Join hundreds of Olympians who have taken the lead to recognize and preserve the historic places that make Olympia special.

Recommend your property for the Olympia Heritage Register.

**Fast Facts:**
- Established by the Olympia City Council in 1983
- Recognizes and protects places important to Olympia’s history and historic character
- Contains over 400 properties
- Can include buildings, districts, historic sites, archaeological sites, traditional cultural landscapes, structures like bridges, and objects like statues and vessels

**Qualifying for the Register:**

The Olympia Heritage Register recognizes significant properties which are typically at least 50 years old and are of:

- Historical importance;
- Architectural importance;
- Archaeological importance; and/or
- Birthplaces, graves & cemeteries.

The material and design “integrity” of the property is also important. Properties which have changed so much that they have lost their historical character or no longer have ability to teach us something are generally not eligible for the Register.

**Benefits of Being on the Register:**

As stewards of Olympia’s important historic buildings, owners of properties listed on the Register have access to these benefits:

- **Tax Breaks** – Owners of Register properties can apply for the 10-year special property tax valuation for approved renovations.

- **Building Code Relaxation** – Some strict building code requirements can be relaxed in the interest of preserving a Register building’s historic character.

*Updated: April 4, 2014*
• **Bronze Markers** – Bronze plaques which present interesting historical information are installed on Register properties at no expense to the owner.

• **Educational Programs and Advice** – The City’s Historic Preservation Officer and Heritage Commission offer free advice and educational programs to help provide Register property owners with information on how to maintain and upgrade their buildings.

**Commitment to Preservation:**

Owners of properties on the Olympia Heritage Register are dedicated to caring for their buildings so that they continue to contribute to the unique character and story of the City of Olympia. Placement on the Register does not require repairs or restoration and Register properties can be upgraded for modern living. Contemporary design for alterations and additions that is compatible with the scale, material, and character of the property is encouraged.

Whenever a building permit or other City approval is required for work on a Register property, the application process includes Heritage Review. This review looks at how the proposed changes affect the existing features which are considered historically important. You do not need Heritage Review for:

- Ordinary repair and maintenance,
- Emergency repair, and
- Painting.

The City’s Historic Preservation Officer and Heritage Commission members are available to provide advice on caring for properties on the Register.

**Applying for the Register:**

Because owner consent is required, the owner of a historic property makes the application. Applications are reviewed by the Olympia Heritage Commission.

Start the process by contacting the City of Olympia Historic Preservation Officer to discuss your interest. She will provide advice on preparing your application and guiding you through the process.

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**For More Information, contact:**

Michelle Sadlier  
Historic Preservation Officer  
Community Planning and Development  
City of Olympia  
601 4th Avenue East  
Olympia, WA 98501  
msadlier@ci.olympia.wa.us  
360.753.8031