



Date February 9, 2026

**RESOLUTION APPROVING 2025 CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG)
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUTHORIZATION FOR MAYOR'S SIGNATURE FOR
SUBMITTAL TO THE IOWA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines has established a Historic Preservation Commission pursuant to Des Moines Municipal Code Section 58-30, having powers and duties to further the efforts of historic preservation in the City by meeting regularly to undertake hearings and activities brought before it which relate to historic districts, structures, landmarks, and designations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines has entered into a Certified Local Government (CLG) Agreement with the State of Iowa under which it may apply for grant funding to support local historic preservation activities, eligibility for which requires that the City submit an annual report of Iowa Certified Local Government documenting its historic preservation work to the State; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 CLG Annual Report is presented for Council review and approval, with authorization granted to the Mayor to sign and submit the Report to the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa as follows:

1. Upon receipt and review, the Certified Local Government Annual Report of the City of Des Moines Historic Preservation Commission is hereby **APPROVED**.
2. That the Mayor of the City of Des Moines is authorized to affix her signature upon said Annual Report and forthwith cause its submittal to the State of Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Moved by _____ to adopt. Second by _____.

/s/ Emily A. Duffy

Emily A. Duffy

Assistant City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
BOESEN				
SIMONSON				
VOSS				
BARRON				
WESTERGAARD				
MANDELBAUM				
GATTO				
TOTAL				

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

CERTIFICATE

I, LAURA BAUMGARTNER, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Mayor

City Clerk

Historic Preservation Commission 2026 Work Program

1. Continue implementation of the Historic Preservation Plan, *ReflectDSM*. Year three implementation priorities include the following:
 - a. Complete work as outlined in awarded 2025 CLG Grant for survey planning work.
 - b. Continue to work with City of Des Moines Communications Division on website updates as outlined in *ReflectDSM*.
 - c. Hold an annual Historic Preservation Commission retreat.
 - i. Continue the work of Commission subcommittees formed during the annual retreat, focused on website communication improvements and window repair and restoration education.
 - d. Increase communication with Local Historic District neighborhood liaisons and improve staff availability to local historic district residents.
 - e. Review and improve salvage and documentation methodology as outlined in *ReflectDSM*.
 - f. Continue to hold coordination and communication meetings related to historic preservation among City departments.
 - g. Conduct education and outreach as outlined in *ReflectDSM*, including the creation of a workshop for window repair and restoration through historic preservation partnerships.
2. Review applications for alterations and new construction in Des Moines' three Local Historic Districts. The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) typically reviews over 100 cases per year within the Local Historic Districts. The HPC also considers local landmark nominations and Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) requests for locally designated properties not located within a Local Historic District and typically reviews 2-5 landmark cases per year.
3. Provide input on city-wide demolition requests as they are being reviewed by staff in accordance with the City's Historic Review of Proposed Demolition Ordinance. Staff typically reviews 50 to 60 demolition requests per year for which the Commission has the opportunity to provide input.
4. Advocate on historic preservation matters that impact the City of Des Moines, as needed.
5. Provide technical assistance to historic property owners, as needed.

Biographical Sketches
Applicants for Historic Preservation Commission - 2025

NAME: Ryan Bergman

ADDRESS: 3219 48th Place, Des Moines, IA 50312

WORK PHONE NUMBER: (515) 422-2891

EMAIL ADDRESS: Ryan.Bergman@gmail.com

Ryan Bergman has joined the Historic Preservation Commission as a lifelong Des Moines resident and a student of city planning, urban design, and American housing history. He is an enthusiastic supporter of Des Moines and believes that cities and neighborhoods should retain their historic character and sense of place while growing to meet the needs of modern residents.

Ryan grew up in Beaverdale by Witmer Park and has also lived in the Drake and Sherman Hill neighborhoods. He holds a B.S. in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University and previously worked for the City of Des Moines on various planning efforts in neighborhoods such as Sherman Hill, Woodland Heights, River Bend, and Gray's Woods. Ryan currently works as a principal engineer for John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group in Urbandale.

Date provided: 12-01-25

Signature: 



Roll Call Number

25-0533

Agenda Item Number

48

Date April 7, 2025

**RESOLUTION CLOSING HEARING AND APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF THE
ULYSSES S. GRANT SCHOOL, LOCATED AT 1031 23RD STREET, AS A LOCAL
LANDMARK, NAMED “ULYSSES S. GRANT SCHOOL”**

WHEREAS, the Ulysses S. Grant School building, located at 1031 23rd Street (“Property”), by petition, has been nominated to designate the Ulysses S. Grant School, as a Local Landmark named “Ulysses S. Grant School”; and

WHEREAS, the Property is legally described as follows:

**LOTS 5 AND 6, CAIN’S SUBDIVISION OF LOT 3 AND THE NORTH 96 FEET
OF LOT 6 BLOCK 3 COTTAGE GROVE ADDITION TO THE CITY OF DES
MOINES, IOWA, AN OFFICIAL PLAT,**

AND

**-EXCEPT THE NORTH 143.08 FEET-, LOT 7, BLOCK 3, COTTAGE GROVE, AN
OFFICIAL PLAT,**

AND

-EXCEPT THE NORTH 96.0 FEET-, LOT 6 IN SAID BLOCK 3,

AND

**A PART OF LOT 5 IN SAID BLOCK 3, AND MORE PARTICULARLY
DESCRIBED AS FOLLOW:**

**BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 5; THENCE
SOUTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT 5, A DISTANCE OF 64.0 FEET;
THENCE EAST TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT 5, SAID POINT
BEING 66.0 FEET SOUTH OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 5;
THENCE NORTH ALONG SAID EAST LINE, 66.0 FEET TO SAID NORTHEAST
CORNER; THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOT 5 TO THE
NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 5 AND TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING,
ALL NOW INCLUDED IN AND FORMING A PART OF THE CITY OF DES
MOINES, POLK COUNTY, IOWA.**

WHEREAS, on February 19, 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission voted 5-0-1 to recommend that the “Ulysses S. Grant School” be designated a local Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the application contains detailed references and explanation regarding the historical nature of the building located at 1031 23rd Street; and

WHEREAS, the City Plan and Zoning Commission has advised that at a public hearing held on March 6, 2025, its members voted 12-0 in support of a motion to recommend APPROVAL of a petition to designate the Ulysses S. Grant School, as a Local Landmark named “Ulysses S. Grant School”; and

**Roll Call Number**25-0533**Agenda Item Number**48**Date** April 7, 2025

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Municipal Code section 58-60 requires a public hearing be held to consider the application; and,

WHEREAS, on March 26, 2025, by Roll Call No. 25-0438, it was duly resolved by the City Council that the request for Local Landmark Designation be set down for hearing on April 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., to be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, due notice of the hearing was published in the Des Moines Register, as provided by law, setting forth the time and place for hearing on said proposed Local Landmark Designation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:

1. The public hearing on the application is hereby closed.
2. The “Ulysses S. Grant School” meets the requirements of Des Moines Municipal Code section 58-58 to be designated as a local landmark because the Property located at 1031 23rd Street:
 - Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture; and,
 - Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
3. The City Council accepts the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and the Plan and Zoning Commission and grants the petition to have the “Ulysses S. Grant School” designated a local landmark.
4. The City Clerk is directed to file the designation and description of the “Ulysses S. Grant School” with the Development Services Department and record this resolution as the designation and description of “Ulysses S. Grant School” in the office of the county recorder.



Roll Call Number

250533

Agenda Item Number

48

Date April 7, 2025

Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Second by Coleman.

(Council Communication No. 25- 140)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Chas M. Cahill
Chas M. Cahill
Assistant City Attorney

(CAHP-2025-000007)

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
BOESEN	✓			
SIMONSON	✓			
VOSS	✓			
COLEMAN	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
MANDELBAUM	✓			
GATTO	✓			
TOTAL	7			

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Connie Boesen

Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, LAURA BAUMGARTNER, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Laura Baumgartner

City Clerk

CITY OF DES MOINES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 1

CAHP-2025-000007

Applicant: Nomination by petition. The nomination form was prepared by Philip Gustafson. The property is owned by the New Life Center.

Location: 1031 23rd Street.

Requested Action: Nomination of the Ulysses S. Grant School as a Local Landmark.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The subject property is located on the east side of 23rd Street next to Drake Park. Directly to the south is Cottage Grove Avenue and Interstate 235. The site contains the Ulysses S. Grant school building constructed circa 1885, and a non-historical addition to the north of the Grant School constructed in 1981, according to the Polk County Assessor website.

II. APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE CITY CODE

Section 58-56 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance contains the landmark purpose statement. Section 58-58 contains the criteria for the designation of a landmark and Section 58-60 establishes the nomination process.

Sec. 58-56. Purpose.

It is declared as a matter of public policy that the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements of special character or special historical or aesthetic 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 article is to:

- (1) Effect and accomplish the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of such improvements which represent or reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history;
- (2) Safeguard the city's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in such improvements;
- (3) Stabilize and improve property values;
- (4) Foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past;
- (5) Protect and enhance the city's attractions to residents, tourists, and visitors and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry;
- (6) Strengthen the economy of the city; and

(7) Promote the use of landmarks for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people of the city.

Sec. 58-58. Designation criteria.

- (a) For purpose of this article, a landmark or landmark site designation may be placed on any site, natural or improved, including any building, improvement or structure located thereon that possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and that:
 - (1) Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture;
 - (2) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
 - (3) Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
 - (4) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
 - (5) Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Sec. 58-60. Procedures.

- (a) The historic preservation commission shall consider the nomination of landmarks and landmark sites, and make a report and recommendation on such nomination to the city plan and zoning commission and city council as provided below.
- (b) Notice that an application for designation of a landmark or landmark site is being considered shall be given to the owner of the parcel on which the proposed landmark is situated or which is part of the proposed landmark site in accordance with the following:
 - (1) Such notice shall be served by certified mail, addressed to the owner at his or her last known address as such appears in the records of the county treasurer's office, or if there is no name on such records, such notice may be served by regular mail addressed to "owner" at the street address of the property in question.
 - (2) Such owner shall have the right to confer with the historic preservation commission prior to final action by the commission on the application.
 - (3) The historic preservation commission may, in addition, hold the public hearing of the proposed designation by giving notice as required by law.
- (c) After such investigation by the historic preservation commission, but in no case more than 60 days after the receipt of the complete application, the application for designation shall be recommended for approval or disapproval. Such recommendation shall be in writing and shall state the reasons for recommending approval or disapproval. The recommendation may limit itself to the proposed landmark or landmark site as described

in the application or may include modifications thereof. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to and filed with the plan and zoning commission, within five days after making such recommendation.

- (d) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the plan and zoning commission shall schedule a public hearing at a specific place, date and time, not more than 30 days after such receipt, by giving notice as required by law.
- (e) Within 30 days after the public hearing, the plan and zoning commission shall forward such application to the city council, together with the recommendation of the historic preservation commission. The plan and zoning commission may adopt the recommendation of the historic preservation commission as its own or may prepare a written recommendation of its own. The plan and zoning commission may limit itself to the proposed landmark or landmark site or may include modifications thereof. If the modification requires an additional public hearing, the plan and zoning commission shall hold such hearing before forwarding the application to the city council.
- (f) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the council shall schedule a public hearing to consider the recommendation at a specific place, date and time, not more than 30 days after such receipt, by giving notice as required by law.
- (g) The city council, after public hearing, may approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the recommendation of the plan and zoning commission by a majority vote of its membership. If the plan and zoning commission shall have failed to act within the time limit set forth in this section, the city council may, nevertheless, approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the proposed landmark or landmark site as originally proposed or modified by a majority vote of its membership.

The Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the Plan and Zoning Commission and the City Council for review in accordance with Section 58-60 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Historic Preservation Commission and the Plan and Zoning Commission are recommending bodies in this process. The decision to designate a property or site as a local Landmark is made by the City Council.

If the property is designated as a Landmark then any alteration, new construction, or demolition would be subject to review by the Historic Preservation Commission.

III. ANALYSIS

A nomination must demonstrate that the subject building or site possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and meets one or more of the following criterion.

- (1) Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture;
- (2) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- (3) Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- (4) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (5) Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

The following information from the submitted nomination form and other sources make the case for how the Ulysses S. Grant school “is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history” and “embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.”

- The Ulysses S Grant school is one of the oldest public school buildings still remaining in Des Moines. It was built in 1885, with additions in 1895 and 1910. Its design is typical of school buildings in Des Moines from the 1880s. It is a two-story brick building that was stuccoed in the early part of the 20th century. The design is unique yet simple in form, with a detailed cornice that runs the perimeter of the building and a decorative archway over doors that face south. The Sanborn maps indicate that a crematorium was connected to the school at one time (area later shown as boiler room on the Sanborn maps), and that the building was stuccoed between 1901 and 1920.
- The Grant School is an important remnant of the early school history of Des Moines and represents the pride in which the City held its school buildings, teachers and school system. A Des Moines register article from 1886 described the school in the following manner:

“The new school house on Cottage Grove Avenue, called the Grant School, is rapidly nearing completion, being now under roof and ready for the carpenters. The building is one of the most tasty of many already adorning the city, and will prove a decided addition to the collection of which the city is so proud. There has been no striving after ornamentation in its design, but everything is so arranged as to convey an idea of stability and use. It will be fitted up in the most complete manner, and will be ready for occupancy soon after the beginning of the school year.”

Most of the early Des Moines school buildings have been lost over time, with the exception of the Grant School. The successor of the Grant School in the Des

Moines Public School systems is Edmunds Elementary School, located at 950 15th Street. The Grant School was sold in 1974. Prior to its sale, it was a K-8 school in the old West Des Moines school district which was in existence until 1907 until a merger of several school districts.

- The Grant School was built to accommodate the growing population of Des Moines as the city expanded westward. Demand for school buildings continued to increase after the original 6-room Grant School building was built in 1885, resulting in an addition of 4 rooms in 1895. In 1910, the school expanded yet again with another 4-room addition plus a cafeteria. An article from the Des Moines register from 1945 shows the construction of a one-room annex that contained a classroom and a cloakroom (visible on the 1957 Sanborn).
- The Grant School was named for Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885). Grant was the 18th President of the United States (1869–1877), and a leading Union general during the Civil War. As president, he supported Reconstruction efforts and advocated for public education as essential to a strong democracy.

The nomination has demonstrated that it meets criterion 2 and 4 and designation as a landmark would meet the purpose of the Historic Preservation Ordinance as defined by section 58-56.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the property at 1031 23rd Street, locally known as the Ulysses S. Grant School, be designated as a local Landmark.



Roll Call Number

25-1559

Agenda Item Number

41

Date November 17, 2025

**RESOLUTION HOLDING HEARING AND APPROVING THE DESIGNATION OF THE W.W.
WITMER HOUSE LOCATED AT 2900 GRAND AVE.,
AS A LOCAL LANDMARK, NAMED "W.W. WITMER HOUSE"**

WHEREAS, John M. Beard, owner of the property located at 2900 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa ("Property"), has made application to designate the Property as a Local Landmark named "W.W. Witmer House"; and

WHEREAS, the Property is legally described as follows:

THE NORTH 240 FEET OF LOT 1 IN LANGAN PLACE, AN OFFICIAL PLAT,
NOW INCLUDED IN AND FORMING A PART OF THE CITY OF DES
MOINES, POLK COUNTY, IOWA.

WHEREAS, the application contains detailed references and explanation regarding the historical nature of the building located at 2900 Grand Avenue; and

WHEREAS, on September 17, 2025, the Historic Preservation Commission voted 5-0-2 to recommend that the "W.W. Witmer House" be designated a Local Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the City Plan and Zoning Commission has advised that at a public hearing held on October 16, 2025, its members voted 9-0 in support of a motion to recommend **APPROVAL** of the application from the John M. Beard to designate the "W.W. Witmer House" located at 2900 Grand Ave. as a Local Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Municipal Code Section 58-60 requires a public hearing be held before the City Council to consider this application.

WHEREAS, on November 3, 2025, by Roll Call No. 25-1480, it was duly resolved by the City Council that the request for Local Landmark Designation be set down for hearing on November 17, 2025, at 5:00p.m., to be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, due notice of the hearing as published in the Des Moines Register on November 5, 2025, as provided by law, setting forth the time and place for hearing on said proposed Local Landmark Designation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:



Roll Call Number

25-1559

Agenda Item Number

41

Date November 17, 2025

1. The public hearing on the application is hereby closed.
2. The W.W. Witmer House meets the requirements of the Des Moines Municipal Code section 58-58 to be designated as a local landmark because the Property located at 2900 Grand Avenue:
 - Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture;
 - Is associated with events that made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history;
 - Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values.
3. The city Council accepts the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and the Plan and Zoning Commission and grants the application to have the "W.W. Witmer House" designated as a local landmark.
4. The City Clerk is directed to file the designation and description of the "W.W. Witmer House" with the Development Services Department and record this resolution as the designation and description of "W.W. Witmer House" in the office of the Polk County Recorder.

MOVED BY Mandelbaum TO ADOPT

SECOND BY Voss

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Emily A. Duffy

Emily A. Duffy

Assistant City Attorney

CAHP-2025-000048

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
BOESEN	✓			
SIMONSON	✓			
VOSS	✓			
COLEMAN	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
MANDELBAUM	✓			
GATTO	✓			
TOTAL	7			

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Connie Boesen

Mayor

CERTIFICATE

I, LAURA BAUMGARTNER, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Laura Baumgartner

City Clerk

CITY OF DES MOINES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
Wednesday, September 17, 2025

AGENDA ITEM #1

CAHP-2025-000048

Applicant: John Beard (owner) represented by Jack Porter (applicant).

Location: 2900 Grand Avenue.

Requested Action: Nomination of the W.W. Witmer House as a Local Landmark.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The subject property measures 194 feet by 340 feet. It contains a 2 1/2-story house built circa 1906 and a garage built circa 1975 according to the Polk County Assessor webpage. The property is located on the southwest corner of the Grand Avenue and 29th Street Intersection.

II. APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE CITY CODE

Section 58-56 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance contains the landmark purpose statement. Section 58-58 contains the criteria for the designation of a landmark and Section 58-60 establishes the nomination process.

Sec. 58-56. Purpose.

It is declared as a matter of public policy that the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements of special character or special historical or aesthetic 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 article is to:

- (1) Effect and accomplish the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of such improvements which represent or reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history;
- (2) Safeguard the city's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in such improvements;
- (3) Stabilize and improve property values;
- (4) Foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past;
- (5) Protect and enhance the city's attractions to residents, tourists, and visitors and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry;
- (6) Strengthen the economy of the city; and
- (7) Promote the use of landmarks for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people of the city.

Sec. 58-58. Designation criteria.

- (a) For purpose of this article, a landmark or landmark site designation may be placed on any site, natural or improved, including any building, improvement or structure located thereon that possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and that:
 - (1) Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture;
 - (2) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
 - (3) Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
 - (4) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
 - (5) Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Sec. 58-60. Procedures.

- (a) The historic preservation commission shall consider the nomination of landmarks and landmark sites, and make a report and recommendation on such nomination to the city plan and zoning commission and city council as provided below.
- (b) Notice that an application for designation of a landmark or landmark site is being considered shall be given to the owner of the parcel on which the proposed landmark is situated or which is part of the proposed landmark site in accordance with the following:
 - (1) Such notice shall be served by certified mail, addressed to the owner at his or her last known address as such appears in the records of the county treasurer's office, or if there is no name on such records, such notice may be served by regular mail addressed to "owner" at the street address of the property in question.
 - (2) Such owner shall have the right to confer with the historic preservation commission prior to final action by the commission on the application.
 - (3) The historic preservation commission may, in addition, hold the public hearing of the proposed designation by giving notice as required by law.
- (c) After such investigation by the historic preservation commission, but in no case more than 60 days after the receipt of the complete application, the application for designation shall be recommended for approval or disapproval. Such recommendation shall be in writing and shall state the reasons for recommending approval or disapproval. The recommendation may limit itself to the proposed landmark or landmark site as described in the application or may include modifications thereof. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to and filed with the plan and zoning commission, within five days after making such recommendation.

- (d) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the plan and zoning commission shall schedule a public hearing at a specific place, date and time, not more than 30 days after such receipt, by giving notice as required by law.
- (e) Within 30 days after the public hearing, the plan and zoning commission shall forward such application to the city council, together with the recommendation of the historic preservation commission. The plan and zoning commission may adopt the recommendation of the historic preservation commission as its own or may prepare a written recommendation of its own. The plan and zoning commission may limit itself to the proposed landmark or landmark site or may include modifications thereof. If the modification requires an additional public hearing, the plan and zoning commission shall hold such hearing before forwarding the application to the city council.
- (f) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the council shall schedule a public hearing to consider the recommendation at a specific place, date and time, not more than 30 days after such receipt, by giving notice as required by law.
- (g) The city council, after public hearing, may approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the recommendation of the plan and zoning commission by a majority vote of its membership. If the plan and zoning commission shall have failed to act within the time limit set forth in this section, the city council may, nevertheless, approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the proposed landmark or landmark site as originally proposed or modified by a majority vote of its membership.

The Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the Plan and Zoning Commission and the City Council for review in accordance with Section 58-60 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Historic Preservation Commission and the Plan and Zoning Commission are recommending bodies in this process. The decision to designate a property or site as a local Landmark is made by the City Council.

If the property is designated as a Landmark then any future alteration, new construction, or demolition would be subject to review by the Historic Preservation Commission.

III. ANALYSIS

A nomination must demonstrate that the subject building or site possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and meets one or more of the following criterion.

- (1) Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture;
- (2) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- (3) Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- (4) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic

values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

- (5) Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

The nomination suggests the site meets Criterion 1, 2 and 4. The W.W. Witmer House is a Colonial Revival residential structure constructed in 1905 for William Wirt Witmer. W.W. Witmer was a local newspaper publisher and civic leader in Des Moines. The house was designed by the architectural firm Liebbe, Nourse & Rasmussen and represents the early twentieth-century high-style in Des Moines. Following its time as a private residence, the W.W. Witmer House was the Iowa Governor's Mansion from 1949 to 1976, when the Iowa Governor's Mansion was moved to Terrace Hill. To this day the house retains a high degree of historic integrity as a contributing structure in the Owl's Head Local Historic District. The following information from the Witmer House Iowa Site Inventory sheet demonstrates how the Witmer House meets these criteria:

Criterion 1 - Significance in American History, Architecture, Archaeology, and Culture:

- The W.W. Witmer house is an example of a high-style Colonial Revival house in Iowa, designed by the renowned architectural firm of the time Liebbe, Nourse & Rasmussen.
- As the founder of the *Evening Leader* and co-founder of the Western Newspaper Union, William Wirt Witmer was a central figure to Des Moines' civic and commercial development and the house represents his influence in Des Moines during this time.
- The home's architectural significance was documented in the *Western Architect* (Vol. 9, No. 2, February 1906) publication in 1906. The design and construction were recognized with a photograph and detailed description, demonstrating its influence beyond Iowa.
- In 1977, the house was documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey. And shortly after in 1984 the house was recognized in A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester as an example of "Eclectic Houses: Colonial Revival design" (page 134), further reinforcing its architectural significance on both a local and national level.

Criterion 2 - Association with Events that Made a Significant Contribution to Broad Patterns of Our History:

- The W.W. Witmer house served as the Iowa Governor's Mansion from 1949 to 1976, providing the official residence for six Iowa governors. During this three-decade period, the house hosted many political and cultural officials and their associated events, helping to shape political, cultural and civic life statewide.
- The W.W. Witmer House is directly tied to Witmer's leadership in shaping Greenwood Park, Owl's Head, and surrounding neighborhoods of Des Moines. In

1880, Witmer began buying land west of Terrace Hill that would eventually become the area where his home was built. He continued to acquire land and lead other developments including "Greenwood Park", "Owl's Head", an area north of Woodland that was named "Middlesex", and another area north of Kingman Boulevard that was named "Wessex".

Criterion 4 – Embodies the Distinctive Characteristics of a Type, Period, or Method of Construction, Work of a Master, or High Artistic Values:

- As a contributing structure to the Owl's Head Local Historic District, the house stands out as a distinctive and recognizable landmark in the neighborhood and elevates the character of the surrounding area.
- The W.W. Witmer house is an outstanding and nationally recognized example of Colonial (Georgian) Revival architecture with defining features such as Ionic pilasters, a Palladian window, semicircular entrance porch, pedimented dormers, and finely detailed interior woodwork.
- Despite the renovations that occurred during its use as the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Association Headquarters (after its time as the Governor's Mansion), it retains a high level of historic integrity.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the property at 2900 Grand Avenue, locally known as the W.W. Witmer House, be designated as a local Landmark.



Roll Call Number

35.0862

Agenda Item Number

57

Date June 9, 2025

RESOLUTION CLOSING HEARING AND APPROVING REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF DES MOINES (OWNER), REPRESENTED BY DWAYNE MYERS (OFFICER), FOR DESIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 602 ROBERT D. RAY DRIVE, INCLUDING THE ARGONNE ARMORY (ARMORY AND WORLD WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING) AS A LOCAL LANDMARK

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines (owner), represented by Dwayne Myers (officer), located at 602 Robert D. Ray Drive ("Property"), have made application to designate the "Argonne Armory" (Armory and World War Memorial Building); and

WHEREAS, the Property is legally described as follows:

A PART OF ROBERT D. RAY DRIVE RIGHT OF WAY, AS PRESENTLY ESTABLISHED AND A PART OF DES MOINES STREET RIGHT OF WAY; AS PRESENTLY ESTABLISHED, LYING SOUTH OF AND ADJACENT TO LOT 3, BLOCK 1 OF EAST FORT DES MOINES AND ALL OF VACATED DES MOINES STREET AS DESCRIBED IN ORDINANCE 2038 AND ALL OF LOTS 2 AND 3, BLOCK 1, EAST FORT DES MOINES AND A PART OF LOT 1, BLOCK 2, EAST FORT DES MOINES AND A PART OF LOT 14, THE SIBLEY ADDITION, ALL BEING OFFICIAL PLATS, NOW INCLUDED IN AND FORMING A PART OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, POLK COUNTY, IOWA AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 2; THENCE SOUTH 15°(DEGREES) 18'(MINUTES) 26"(SECONDS) EAST, 54.89 FEET; THENCE NORTH 74°41'34" EAST, 13.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 15°18'26" EAST, 26.43 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 74°41'34" WEST, 13.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 15°18'26" EAST, 95.60 FEET; THENCE NORTH 74°41'34" EAST, 13.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 15°18'26" EAST, 26.46 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 74°41'34" WEST, 13.08 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 15°18'26" EAST, 49.44 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 74°41'34" WEST, 125.52 FEET; THENCE NORTH 15°18'26" WEST, 253.02 FEET; THENCE NORTH 74°47'04" EAST, 125.52 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 32440 SQUARE FEET.

WHEREAS, the application contains detailed references and explanation regarding the historical nature of the building located at 602 Robert D. Ray Drive; and,

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2024, the Historic Preservation Commission voted 7-0 to recommend that the "Argonne Armory" (Armory and World War Memorial Building) be designated a local Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the City Plan and Zoning Commission has advised that at a public hearing held on July 18, 2024, its members voted 13-0 in support of a motion to recommend **APPROVAL** of a



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request from the City of Des Moines (Owner), to designate the “Argonne Armory” (Armory and World War Memorial Building) as a Local Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Des Moines Municipal Code section 58-60 requires a public hearing be held to consider the application; and,

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2025, by Roll Call No. 25-0736, it was duly resolved by the City Council that the request for Local Landmark Designation be set down for hearing on June 9, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., to be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, Iowa; and

WHEREAS, due notice of the hearing was published in the Des Moines Register, as provided by law, setting forth the time and place for hearing on said proposed Local Landmark Designation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:

1. The public hearing on the application is hereby closed.
2. The “Argonne Armory” meets the requirements of Des Moines Municipal Code section 58-58 to be designated as a local landmark because the Property located at 75 East Army Post Road:
 - Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture; and
 - Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; and,
 - Embodyes the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
3. The City Council accepts the recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission and the Plan and Zoning Commission and grants the application of the City of Des Moines to have the “Argonne Armory” designated a local landmark.
4. The City Clerk is directed to file the designation and description of the “Argonne Armory” with the Development Services Department and record this resolution as



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the designation and description of "Argonne Armory" in the office of the Polk County Recorder.

Moved by Mandelbaum to adopt. Second by Voss.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

/s/ Lisa A. Wieland

Lisa A. Wieland

Assistant City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
BOESEN	✓			
SIMONSON	✓			
VOSS	✓			
COLEMAN	✓			
WESTERGAARD	✓			
MANDELBAUM	✓			
GATTO	✓			
TOTAL	7			
MOTION CARRIED			APPROVED	

CERTIFICATE

I, LAURA BAUMGARTNER, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Connie Boesen

Mayor

Laura Baumgartner

City Clerk

CITY OF DES MOINES HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
Wednesday, June 26, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 5

CAHP-2024-000054

Applicant: City of Des Moines.

Location: 602 Robert D. Ray Drive.

Requested Action: Nomination of the “Argonne Armory” (Armory and World War Memorial Building) as a Local Landmark.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The subject property is located on the west side of Robert D. Ray Drive next to the Des Moines River. Directly to the south is the Brenton Skating Plaza at the intersection of East Grand Avenue and Robert D. Ray Drive. The site contains the 240-foot by 112-foot Armory building constructed circa 1934 according to the Iowa Site Inventory form from 1987.

II. APPLICABLE SECTIONS OF THE CITY CODE

Section 58-56 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance contains the landmark purpose statement. Section 58-58 contains the criteria for the designation of a landmark and Section 58-60 establishes the nomination process.

Sec. 58-56. Purpose.

It is declared as a matter of public policy that the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of improvements of special character or special historical or aesthetic 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 article is to:

- (1) Effect and accomplish the protection, enhancement and perpetuation of such improvements which represent or reflect elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history;
- (2) Safeguard the city's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage, as embodied and reflected in such improvements;
- (3) Stabilize and improve property values;
- (4) Foster civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past;
- (5) Protect and enhance the city's attractions to residents, tourists, and visitors and serve as a support and stimulus to business and industry;
- (6) Strengthen the economy of the city; and

(7) Promote the use of landmarks for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people of the city.

Sec. 58-58. Designation criteria.

- (a) For purpose of this article, a landmark or landmark site designation may be placed on any site, natural or improved, including any building, improvement or structure located thereon that possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and that:
 - (1) Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture;
 - (2) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
 - (3) Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
 - (4) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
 - (5) Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Sec. 58-60. Procedures.

- (a) The historic preservation commission shall consider the nomination of landmarks and landmark sites, and make a report and recommendation on such nomination to the city plan and zoning commission and city council as provided below.
- (b) Notice that an application for designation of a landmark or landmark site is being considered shall be given to the owner of the parcel on which the proposed landmark is situated or which is part of the proposed landmark site in accordance with the following:
 - (1) Such notice shall be served by certified mail, addressed to the owner at his or her last known address as such appears in the records of the county treasurer's office, or if there is no name on such records, such notice may be served by regular mail addressed to "owner" at the street address of the property in question.
 - (2) Such owner shall have the right to confer with the historic preservation commission prior to final action by the commission on the application.
 - (3) The historic preservation commission may, in addition, hold the public hearing of the proposed designation by giving notice as required by law.
- (c) After such investigation by the historic preservation commission, but in no case more than 60 days after the receipt of the complete application, the application for designation shall be recommended for approval or disapproval. Such recommendation shall be in writing and shall state the reasons for recommending approval or disapproval. The recommendation may limit itself to the proposed landmark or landmark site as described in the application or may include modifications thereof. Such recommendation shall be

forwarded to and filed with the plan and zoning commission, within five days after making such recommendation.

- (d) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the plan and zoning commission shall schedule a public hearing at a specific place, date and time, not more than 30 days after such receipt, by giving notice as required by law.
- (e) Within 30 days after the public hearing, the plan and zoning commission shall forward such application to the city council, together with the recommendation of the historic preservation commission. The plan and zoning commission may adopt the recommendation of the historic preservation commission as its own or may prepare a written recommendation of its own. The plan and zoning commission may limit itself to the proposed landmark or landmark site or may include modifications thereof. If the modification requires an additional public hearing, the plan and zoning commission shall hold such hearing before forwarding the application to the city council.
- (f) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the council shall schedule a public hearing to consider the recommendation at a specific place, date and time, not more than 30 days after such receipt, by giving notice as required by law.
- (g) The city council, after public hearing, may approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the recommendation of the plan and zoning commission by a majority vote of its membership. If the plan and zoning commission shall have failed to act within the time limit set forth in this section, the city council may, nevertheless, approve, approve with modification, or disapprove the proposed landmark or landmark site as originally proposed or modified by a majority vote of its membership.

The Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the Plan and Zoning Commission and the City Council for review in accordance with Section 58-60 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The Historic Preservation Commission and the Plan and Zoning Commission are recommending bodies in this process. The decision to designate a property or site as a local Landmark is a public policy decision made by the City Council.

If the property is designated as a Landmark then any alteration, new construction, or demolition would be subject to review by the Historic Preservation Commission.

III. ANALYSIS

A nomination must demonstrate that the subject building or site possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and meets one or more of the following criterion.

- (1) Is significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture;

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Page 3

- (2) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- (3) Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- (4) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (5) Has yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

The nomination suggests the site meets Criterions 1, 2, and 4. The Argonne Armory is a contributing structure in the Civic Center National Historic District. The following excerpts from the Armory and World War Memorial Building Iowa Site Inventory sheet from the Civic Center Historic District nomination (prepared by Barbara Beving Long, 1987) make the case for how the site meets those criterions:

- “The Armory was the 7th and last building of the river front Civic Center (6 are extant). It contributes strongly to the uniformity of color, height, and placement that characterizes the Civic Center. It also calls attention to the role of the federal government in funding long-held plans for the Civic Center.”
- “The Armory displays typical features of the Art Deco Style. Stone laid with narrow, unobtrusive joints provides a hard-edged, smooth surface. Vertical lines (actually groups of rounded vertical moulding) in panels at the windows and on pilasters provide a vertical emphasis. Another Art Deco element are the raised parapets at the two east entries which give a stepped effect and emphasize the geometric form of the building.”
- “The Armory, one of the best examples of the Art Deco Style in Des Moines, marks the demise of the Beaux-Arts influence on public buildings in general and on the Des Moines civic center in particular.”
- “Construction began in 1934, making the Armory the last of the seven public buildings (six remain) to grace the river front and comprise the civic center.”
- “The Armory originally had a dining room, kitchen, club room, storage and rifle range in the basement. Club rooms and offices were dotted throughout the first and second floors as well. The dominant room was the two-story drill hall. The interior has been completely modified to accommodate city and county offices, including addition of another floor to use all the drill hall space. As late as the 1960’s, the drill hall was intact, but was used for municipal recreation purposes.”
- “There is ample precedent for provision of an armory on the river front. In 1900 it was announced that a 110 foot x 150 foot armory would be built there south and west of the Grand Avenue bridge. The Robinson Plan of 1909 also included an

armory on the river front. And in 1911 the Chamber of Commerce was behind efforts to gain a river front armory.”

- “In 1919 plans were announced for a \$500,000 Memorial Auditorium and Art Museum on the river front. Brainchild of the Des Moines Ad Club, the idea had the blessing of the Town Planning Commission, the American Legion, the Equality League, and the Des Moines Association of Fine Arts. The favored site was the block south of the Municipal Building, across from the Library.”
- “In 1921 the Planning Commission recommended construction of a memorial building “for the boys from Polk county who served in the army and navy during the world war.” However, it soon became clear that the legal status of the additional tax levy to underwrite construction was in question, and no progress was made. With the 1930s Depression and federal relief programs came renewed calls for a river front armory. Problems with financing immediately surfaced, especially concerning the type of bonds to use. One of the results was that the City obtained ownership of the building, and the State leased space for the Argonne Post of the American Legion. The federal government paid for a portion of the labor and materials through the PWA.”

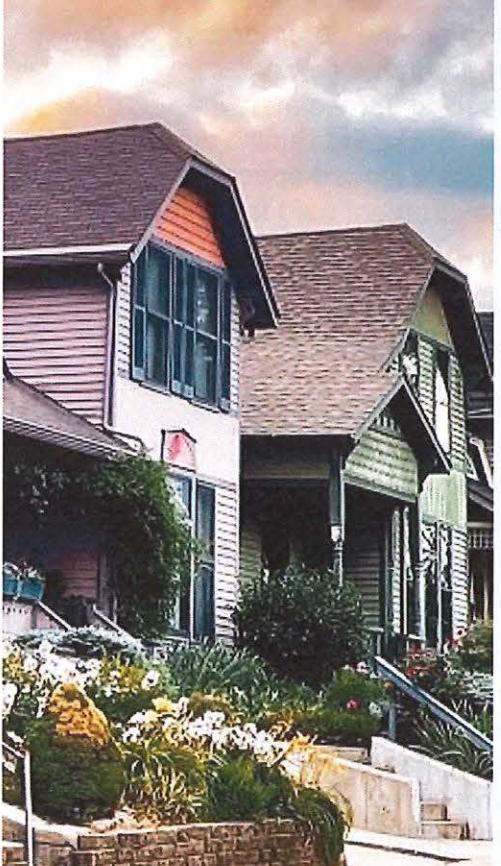
The following is an excerpt from the Civic Center District: The City Beautiful Movement and City Planning in Des Moines, Iowa 1892-1938 Report prepared by Barbara Beving Long in 1987:

“The Civic Center district of river front buildings, structure and land forms is unique in the city. No other group of buildings and landscape combines to illustrate as strongly and directly the important themes outlined in the Multiple Properties Cover Document, the City Beautiful Movement and City Planning in Des Moines, Iowa, 1892-1938.

Civic Center buildings and structures are distinguished by their river front locations and by their harmonious design, style, scale, use, siting, and materials. River front improvements – river walls, bridges, dams specialized sewer systems – marry environmental and manmade considerations. They show the effect of a major, flood-prone river upon urban development and the steps taken to diminish flood damage.”

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the property “Argonne Armory” (Armory and World War Memorial Building) be designated as a local Landmark.



2025 Annual Retreat

City of Des Moines | Historic Preservation Commission

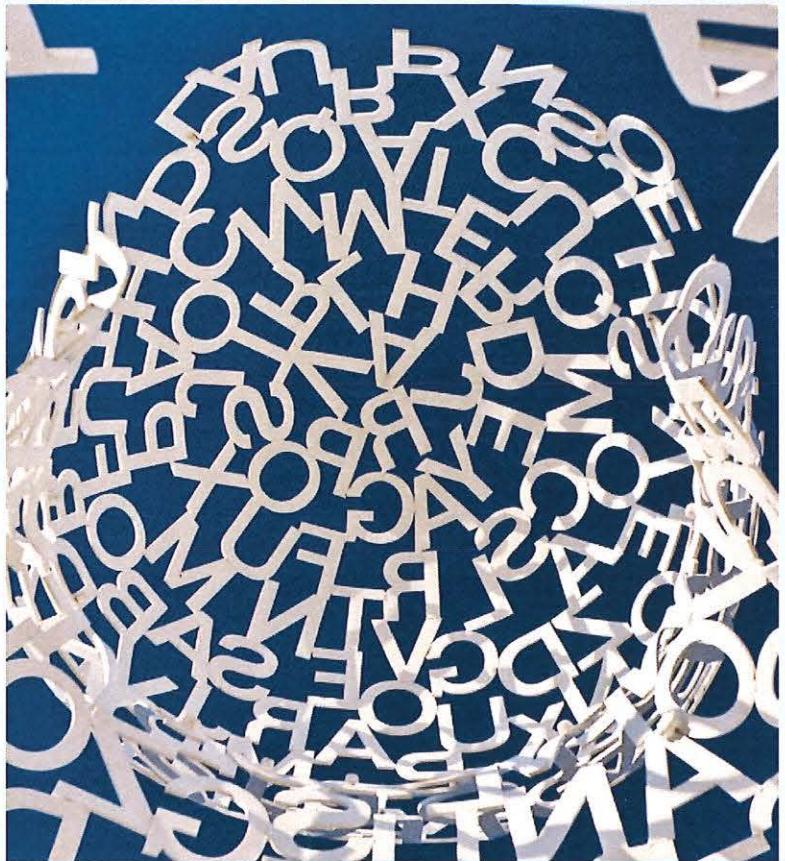
May 12, 2025 agenda

Historic Preservation Commission Annual Retreat

1. Welcome
2. Commission Year in Review - 2024
3. ReflectDSM Implementation Update
4. Commission Project Discussion
5. Tour

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Year in Review 2024



The Wins

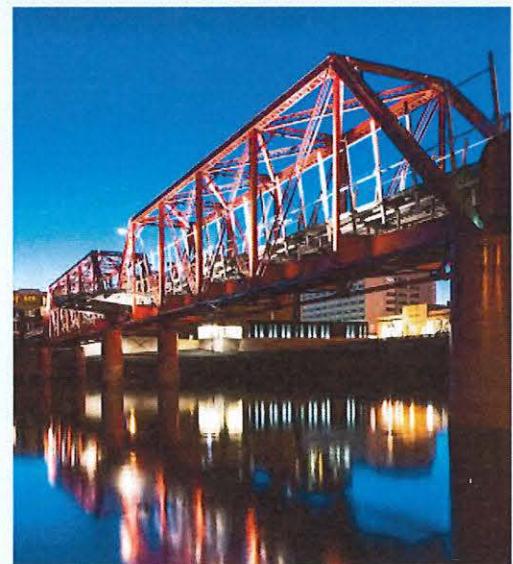


Applications in 2024

99 Applications in a Local Historic District

1 Applications for Alterations to a Local Landmark

1 Application for a new Local Landmark



NAPC

“Commission of the Year”

National Alliance of
Preservation Commissions –
Commission of the Year Award

- Presented at the NAPC Forum
Conference in West Palm Beach,
FL July 2024

- <https://vimeo.com/985987667>



Expand list of AACOA items

- Changes to Chapter 58 made official March 2024
- Reduced number of items before Commission significantly – focus on more complex projects
- 2023: 24% AACOAs
- 2024: 54% AACOAs

CITY OF DES MOINES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVELY APPROVED
CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

All repairs and replacement of items on the following list must be done in accordance with the

Secretary of Interior's "Standards for Restoration and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings"

and

Architectural Guidelines, Building Rehabilitation, and/or Fence Guidelines in Des Moines' Historic Districts

THE FOLLOWING WORK SHALL ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN BY DUPLICATING THE ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION IN TYPE, SIZE, MATERIALS, AND PATTERN.

The repairs and alterations identified below may be administratively approved by the Planning Director or the Director's designee and are not required to appear before the Historic Preservation Commission for review, unless otherwise determined during the review.

ALL LISTED PROJECTS REQUIRE A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS APPLICATION THROUGH THE CITY OF DES MOINES ONLINE CUSTOMER SELF-SERVICE PORTAL (WWW.DSM.CITY/CS) AND PAYMENT OF ALL APPLICABLE FEES.

1. Repair of deteriorated windows and doors.
2. Replacement of non-historic windows.
3. Installation of windows where no significant historic window components remain.
4. Canvas awnings over windows to provide solar shading on residential buildings.
5. Storm door if comparable.
6. Re-roofing with cedar shingles or asphalt shingles when used as a substitute for wood shingles. New roof vents when located on that part of the roof which faces the rear yard.
7. Rubber or other composition materials for re-roofing flat roofs.
8. Installing ½ round gutters with round or corrugated downspouts. X-style or other gutter designs may be installed when determined by staff as appropriate to the architecture of the home.
9. Redding built-in gutters or parapet walls.
10. Rebuilding chimneys to a period design and installing fire caps.
11. Replacement steps and handrails.
12. Replacement of brick public and private walks.
13. Replacement of concrete public and private walks. 4 foot, 5 foot, or 6 foot sidewalks should be subdivided into equal squares.
14. Removing non-original siding and re-opening closed-in porches and windows.
15. Porch foundations and porch floors.
16. Attached light fixtures and mailboxes.
17. Installation of fencing and/or retaining walls that meet Chapter 125 design requirements and the Historic District Design Guidelines.

New Local Landmark:

Armory and World War Building

602 Robert D. Ray Drive

- Approved by the HPC in June 2024

- Will be finalized in 2025 by City Council



New National Register of
Historic Places:

Davidson Bros Company Warehouse

108 SW 3rd Street

- Approved by HPC at January 17, 2024 Meeting



New National Register of
Historic Places:

William O. and Mattie M. Coffee House

4140 Grand Ave

- Approved by HPC at January 17, 2024 Meeting



New National Register of
Historic Places:

Financial Center Office Building

207 7th Street

- Approved by HPC at May 15, 2024 Meeting



New National Register of
Historic Places:

Ruan Center Complex

**666 Grand Avenue and 601
Locust Street**

- Approved by HPC at May 15,
2024 Meeting



1074 31st Street

Invest DSM Project

- Multi-family to single family home renovation
- Created public awareness about the power of historic preservation



200 Euclid

- Public nuisance case
- City RFP for redevelopment – Office of Economic Development is working with selected developer
- Will Landmark building as a part of the redevelopment process



4504 Fleur Drive

- Lustron House
- Public nuisance case – coordination between departments to delay demolition
- Potentially being relocated



Sharing ReflectDSM

Staff gave the following presentations in 2024:

- *California Preservation Conference* - Los Angeles, CA – May 2024
- *NAPC Forum Conference* - West Palm Beach, FL - July 2024





The "Room to Improve"

1909 7th Street

River Bend

- Improving Our Neighborhood (ION) Project
- Scope of work exceeded budget, despite staff and ION team trying to revise the scope of work to make the project happen
- Project on hold indefinitely

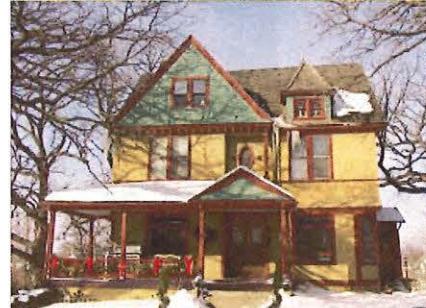


696 18th Street

Sherman Hill

- Saved from demolition in 2023

- Renovation work is underway,
but appears to have stalled out
and/or is moving slowly



1821 Woodland

Sherman Hill

- Scope of work on COA request miscommunicated
- Applicant failed to show for several meetings
- Inappropriate skim coating on brick



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ReflectDSM Implementation Update





Next Implementation Priorities



Community-led City-wide Survey

- Applied for and received CLG Grant for first step: hire a planning consultant
- Staff is preparing the Request for Proposal
- Multi-year effort
- Priority to continue to build relationships with community and foster connections for future survey work

ReflectDSM Implementation

The Commission's Role

1. Support and participate in the outreach that accompanies the City-wide survey planning and execution
2. Participate in enhanced education and outreach in the Community [N4a]
3. Assist in developing an educational strategy and PR campaign to inform the Community about the Historic Preservation process (N7)



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Project Discussion **2024**



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Project Discussion 2024

Project Management
Improvement

ENHANCEMENT

- CONTINUE TO IMPROVE
- LESSEN THE ACRONYM DENSE APPROACH OF APPROVALS

Enforcement

Increase local
landmark ~~so-called~~
Nominations

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Project Discussion 2024

Inventory
of
Buildings
& Alleys

Inventory
Plan

Prioritized
Inventory of
City-wide
Historic Resources

Apply for
CLG Grant
— What for ??
Survey, NRHP Noms,
education event

EDUCATION
- Create a website with
@ descriptions of
local historic
- Resources Available
for education
- Create a monthly
Newsletter

Hold at least 1
education event
on Historic Preservation

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Project Discussion 2024

Demo Events
better 'responsive'
to being anchored
natively

Abolish
fines for City
resource violations
against historic
properties

Process from
Permitting Businesses
outside HPC borders

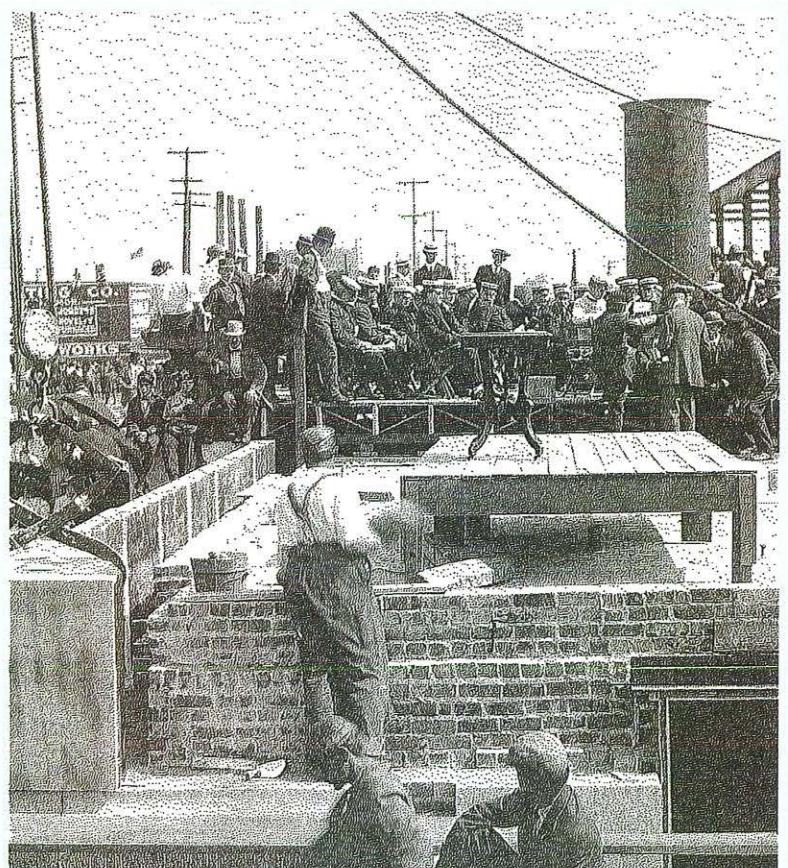
Requiring an
economic impact
statement for
all demo. Clarifying
impact embedded criteria
to include that in
processes.

Update glossary
to include more
structured nature of
offical historic districts,
and discussion how to do
so

Master Inventory
of all DSHI historic
Buildings
- Links to Research

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Wrap-up + Q&A



NOT SUBMITTED

Reviewers cannot see your material until you submit your application. Once you have finished the last step, you will receive a confirmation message and ID number.

Iowa Economic Development Authority

SHPO CLG Annual Report 2025

City of Des Moines / Stacey Hanley
1200 Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50309, United States
515-283-4287
srhanley@dmgov.org

[Forms](#) [Edit](#)

SHPO Certified Local Government Annual Report

* indicates a required field

Under the CLG Agreement with the State, local governments and their historic preservation commissions are responsible for submitting an annual report documenting the commission's preservation work and that they have met the requirements of the CLG program.

This annual report is also an important tool for your commission to evaluate its own performance and to plan for the coming year.

We look forward to hearing from each CLG this year!

1.

I am aware this report must be presented and reviewed by either the City Council or the Board of Supervisors prior to submission and requires a signature from either the mayor or the chair of the board of supervisors.

The signature form is located here:

https://iowa1.sharepoint.com/:w/s/PublicShares-SHPO2/EWJOyE84x5BEqsMBNQhGagMBGTwUBVRnzrokBawjj6h_3w?e=08uYUM

yes

2. Name of the city, county, or land use district:

Please choose from the drop down list.

Des Moines (city) Historic Preservation Commission

3.

Did your commission undertake any survey or identification projects during 2025?

CLG Standards are in your local government's Certified Local Government (CLG) Agreement and the National Historic Preservation Act:

The CLG shall maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic and prehistoric properties in a manner consistent with and approved by the STATE.

Yes

3.1.

Please describe the survey or identification project your commission worked on in 2025.

Implementation of the CLG Grant to create a plan for a future city-wide survey.

4.

Did your commission undertake any registration/nomination projects in 2025?

The CLG reviews all National Register nominations for any resources that lies within the jurisdiction of the historic preservation commission.

No

5.

Within your local government's jurisdiction were any National Register of Historic Places listed properties moved or demolished in 2025?

If you need a list of the properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places within your jurisdiction, please contact historic.preservation@iowaeda.com

No

6. Does your local government designate local landmarks or local districts?

IMPORTANT: Most local governments do not have a program for local designation. If you have questions about whether you have a local designation program or not, please contact the CLG Coordinator at historic.preservation@iowaeda.com before you complete this section.

Yes

6.1.

What properties did your community place on its list of locally designated historic landmarks and/or historic districts?

Please attach a copy of the final designation nomination(s) and ordinance(s) for these properties.

REMINDER: Before local districts are designated by your city council, you must send the local nomination to the SHPO for review and comment. Please allow at least 45 days for review before the nomination is scheduled for city council review. The SHPO review takes place after your commission has approved the local district nomination and BEFORE it is placed on the city council's agenda.

[2025 CLG Report - New Local Landmarks.pdf](#)

6.2.

Please include the name of the individual on your staff or commission that meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications? Please also include their area of expertise.

<https://www.doi.gov/pam/asset-management/historic-preservation/pqs#:~:text=The%20Secretary%20of%20the%20Interior's%20Professional%20Qualification>

Ann Schmid - Architectural Historian; Evan Shaw - Architect; Martha Green - Architect; Ryan Ellsworth - Architect; Stacey Hanley, staff - Architect

7.

Has your community passed any ordinances that directly or indirectly impact the preservation of historic resources?

Yes

7.1. Please provide a copy of the ordinance.

[24-535 Chapter 61 PMC Council Communication + Roll Call.pdf](#)

8.

Did your city, county, LUD or its historic preservation commission undertake any of the following activities in this calendar year? Please think broadly about this question and include any activity (small or large) that facilitated historic preservation in your community. This is your opportunity to boast about your accomplishments and get credit for the great work you do!

Please check all that apply!

CLG Standards found in CLG Agreement and National Historic Preservation Act:

- 1) The CLG will enforce all appropriate state and local ordinances for designating and protecting historic properties.
- 2) The CLG shall provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation programs.

a. Historic preservation planning. Examples include the development or revision of an preservation plan, development of a work plan for your commission, etc.|b. Provided technical assistance on historic preservation issues or projects.

Examples include working with individual property owners, business owners, institutions to identify appropriate treatments and find appropriate materials, research advice, etc.|Website updates

8.1.

Describe your communities historic preservation planning activities in this calendar year.

Staff began implementation of the 2025 CLG Grant that was awarded in the 2025 calendar year to assist with planning a city-wide survey, an initiative outlined in ReflectDSM.

8.2.

Describe your communities assistance with preservation issues or projects in this calendar year.

Please be specific (address(es) of the property(ies), what was the issue(s), what assistance was provided.

Commission members and staff provide technical assistance to property owners within the Local Historic Districts as needed when they apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness or are considering a future project. Commission members provide routine technical assistance to City staff, property owners, and developers on historic preservation matters outside of the Local Historic Districts and Local Landmarks.

8.3. Other

Please describe the activity(ies) your community completed related to Historic Preservation.

The City of Des Moines launched a new, upgraded website in 2025, and City staff and the Historic Preservation Commission used this opportunity to implement ReflectDSM action N3, "Improve the functionality of the City's preservation program tools and processes." The Commission identified website updates and increased clarity in messaging about how to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) as priorities to be addressed by a subcommittee during the Annual Retreat in May 2025.

The website subcommittee was charged with reviewing the existing website, providing recommendations for improvements, and identifying common questions and issues that have arisen within the local historic districts related to the COA application process. Staff shared this feedback with the City Communications Division for implementation as part of the reorganization and relaunch of the City's website.

The subcommittee met twice during the second half of 2025. Staff continues to update and improve the website based on feedback from the subcommittee.

9.

Were there any issues, challenges or successes your preservation commission encountered or accomplished this year?

The City of Des Moines continued to implement elements of the Des Moines Citywide Historic Preservation Plan, ReflectDSM. This work included major website updates; development of a request for proposals (RFP) for a consultant

to execute the scope of work outlined in the 2025 CLG Grant to plan for a citywide survey; hosting an annual training and workshop meeting for the Historic Preservation Commission; and increased collaboration between City departments. City staff also presented at the 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit to share the innovative and award-winning public engagement process conducted as a part of the ReflectDSM planning effort.

The 2025 HPC annual meeting was hosted at Terrace Hill and included a tour of the historic property and an educational opportunity for Commission members. City staff's goal is to host the annual meeting at different historic properties throughout Des Moines in order to both celebrate the city's history and provide educational opportunities to the Commission. Additionally, a workshop element was added to the annual meeting this year to give the Commission an opportunity to direct volunteer time towards Commission-directed activities that support implementation of ReflectDSM. Two subcommittees were formed at this meeting and decided to focus on website updates and window repair and restoration education.

Three new local landmarks were designated in 2025: the Argonne Armory, the Ulysses S. Grant School, and the Witmer House. The Argonne Armory, a City-owned facility, was reviewed as a local landmark by the Historic Preservation Commission in 2024 but was not formally designated by the City Council until 2025. The City plans to sell the Armory and has issued an RFP for its redevelopment. City staff from multiple departments coordinated on the RFP to ensure that maintaining the building's historic integrity was a priority in the redevelopment, consistent with its new local landmark designation, in order to protect this treasured City building for the future. The Ulysses S. Grant School nomination was unique in that it was initiated by a member of the public through a petition process and was subsequently approved by the HPC, the Plan and Zoning Commission, and the City Council. Concerns over demolition and neglect were the primary drivers for the public-initiated nomination.

City staff in the Planning and Urban Design Division continued to collaborate with other City departments in the protection and recognition of historic properties throughout Des Moines. Staff worked with Neighborhood Services to ensure violations were properly addressed and that potentially historic properties located outside of local historic districts or designated landmarks were identified, discussed, and given the appropriate consideration for preservation. Staff also collaborated with the Improving Our Neighborhoods (ION) team to advance several Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) applications and worked with Engineering, Facilities, and Parks and Recreation Departments to begin reviewing proposed renovations for the Glendale Mausoleum Local Landmark in Glendale Cemetery. In addition, staff

coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Department on the historic review of an existing park shelter and on a project continuing into 2026 to publish City of Des Moines' parks history blurbs on the City's new website.

The City of Des Moines adopted an updated Property Maintenance Code (Chapter 61) with the goal of helping prevent long-term neglect and incremental deterioration of the City's older building stock. The code indirectly supports historic preservation in Des Moines by establishing clear, enforceable standards that help prevent historic buildings from deteriorating beyond reasonable and financially sound repair – a problem the City has encountered with several historic properties that ultimately had to be demolished. By emphasizing routine maintenance, early intervention for unsafe or vacant properties, and exterior repair assistance through programs such as ION, the updated code helps stabilize historic and aging building stock before conditions escalate to loss or demolition. The adopted code supports the City's efforts to encourage reinvestment in older, established neighborhoods and reinforces preservation goals.

Challenges encountered during the year included lack of community awareness of local historic district requirements and managing violations of design guidelines within those districts. Additionally, there were two appeals related to a proposed project at 1917 Center Street in the Sherman Hill local historic district. The first appeal resulted in the project being sent back to the Commission for a rehearing, necessitating a special meeting in November. That decision was subsequently appealed and ultimately upheld by the City Council in December 2025. As a result of this public process and communication with the Sherman Hill Association leadership, staff decided to begin publishing a "preliminary agenda" to provide residents with additional time review upcoming items and ask questions about potential projects.

10.

What partnerships did your commission form or continue with other entities?

Examples include local main street office, local school, historical society, library, museum, service club, etc.

If none, enter N/A

Des Moines Heritage Trust, Des Moines Historical Society, Iowa Architectural Foundation, Des Moines Public Schools, InvestDSM

11.

Did your historic preservation commission receive any grants (other than CLG) this year? If so, please describe. If none, enter N/A.

N/A

12. Does your Historic Preservation Commission have a website?

Yes

12.1. What is the website address?

https://www.dsm.city/boards_commissions/historic_preservation_commission.php

13.

List dates of public commission meetings held (please note these are meetings actually held with a quorum, not just those that were scheduled).

CLG Standards found in CLG Agreement and National Historic Preservation Act:

- 1) The CLG will organize and maintain a historic preservation commission, which must meet at least three (3) times per year.
- 2) The commission will be composed of community members with a demonstrated positive interest in historic preservation, or closely related fields, to the extent available in the community.
- 3) The commission will comply with Iowa Code Chapter 21 (open meetings) in its operations.
- 4) Commission members will participate in state-sponsored or state-approved historic preservation training activities.

Dates of Historic Preservation Commission meetings in 2025: January 15, 2025; February 19, 2025; March 26, 2025; April 16, 2025; May 21, 2025; June 18, 2025; July 16, 2025; August 20, 2025; September 17, 2025; October 15, 2025; Special Meeting November 5, 2025; November 19, 2025; December 17, 2025.
An Annual Planning Meeting was held May 12, 2025.

14.

Based on the work plan submitted last year for your commission please provide a self assessment of the progress your commission made on the initiatives and programs that were identified last year.

Overall, good progress was made on the initiatives and programs identified in last year's work plan. Staff was able to consistently review applications for alterations and new construction in the Local Historic Districts. Staff worked with the Historic Preservation Commission to successfully nominate two new

structures for designation (three, if including Argonne Armory, which was reviewed by the Commission in 2024) and reviewed Certificate of Appropriateness requests for two more local landmarks. Input was also provided on citywide demolition requests. Staff and the Commission have continued to provide technical assistance to the property owners and developers in Local Historic Districts, as well as citywide, as needed. For a more in-depth discussion of progress on goals, please refer to description in Question 9.

15. Where are your official CLG files located?

Please describe where the paper or physical files are stored and where the digital records are being stored.

CLG files are located in the Planning and Urban Design Office at 1200 Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50309.

16.

In this calendar year, what was the dollar amount of the historic preservation commission's annual budget?

We recommend that the local government provide the commission a minimum of \$750 annual budget to pay for training and other commission expense.

0

17. Additional Budget information

This is an optional question, if there is any additional information you wish to share with the State Historic Preservation Office regarding your community's budget.

Over \$210,000 a year is spent providing direct administrative support to the Historic Preservation Commission. The Development Services Department does not have a separate budget item for each board/commission that it supports.

18. 2026 Work Plan

Each Commission should develop an annual work plan for the upcoming year. Please include the project(s), initiatives and programs your commission plans to begin or complete.

[2026 HPC Work Program.pdf](#)

19.

Does your commission have any vacancies? If so, how many? If you have no vacancies please enter N/A.

Please also use this field to describe any plans the commission has to fill those vacant positions.

One vacancy opened in January 2026 when a Commissioner was appointed by the Mayor to another board or commission. Prior to that appointment, all vacancies on the Historic Preservation Commission had been successfully filled. It remains a staff and City priority to fill all positions on the Commission, as outlined in the ReflectDSM actions.

20. Commission Members

Please include all commission members in this table.

If the commissioner represents a locally designated district please provide the district in their role field.

If the commissioner doesn't have an email address please enter a phone number.

For any new commissioners please include the biographical sketch in the following question.

First and Last Name	Mailing Address	Email Address	Term	Role
Ryan Bergman	3219 48th Place	ryanbergman@gmail.com	10- 18- 2027	At Large
Ann Schmid	4244 Harwood Drive, Des Moines, IA 50312	annhschmid@gmail.com	10- 18- 2026	At Large

2616
Druid
Evan Hill 10-
Shaw Drive, evans@invisionarch.com 18- At Large
Des 2026
 Moines,
IA 50315

896 Polk
Blvd, 10-
Tim Des waddell.tim@gmail.com 18- At Large
Waddell Moines, 2026
IA 50312

300
Walnut
Ryan Street, 10-
Ellsworth Des ryane@invisionarch.com 18- At Large
 Moines, 2025
IA 50309

815 18th
Street, 10- Sherman
Martha Des mgreenaia@msn.com 18- Hill
Green Moines, 2018
IA 50314

1611
Center
York A. Street, 10- Sherman
Taenzer Des yorkt40@gmail.com 18- Hill
 Moines, 2009
IA 50314

Patricia Barry	451 29th Street, Des Moines, IA 50314	bhhpab@aol.com	03- 28- 2016	Owl's Head
John Beard	2900 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312	witmerhouse@yahoo.com	03- 28- 2026	Owl's Head
Chad Nelson	1236 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50314	redbeardrestoration@gmail.com	02- 03- 2027	River Bend
Kathy Hellstern	803 Hickman Road, Des Moines, IA 50314	landofkathy@gmail.com	02- 03- 2027	River Bend

21.

Please attach biographical sketch or resume for any commissioners were appointed in last calendar year.

Please be sure newly appointed commissioners sign and date their statement.

[2025 CLG Report - New Commissioner Biographical Sketches.pdf](#)

22.

Which of your commission members, staff, and/or elected officials attended the 2025 Preserve Iowa Summit?

Now is also a good time to start planning to attend the 2026 Preserve Iowa Summit in Ankeny on June 2 & 3, 2026

Stacey Hanley, Urban Designer for the City of Des Moines;

23. Commission Training Table

An important requirement of the Certified Local Government program is annual state-sponsored or state-approved training undertaken by at least one member of the historic preservation commission and/or staff liaison.

In this table, please provide information about the commissioners' involvement in historic preservation training (beyond or instead of the Preserve Iowa Summit), listing the name of the conference, workshop or meeting (including online training opportunities); the sponsoring organization; the location and date when the training occurred. Be sure to provide the names of commissioners, staff, and elected officials who attended.

Name of Event	Sponsor Organization	Location	Date	Name of Attendees
Historic Context Studies: Putting the People in Preservation	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	9-25-25	Jason Van Essen
Through the Pane				
Pt. 1: Understanding Historic Windows: Evolution, Assessment & Repair	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	4-17-25	Jason Van Essen
Through the Pane				
Pt. 2: Managing Window Replacement: Lessons from Local Preservation Programs	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	4-29-25	Jason Van Essen

Historic Resource Surveys: Unlocking the Foundations of Preservation	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	1-30-25	Jason Van Essen
The Evolution and Legacy of Roadside Architecture and Neon Signage	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	2-20-25	Katherine Drahos
Deconstruction vs. Demolition: Protecting Heritage and the Environment	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	3-27-25	Katherine Drahos
Through the Pane Pt. 1: Understanding Historic Windows: Evolution, Assessment & Repair	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	4-17-25	Katherine Drahos
Engaging Local Decision-Makers to Support Historic Preservation	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	3-29-25	Katherine Drahos
Through the Pane Pt. 2: Managing Window Replacement: Lessons from Local Preservation Programs	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	4-29-25	Jacob Couppee

Engaging Local Decision-Makers to Support Historic Preservation	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	3-29-25	Jacob Couppee
Historic Context Studies: Putting the People in Preservation	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	9-25-25	Katherine Drahos
Design Review Roundtable - Additions	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	11-13-25	Katherine Drahos
Navigating Congress and the Administration in 2025 and Beyond	NTHP Preservation Leadership Forum	Webinar	2-12-25	Pat Barry
The Promise and Perils of AI in Historic Preservation	NTHP Preservation Leadership Forum	Webinar	3-7-25	Pat Barry
Creating Community with Cheap Old Houses: A Conversation between National Trust President and CEO Carol Quilled, Elizabeth Finkelstein, and Cristiana Pena	NTHP Preservation Leadership Forum	Webinar	3-13-25	Pat Barry
Deconstruction vs. Démolition:	National Alliance of	Webinar	3-27-	Pat Barry

Protecting Heritage and the Environment	Preservation Commissions	25	
<hr/>			
Through the Pane			
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Pt. 1: Understanding Historic Windows: Evolution, Assessment & Repair	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	4- 17- 25	Pat Barry
Webinar			
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Through the Pane			
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Pt. 2: Managing Window			
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Replacement: Lessons from local Preservation Programs; National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	4- 29- 25	Pat Barry
Webinar			
<hr/>			
AAP Public History Project Showcase	NTHP Preservation Leadership Forum	5- 14- 25	Pat Barry
Webinar			
<hr/>			
Creating and Updating Historic Design Guidelines	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	6- 26- 25	Pat Barry
Webinar			
<hr/>			
Federal Advocacy Update - What you can do now	NTHP Preservation Leadership Forum	7- 16- 25	Pat Barry
Webinar			

Historic Context Studies: Putting the People in Preservation	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	9- 25- 25	Pat Barry
Integrating Preservation into Municipal and Planning Processes	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	10- 30- 25	Pat Barry
Design Review Roundtable - Evaluating Additions to Historic Structures	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	11- 13- 25	Pat Barry
Design Review Roundtable - Evaluating Additions to Historic Structures	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar on-demand	12- 14- 25	Ryan Bergman
Early 20th Century Architecture: Looking to the Past and Future	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar on-demand	12- 31- 25	Ryan Bergman
Historic Context Studies: Putting the People in Preservation	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	9- 25- 25	Stacey Hanley
Through the Pane Pt. 2: Managing Window Replacement: Lessons from Local	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	4- 29- 25	Stacey Hanley

Preservation Programs

Through the Pane

Pt. 1:

Understanding Historic Windows: Evolution, Assessment & Repair	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	4-17-25	Stacey Hanley
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Historic Resource Surveys: Unlocking the Foundations of Preservation	National Alliance of Preservation Commissions	Webinar	1-30-25	Stacey Hanley
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Resiliency Through Partnerships & Knowledge: The Response, Recovery & Rebuilding after Natural Disaster	AIA Iowa	Webinar	9-25-2025	Ryan Ellsworth
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24. Chief Elected Official

Did your communities Chief Elected Official (Mayor, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, or President of LUD Trustees) change in 2025?

No

25. Has the contact information for your communities staff liaison changed?

If you have a new staff liaison please select yes.

No

26.

What training topic would be most helpful for your Historic Preservation Commission?

A few topics suggested by the Des Moines Historic Preservation Commission: information about conducting citywide surveys, grants for NRHP nominations, advocacy, window repair workshops, tactics for protecting buildings outside the City's local historic districts, information about demolition, disassembly and salvage plans in historic districts.

27. Suggestions for improvement

The CLG program is here to support the Historic Preservation Commissions across Iowa. Do you have any suggestions for how we can improve our services to your commissions?

N/A

28. Authorized Official Signature

https://iowa1.sharepoint.com/:w/s/PublicShares-SHPO2/EWJ0yE84x5BEqsMBNQhGagMBGTwUBVRnzrokBawjj6h_3w?e=HeBDes

[Elected Official Signature for Annual Report _blank.pdf](#)

29.

Agenda or minutes from the public meeting where this report was presented to the City Council or Board of Supervisors.

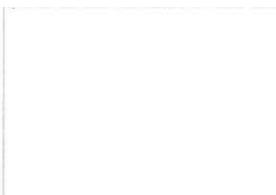
[Elected Official Signature for Annual Report _blank.pdf](#)

MEDIA Edit



HPC Annual Meeting at Terrace Hill

Subcommittee Workshop



HPC Annual Meeting at Terrace Hill

Subcommittee workshop



HPC Annual Meeting at Terrace Hill

Subcommittee workshop



HPC Annual Meeting at Terrace Hill

Subcommittee workshop



HPC Nov 2025

HPC Nov 2025 meeting - all 12 Commissioners in attendance!



HPC Annual Meeting

Educational opportunity and tour of Terrace Hill



HPC Annual Meeting

Educational opportunity and tour of Terrace Hill



HPC Annual Meeting

Educational opportunity and tour of Terrace Hill



HPC Annual Meeting

Educational opportunity and tour of Terrace Hill



2025 Annual
Retreat

DSM HPC Annual Retreat_2025_presentation-to-share

2025 Annual Retreat Presentation document