception of masonry.
- Making changes to the interior of your property that do not relocate original walls
- Landscaping
- Installing a lawn sprinkler system



## WHAT IS DESIGN REVIEW?

The Historic Preservation Board conducts design reviews for any activity that requires a building permit, window replacement, new fence or zoning change. Some projects may be reviewed and approved by Historic Preservation staff. These types of projects fall under the category of building maintenance, such as:

- A** Reroofing (using like materials)
- B** Mechanical, plumbing and electrical changes
- C** Repairs using like materials that do not change the current look and size of the various parts of the property

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR DESIGN REVIEW?

Applications are available online and in the Metropolitan Area Planning Department. You may need to provide photographs and a site plan or floor plan with the application.

If the application requires Historic Preservation Board review, a hearing will be scheduled for the next available board meeting. Historic Preservation Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at:

**Ronald Reagan Building**  
**271 W. 3rd Street, 2nd floor**

You can find the applications and meeting calendar at [wichita.gov](http://wichita.gov). Please go to the Metropolitan Area Planning Department section of the website and click on "Historic Preservation." Look under the "Documents" tab for the calendar. To locate the applications, please select the "Forms" tab.

## **CAN I MAKE CHANGES TO MY PROPERTY?**

Yes, after receiving approval from the Wichita Historic Preservation Board. The board uses the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and specific Wichita Historic District Design guidelines to make a determination. The Historic Preservation staff is available to consult with you and provide input, regardless of the need for a permit.

## **ARE THERE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALLY LISTED PROPERTIES AND PROPERTIES LOCATED IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT?**

Yes, here are a few examples of activities that could be eligible:

- Window restoration including adding storm windows
- Removal of historically incompatible materials
- Roof replacement
- Electrical, HVAC and plumbing upgrades
- Kitchen and bathroom upgrades
- Painting and floor coverings
- Masonry repairs
- Foundation improvements

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL INCENTIVES?**

The owner of the property applies for the incentive. For-profit, not-for-profit and individuals can be eligible depending on the type of financial incentive. Contact the Historic Preservation Office to find out which incentives are available to you.



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The City of Wichita's Preservation Ordinance protects the architectural and cultural heritage of the city's historic properties. This brochure serves as a guide to help property owners understand how to preserve the historical value of their properties with the help of the Metropolitan Area Planning Department's Historic Preservation Office. Before you begin your next improvement project or addition to your property, please contact the Historic Preservation Office at 316-268-4421.

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**METROPOLITAN AREA  
PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

**271 W. 3RD STREET, SUITE 201  
WICHITA, KS 67202**

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**316-268-4421**

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**wichita.gov**