

These local properties might be eligible for status as a local landmark:



Residence of A.C. Bradish



Residence of Milton Pope



"The Oaks" The Home of General Wallace



Where Can I Get More Information?

The Historic Preservation Commission meetings are open to the public and are held at Noon on the second Thursday of every month at City Hall, 301 West Madison Street, Ottawa, IL.

For more information, visit our website at:

www.cityofottawa.org
or contact us via e-mail:
historicpreservation@cityofottawa.org
or at 815-433-0161, ext. 10 or 40.



City of Ottawa
Historic Preservation Commission
301 W. Madison Street
Ottawa, IL 61350
www.cityofottawa.org

*Recognition to the
Joliet Historic Preservation Commission for their
assistance in the development of this brochure.
9/2008*



Ottawa

Historic
Preservation
Commission



What is a Local Landmark?



What is A Local Historic Landmark?

A local landmark is a house, office building (civic or commercial), factory, bridge or other structure deemed by the city to be historically significant and thus worthy of protection.

Architectural significance can be based on the design of the building, or the notability of its architect. Historic significance can be based on the fame of one of its owners or occupants, or on the building's role in a historic event. In addition, as a general rule, a structure should be at least fifty years old to be eligible for landmark status.



Why Seek Landmark Status?

The City of Ottawa gives a landmarked building a bronze plaque denoting the building's historic name and date of construction. The plaque should be affixed to the front facade of the structure, usually near the front door or entrance.

A landmarked building is given extra protection through a city ordinance. Before it can be altered or demolished, the Ottawa Historic Preservation Commission (OHPC) must review and approve the plans for any such changes.

Alterations made to a landmarked building require both a building permit from the City and a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Commission.

There may also be financial advantages for the owners of landmarked buildings. Property taxes can be frozen - meaning no increase in building assessment - for ten years. Also, in some cases, federal income tax credits for renovations may be possible. Contact OHPC for more details.

What Else is Involved in Having Landmark Status?

Landmarked structures need to undergo a review process before they can be altered. Significant changes made to the front and possible side facades may involve an administrative review by the Historic Preservation Commission Secretary. Major changes will require a Certificate of Appropriateness. Most landmark owners find these procedures coincide with their desires to maintain and enhance their historical properties. The Ottawa Historic Preservation Commission can offer assistance in planning for the changes.

Again, please note that the Certificate of Appropriateness only applies to exterior modifications that can be seen from the street. Additions on the back, and any interior modifications, are not subject to Commission approval. Normal maintenance is not covered.

Landmark status does not force a landmark owner to restoration of the property. If the owner decides to make major changes following the landmark status, then the review and Certificate of Appropriateness procedures must be followed.

It should be noted that although a landmark has some protection, its neighboring structures are not necessarily protected unless they, too, are landmarked. To preserve the character of an entire neighborhood or area, a Local Historic District can be formed. Contact OHPC for more information.



What Rules Exist for Altering Landmark Buildings?

Preservation of our local resources provides important cultural, educational and economic assets for our city. Local landmarks show a sense of civic pride for all of us. Designation as a local historic district or urban conservation district helps maintain neighborhood stability and character. The character of historic buildings and neighborhoods need not be lost through inappropriate expansion, alteration, or through change of use or appearance. We can all participate in the preservation of sites, buildings and objects significant to our history and culture.