

Environment = Character

Each of Huntsville's historic districts possesses a unique character. It is not the houses alone that define a district. The street networks, sidewalks, landscaping, alleys, and tree canopies all play a vital part in defining a district's identity. It is the distinctive combination of buildings and the environment that create the character of the district. The Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission is charged by the state of Alabama and the city of Huntsville to protect the character of each historic district.



Things to remember...

- **Plan ahead!** Because public notice must be given, applications are due the last Monday of each month prior to a meeting date which is the 2nd Monday of the next month.
- **Clearly define your project.** The Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission reviews and takes action on the scope of work presented. If there are major changes to the project or additional work that is not included or presented, an additional hearing may be required.

Just a reminder...

Your address is located within one of Huntsville's designated historic districts. All planned exterior changes including but not limited to... new construction, renovations, alterations, change in paint colors, fencing, or paving must first be approved by the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission (HHPC).



Be sure to plan ahead! The HHPC meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 4:30 in the 1st floor conference room, 320 Fountain Circle.

You or your representative must be present for your project to be reviewed.

The deadline for applications is the last Monday of the preceding month. For questions regarding the review process, meeting dates, deadlines, applications, or information on the Design Review Guidelines and regulations, call the Inspection department at 427-5331 or stop by the office located at 320 Fountain Circle.

City of Huntsville

Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission

320 Fountain Circle

Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Historic Designation and the Architectural Review Process



Twickenham Historic District
Old Town Historic District
Five Points Historic District

Endorsed by

The Historic Huntsville Foundation

What is Historic Designation?

Historic district designation means your neighborhood has been recognized by the state of Alabama and the city of Huntsville as being architecturally or historically significant to the community. These resources are characteristic of architectural styles, periods of development, or important events. The cumulative effects of small, inappropriate changes over time can be as detrimental to the historic character as one large change. Historic districts are not created to prevent changes, but to insure proposed changes will compliment both the individual property and the district as a whole.



What are design guidelines?

The design guidelines for Huntsville's historic districts are intended to set forth the best practices for the treatment of historic properties. For property owners, residents, contractors, and design professionals, the guidelines provide direction in planning projects sympathetic to the special character of each of Huntsville's historic districts. For the Huntsville Historic Preservation Commission members, the guidelines offer a basis for evaluating proposed changes. In reviewing applications, the HHPC considers the property itself, the street context within which it is located, and the special character of the entire historic district.

How does the Architectural Review Process work?

Check with the Inspection Dept. Staff First...

When your property is located in a historic district and you are planning a project to:

- **demolish** a building
- **construct** a new building or accessory structure
- **add** to an existing building (build an addition, add a roof dormer—anything that increases habitable space)
- **move** a building
- **alter** a building
- **change** paint colors
- **remove** and or **replace** windows
- **add** or change a fence
- change landscaping by **grading, building walls, excavating, paving, or constructing new drives or walkways**
- **or otherwise alter the exterior.**

Call the Inspection dept. at 427-5331 **or stop by** 320 Fountain Circle, 2nd Floor, to obtain an application. There is a \$15.00 administrative fee due when you submit your completed application.



Each application will be unique and have its own set of considerations based on location, setting, and scope of project. The Design Review Guidelines, regulations and applications are available at the Inspection dept. or online at:

<http://www.hsvcity.com/inspection/index.php>

Routine maintenance such as repairs using the same materials, painting (using existing colors), and re-roofing (using the same materials) does not require HHPC review. Inspection department staff can determine whether the work requires referral to the HHPC.

Once you receive approval from the HHPC, you may then apply for a building permit. Permit fees (the amount charged depends on the type and value of the work to be done) will be charged to you then.



QUESTIONS—CONTACT

Inspection Department
320 Fountain Circle, 2nd Floor
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Phone: 256.427.5331