

*What elected officials should know about*

# Historic Preservation and Certified Local Governments

## **What is a Certified Local Government?**

Your local government is one of more than 90 cities and counties in Iowa that have a historic preservation program certified by the National Park Service.

The Certified Local Government (CLG) Program is a partnership between your local government, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Park Service to foster historic preservation and help preserve your community's historic character. Through this program, your local government can use historic preservation as a tool to help shape your community's future.

## **Benefits of being part of CLG program**

- ◆ **Grant funding** for historic preservation projects in your community. Grants can help fund National Register nominations, historical surveys, and many other preservation-related projects.
- ◆ **Training and technical assistance** from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding building assessments, surveys and nominations, and other general preservation inquiries.
- ◆ **Membership** in a network other Iowa CLGs that have embraced historic preservation as an effective tool for revitalizing, preserving and increasing awareness of their unique cultural heritage.
- ◆ **Harness economic, environmental, and social benefits** of historic preservation: studies show that historic districts maintain higher property values, experience less population decline, and promote walkability and a greater sense of community.

## **Role of the Historic Preservation Commission**

Your historic preservation commission is an appointed body of citizens that serves as an arm of your local government. The commission exists to advise you, *the elected official*, on historic preservation in your community. The commission also reviews National Register nominations, consults on federal undertakings that affect historic properties, serves as a resource to historic property owners and initiates special projects. The commission should maintain regular communication with their elected body about their work and accomplishments.

## **Role of Elected Officials**

It is important that elected officials consult with the commission on historic preservation issues and projects. This means bringing the commission to the table early in the planning process for projects that have the potential to impact a historic resource. This consultation could include proposed work on your county courthouse or city hall, a proposed streetscape project or a CDBG grant application. Commissions have also been helpful to finding solutions for vacant buildings, addressing demolition by neglect, conducting research, securing grants, and facilitating communication with property owners.

## **The Value of Collaboration**

The CLG program is one of partnerships, and the most important partnership to leverage the value of preservation is between the elected officials and the commission. Your commission can be a source of ideas and brings an important perspective. Open communication and collaboration with your commission will also minimize last minute delays or potential issues when planning projects.

**Learn more about your CLG!** Contact the State Historic Preservation Office to learn more about the CLG program.

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