

Historic Landmarks

Historic landmarks are individual structures or sites that are of architectural, historical, archeological or cultural significance and have been locally designated by zoning with an “H” for Historic Combining Overlay District. View [Austin landmarks by address](#).

About Historic Zoning

To qualify for City Historic Landmark status, a property must meet two or more of the local historic designation criteria. Applicants need to submit historical documentation demonstrating how the property meets these criteria. The City Historic Landmark Commission and Austin City Council review all applications. It may take as long as four months to process a designation. To apply for Historic Landmark Zoning, please contact the Historic Preservation Office prior to submitting an [application](#).

Benefits

The City Council grants a tax exemption to Austin historic landmarks. The amount of exemption available depends on whether or not the property is income-producing or not. Owners must apply for the tax exemption each year and submit to an inspection to ensure the property is being maintained properly. Income-producing landmarked properties may also be eligible for [Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits](#). Designation as a landmark may also be a requirement for other types of incentives, such as [grants](#). Properties are also recognized with a bronze medallion indicating their status as a local landmark.

Responsibilities

Owners are expected to maintain the landmark and are required to apply for a [Certificate of Appropriateness](#) for exterior or site changes. Applications are reviewed based on the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties](#). Approval lets the permit division know that a building permit can be issued for the work. If staff determines the work cannot be approved administratively, they will schedule the item for a public hearing where the item will be discussed by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Advice

Applicants may have their projects reviewed by the Certificate of Appropriateness Committee prior to their application being presented to the full Historic Landmark Commission. The committee meets monthly about two weeks prior to the regular Historic Landmark Commission meeting to provide informal review of applications and may suggest revisions. Recommendations will be presented to the full Historic Landmark Commission as part of the review process.