

## *An Important Message Regarding Historic Buildings*

The physical appearance of a city is a direct reflection of its people, culture, and history. The City of Binghamton is committed to preserving and maintaining its historic buildings in order to foster and promote a sense of pride in our past and for our future.

To this end, the City has produced a series of flyers on Historic Preservation in the City. Inside these flyers you will find some basic information on various historic preservation topics and places you can go for more information.



# HISTORIC BUILDINGS

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## INFORMATION FOR OWNERS

### AVAILABLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FLYERS

Preserving Our Past: An Introduction to Historic  
Preservation in Binghamton

The Benefits of Historic Preservation:  
Community, Economics, and the Environment

Historic Buildings: What You Need to Know  
Before You Begin Work

Historic Buildings: Information for Owners

Going Green: Eco-Friendly Tips for Historic  
Homes

### City of Binghamton

Planning, Housing, and Community Development  
4th Floor City Hall  
38 Hawley St  
Binghamton, NY 13901

Phone: 607-772-7028  
Fax: 607-772-7063  
[planning@cityofbinghamton.com](mailto:planning@cityofbinghamton.com)

### City of Binghamton

Planning, Housing, and  
Community Development

# Historic Buildings: Information for Owners

**F**ROM THE DESIRE TO LIVE IN A HISTORIC DISTRICT TO THE DESIRE TO LOCATE A BUSINESS IN A VIBRANT HISTORIC DOWNTOWN, THERE ARE MANY REASONS SOMEONE MIGHT WANT TO PURCHASE A HISTORIC BUILDING. OWNING A HISTORIC BUILDING IS NOT JUST LIKE OWNING OTHER BUILDING HOWEVER. HISTORIC BUILDINGS OFTEN HAVE DIFFERENT CHALLENGES AND NEEDS THAN OTHER BUILDINGS, AND IT CAN BE HARD TO KNOW WHAT THESE NEED ARE. BELOW ARE SOME OF THE MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

## **Q: How do I know if my building is historic?**

**A:** Please contact the City Historic Preservation Planner to find out if your property qualifies as a historic property.

## **Q: What if my property qualifies as historic?**

**A:** If your property qualifies as a historic property or is located within a historic district, all exterior alterations, additions, and repairs require a review by the Commission on Architecture & Urban Design (CAUD). This includes alterations that do not require a permit. If you are unsure if your project requires review, contact the Historic Preservation Planner for guidance.

## **Q: Does that mean that if my property is designated and I want to paint it, I have to be reviewed by CAUD?**

**A: Yes.** All exterior changes to a designated property must go through the CAUD review process. This includes, but is not limited to painting, window and door replacement, walls and fences, and signage.

## **Q: Is there an additional fee for a CAUD review?**

**A:** No. The CAUD review process itself does not cost any money. You may, however, be asked to supply some information to the Commission, and these materials may have associated costs.

## **Q: How do I apply for a CAUD review?**

**A:** The application can be found on the Planning Department's website, or by contacting the Historic Preservation Planner. Once the application is filled out and submitted, the Historic Preservation Planner will help you through the rest of the review process.

## **Q: What about the inside of my building?**

**A:** In general, you can change the inside of your home all you want — as long as you are in compliance with local codes. Historic designation does NOT typically stop you from changing the inside of your building.

## **Q: Is there money available to help me rehab a historic building?**

**A:** There is some. The City of Binghamton currently only offers some financial assistance for exterior rehabilitation through the Economic Development Department. Other agencies may have some programs for owners. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has several different programs designed to help owners meet the costs of rehabilitating a historic building. Information can be found on the Nation Trust's website ([www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)).

## **Q: What if I want to get my building designated as a historic building?**

**A:** The first question asked when you want to get something designated as historic is "What makes this building significant?" A building has to have a certain level of significance before it can be designated as historic. The Historic Preservation Planner can assist in making this determination. If you're building is significant, the best way to go about getting a historic designation is to follow the guidelines set forth by the National Park Service. These requirements will usually satisfy local requirements as well.

## MORE INFORMATION ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- The National Trust for Historic Preservation ([www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org))
- The National Park Service ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov))
- New York State Historic Preservation Office ([nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/](http://nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/))
- Binghamton Department of Planning, Housing, and Community Development ([www.cityofbinghamton.com](http://www.cityofbinghamton.com))

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