

Historic Residential Properties

The City of Port Townsend has adopted new Design Review regulations to protect historic homes that contribute so much to our town's unique character. These regulations allow for ongoing maintenance and most additions or modifications to occur while maintaining the current scale of the homes as seen from public streets. Additionally, the outright demolition of a historic home is now prohibited under most circumstances.

The new regulations affect historic homes both within and outside of the City's National Historic Landmark District (NHLD). A detailed Inventory of Historic Homes within the NHLD was conducted for and adopted with the regulations. Changes to or demolition of potentially historic homes lying outside of the NHLD will be reviewed at the time permits for such changes are sought. Below are answers to some **Frequently Asked Questions** about the new regulations:

How do I know if my home is historic?

If your house is within the NHLD, you can view a map of identified historic homes on the [City Maps page](#) or simply contact the Planning & Community Development (PCD).

If your house is outside the NHLD, PCD staff may need to perform research and a site visit (view from the street) to determine whether it is historic or not.

If my home is historic, will I be allowed to make any changes to it?

Of course! However, the types of changes allowed will depend on the homes designation in the Historic Residence Inventory.

In general, additions to a historic home are allowed as long as they are made to the side or rear of the structure. Guidelines in the new code describe how new additions are to be constructed.

Attached to this flyer are sketches showing the most common types of additions and where they are permitted, the chief goal being to retain the principal (or street facing) façade of the house.

What if I can't add onto my home in the ways shown?

The new regulations provide for a *departure* process that can allow a home owner to deviate from the adopted guidelines under certain circumstances. For more information on what types of departures are available, please contact PCD.

Are things like paint color, landscaping or fences regulated differently for a historic home?

No, the new regulations only address physical alterations or additions to the historic home itself.

Historic Residential Properties ~ Sample Additions

