

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

CP.240. Background Summary.

The City of Astoria, one of the oldest white settlements in the Northwest, has a wealth of historic structures. The City contains one National Historic District, the Uniontown-Alameda District, and several National Historic Landmark structures and sites.

The City protects identified historic resources through its Historic Landmarks Commission. The City's Historic Properties Ordinance, Development Code Article 6, provides the legal basis for regulating alteration, demolition and moving of historic structures, as well as new construction adjacent to historic structures. The ordinance applies to Historic Districts, to historic landmarks, and to Primary and Secondary structures in proposed districts or other inventoried areas.

The City has an on-going program of historical research of potential districts. Uniontown-Alameda National Historic District was inventoried in 1987, nominated in 1988, and received its designation in 1989. The Hobson-Flavel area was inventoried in 1986 and proposed for nomination in 1988. The Adair's area was inventoried in 1989, and has yet to be nominated. The Downtown area was inventoried in 1990, and has yet to be nominated as a National Historic District. Future projects include Uppertown, Fort Hill, and Alderbrook areas. As funds become available, the City will continue the inventory efforts.

[CP.240 amended by Ordinance 91-13, enacted June 17, 1991]

[CP.245 deleted by Ordinance 91-13, enacted June 17, 1991]

CP.250. Historic Preservation Goals.

The City will:

1. Promote and encourage, by voluntary means whenever possible, the preservation, restoration and adaptive use of sites, areas, buildings, structures, appurtenances, places and elements that are indicative of Astoria's historical heritage.
2. Identify and encourage the inclusion of as many qualified buildings and structures as possible on the National and/or State Registry of Historical Sites, and maintain a City register under the stewardship of the historic buildings and sites commission
3. Encourage the application of historical considerations in the beautification of Astoria's Columbia River waterfront.

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4. Actively involve Astoria's citizens in Astoria's historic preservation effort, including the development of a public information and education program.
5. Document the social, economic, cultural, educational and other public benefits to be derived from Astoria historic preservation efforts.
6. Promote appreciation of Astoria's natural resource base, including wooded areas, marshlands, and water-based sites as elements of the City's historic growth and development.
7. Provide appropriate visible recognition of the historical significance of sites, structures, areas (or) elements within the City.

[CP.250 amended by Ordinance 81-16, enacted November 16, 1981]

CP.255. Historic Preservation Policies.

1. The City will use its Historic Properties Section of the Development Code, an educational and technical assistance program, the tax incentives available at the Federal, State, and local levels, and the cooperative efforts of local organizations as the means to protect identified historic buildings and sites.

[CP.255.1 amended by Ordinance 91-13, enacted June 17, 1991]

2. The City will establish procedures for regular financing of historic projects through public and private sources of funds.
3. Historic structures which are tax-foreclosed in the City will be offered to persons committed to restoring them on a homesteading basis. The use of City-owned lands in the vicinity of historic structures or sites will be compatible with the adjacent structures or sites.
4. Historic structures owned by the City or other public bodies will be identified and preserved, and used for purposes that have general public benefit, such as classrooms or community centers. Where appropriate, the City may consider the use of such structures for commercial purposes where a public use is not warranted.
5. Every possible effort will be made to relocate historical structures as an alternative to demolition, and to excavate archaeological sites prior to alteration.
6. The City will make available to property owners information and technical advice on ways of protecting and restoring historical values of private property.

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7. The City of Astoria will review land use activities that may affect known archaeological sites. If it is determined that a land use activity may affect the integrity of an archaeological site, the City of Astoria shall consult with the State Historic Preservation Office on appropriate measures to preserve or protect the site and its contents. Indian cairns, graves and other significant archaeological resources uncovered during construction or excavation shall be preserved intact until a plan for their excavation or reinterment has been developed by the State Historic Preservation Office.

[CP.255.7 added by Ordinance 91-13, enacted June 17, 1991]

8. The City will encourage the preservation of significant historic structures within the Gateway Overlay Area, particularly the former railroad depot located at the foot of 20th Street, and the Svenson Blacksmith Shop located at 1796 Exchange Street.

[CP.255.8 added by Ordinance 98-04, enacted May 4, 1998]

[CP.255.4, CP.255.8, CP.255.9, CP.255.10 deleted by Ordinance 91-13, enacted June 17, 1991 and Sections renumbered accordingly]