

LaCrosse County

Historic Sites Preservation
Commission

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22.01

Purpose and Intent

(1) It is hereby declared a matter of public policy that the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements of special character of special historical interest or value is a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety and welfare of the people. The purpose of this section is to:

(a) Effect and accomplish the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of such improvements and of districts which represent or reflect elements of the County's cultural, social, economic, political, engineering, anthropological, archaeological and architectural history and prehistory.

(b) Safeguard the County's historic, prehistoric, and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in such historic structures, sites and districts.

(c) Stabilize and improve property values.

(d) Foster civic pride in the beauty and noble accomplishments of the past.

(e) Protect and enhance the County's attractions to residents, tourists and visitors, and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry.

(f) Strengthen the economy of the County.

(g) Promote the use of historic and prehistoric structures, sites and districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people of the County.

(2) This ordinance shall apply to unincorporated areas in the County of La Crosse. This ordinance shall not apply retroactively.

22.03

Membership

(1) The Historic Sites Preservation Commission shall be composed of 7 members. The membership shall be composed of: **1 architect or architectural historian; 1 historian qualified in the field of historic preservation; 1 licensed real estate broker; 1 County Board Supervisor; 1 qualified archaeologist; or make a reasonable effort to find members with these qualifications; and 2 citizen members.** Each member shall have, to the highest extent practicable, a known interest in historic preservation.

(2) The La Crosse County Board Chair shall appoint the commissioners subject to confirmation by the County Board. Of the initial members so appointed, 2 shall serve a term of 1 year, 2 shall serve a term of 2 years, and 3 shall serve a term of 3 years. Thereafter, the term for each mem



22.04

Designation Criteria

(1) A historic structure or historic site designation may be placed on any site, natural or improved, including any building, improvement or structure located thereon, or any area of particular historic, archaeological, architectural or cultural significance to the County of La Crosse, such as historic structures of sites which:

(a) Exemplify or reflect the broad cultural, political, or economic or social history of the nation, state, regional or local community; or,

(b) Are identified with historic personages or with important events in national, state or local history; or,

(c) Embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen, inherently valuable for a study of a period, style, method of construction, or of indigenous materials or craftsmanship; or,

(d) Are representative of the honorable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his/her age; or,

(e) Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

22.05

Duties and Powers

(1) Adopt specific operating guidelines for landmark sites designation providing such are in conformance with the provisions of this paragraph.

(2) Publically advocate opinions and recommendations on issues involving historic preservation.

(3) Cooperate with the Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Wisconsin and the State Historic Preservation Review Board in attempting to include such properties hereunder designated as historic structures, sites, or districts in the National Register of Historic Places.

(4) Work for the continuing education of the citizens about the historic heritage of this County and the historic structures and sites designated under the provisions of this section.

(5) As it deems advisable, receive and solicit funds for the purpose of historic preservation in the County. Such funds shall be placed in a County account for such purpose.

(6) Designation. The Commission shall have the power, subject to the provisions and criteria of sections 22.04 and 22.07 of this Code, to designate historic structures, historic sites and historic districts within the unincorporated areas of the County. Once designated by the Commission, such historic structures, sites and districts shall be subject to all the provisions of this Code, and such designation shall be recorded, at County expense, at the La Crosse County Register of Deed's Office.

(7) Regulation of Construction, Demolition, Reconstruction and Exterior Alteration.

22.08

RECOGNITION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND SITES

At such time as a historic structure or site has been properly designated, the Commission may cause to be prepared, at County expense, a suitable plaque declaring that such property is a historic structure or site.

22.09 Annual Report

The Historic Sites Preservation Commission shall submit an annual report to the La Crosse County Board concerning its entire operation and activities. The Commission shall also submit a required annual report to the State of Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation.

The full ordinance can be viewed in the [LaCrosse County Code of Ordinances](#),

Chapter 22 Historic Sites Preservation Commission

<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/code/pdf/Chapter%2022%20Historic%20Sites%20Preservation%20Commission.pdf>