

Landmarks Commission

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Landmarks Frequently Asked Questions

+Expand All Answers

General

- Preservation, restoration, renovation - what's the difference?
- Where can I find someone to do work on my historic property?
- Why was the Boston Landmarks Commission created?
- What is the difference between the Boston Landmarks Commission and the local Historic District Commissions?
- Can I get funding to rehabilitate a historic property?

Historic Districts and Commissions

- Is my building in a Historic District?
- I live in a historic district, but my building itself isn't an individual Boston Landmark. How does this affect me?
- What is a Landmark District?
- What is an Architectural Conservation District?
- What do the local Historic District Commissions do?
- How can I become involved with my local Historic District Commission?
- Are there pre-approved paint colors, products and/or contractors and architects for the districts?

Applications and Design Review

- My project needs zoning relief in addition to design review. Which do I seek first?
- I'd like to do some minor exterior work to my historic building. Do I still have to apply through the Commission?
- Do I have to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness for interior work?
- What happens after I file my application?
- What is an architectural violation?

Certificates of Appropriateness

- How long is a Certificate of Appropriateness valid?
- The work I want to do is not visible from the street. Do I still need a Certificate of Appropriateness?
- How long does it take to receive a Certificate of Appropriateness?
- Is a Certificate of Appropriateness the same as a building permit?
- What types of work require a Certificate of Appropriateness?

National Register of Historic Places

- Is the National Register of Historic Places different from local Landmarks or Districts?
- What types of properties are listed on the National Register?

Research Resources

- Do you have information on my house? If not, how can I learn about the history, or the style, or appropriate paint colors?
- I would like to research a historic building or district. Can I do this at the Boston Landmarks Commission offices?

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