



Columbia Historic Preservation Commission

Historic Landmark Designation FAQs

Frequently asked questions about designating an individual property as a landmark.

What is a landmark designation?

A designation is an action that recognizes and regulates, offering limited protection of resources (property, structure, location, artifact) that have significant historic, cultural, or architectural value as part of the heritage of Columbia, Boone County, or the State of Missouri.

What qualifies as a landmark?

A resource must have sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship to make it worthy of preservation. Landmarks are historically or culturally significant, sites of historic events, identified with significant individuals or architects, architecturally unique, or are otherwise historically important. (For a complete list of criteria, see Section 29.2.3(c)(5) of the City's Unified Code.)

What are some examples of landmarks?

Columbia has 6 individual resources designated as landmarks, including the David Guitar House, the Miller Building, the Taylor House Inn, and the Wright Brothers Mule Barn. All of Columbia's landmarks are dual-designated as both landmarks and historic districts. The Crane and Fischer Buildings at 910 & 912 E. Walnut comprises one district, but are each individually designated as local landmarks.

What is the process for landmark designation?

A petition for landmark designation can only be filed by the owner of the property. This petition outlines the rationale for landmark status and details any proposed regulations to be placed on historic or architectural features of the resource. It is reviewed by staff then forwarded to the Historic Preservation Commission who prepares a report for the Planning and Zoning Commission. After a public hearing, the approved petition is sent to the City Council for final approval.

What effect does the designation have?

Designation brings attention to a property as a historically significant addition to the city, and regulates alterations to the resource, which can include interior features of landmark properties.

May designated landmarks be altered?

Any construction, alteration, removal, or whole or partial demolition affecting any historical or architectural feature outlined by the establishing ordinance is restricted. Before any of these actions can occur, the owner must submit a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) application to the City for review. The purpose of the COA procedure is to ensure historically appropriate alterations, consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Buildings.

May the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) prohibit demolition of a landmark?

A COA application must be submitted and approved for any demolition, whether in whole or in part. However; economic hardship on the part of the property owner can be considered as well. Denial of a COA can be appealed if the applicant can provide evidence of an economic hardship.

How do I start the landmark designation process?

Begin by contacting the Community Development Department at (573) 874-7239 or planning@CoMo.gov. Staff can explain the program in depth and help you start this process.