

Benefits of Becoming a Historical Preservation District

1. Safeguard the heritage of the City by preserving and regulating historic landmarks and districts which reflect elements of its cultural, social, political, and architectural history.
2. Preserve and enhance the environmental quality of the neighborhoods
3. Strengthen the City's economic base by stimulation of conservation and reuse
4. Establish and preserve property values
5. Ensure the harmonious, orderly, and efficient growth and development of the municipality.
6. Promote the use of historic landmarks and districts for the culture, prosperity, education, and welfare of the people of the City and visitors to the City



Dentil Cornice Detail
Town Hall

Old



Court House

New



Old



New

City Hall



City of Lawton
Historical Preservation
Commission

City of Lawton
Historical Preservation Commission

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Lawton Historical Preservation Commission History & Purpose



Mattie Beal
House
1907–1909

The Lawton Historical Preservation Commission (LHPC) was created by a city ordinance in 2003. Its nine members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council. Four of its members have expertise in

architecture/ contracting, real estate, law, or history. One member is also a member of the City Planning Commission (CPC); the other members represent the public. Members serve staggered three-year terms without compensation. The Commission meets monthly in City Hall, and its meetings are open to the public. All its proceedings are a matter of public record.

The basic purpose of the LHPC is to create appreciation of, and protection for, properties within the city which have architectural, archaeological, cultural, or historic significance. The Commission accomplishes this in a number of ways.

The LHPC considers application for designation of property as a Historic Preservation District by utilizing the criteria and procedures described below. The recommendation of the LHPC concerning an application is forwarded to the City Planning Commission and the City Council, with the Council making the final decision.

The LHPC also issues Certificates of Appropriateness and Certificates of Economic Hardship (described in a separate brochure), provides for surveys of potential Historic Preservation Districts, works with other entities to facilitate the use of historic preservation as an agent of economic development, and seeks to educate the public about the benefits of historic preservation.

Steps to become a Historical Preservation District

1. Obtain application from the Planning Division.
2. Complete application, and submit it and the \$350 filing fee.
3. The LHPC will review the application for completeness and accuracy.
4. If necessary, LHPC may request additional information or seek clarification regarding the application.
Note: Informal consultation with the LHPC and / or City Planning Division staff during preparation of the application is encouraged.
5. LHPC will hold a meeting and make a determination on whether the property meets the criteria for designation and forward its recommendation to the City Planning Commission and City Council.
6. All affected property owners (as required by section 18-10-1010 of ordinance 03-49) will be notified of the pending meetings regarding the overlay district.
7. The City Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing with the applicant, affected property owners and interested parties to consider the request for overlay district and forward its recommendation to City Council
8. The City Council will also conduct a public hearing on the application and its decision either for approval or denial shall be final, unless appealed.

Criteria for Designation as a Historical Preservation District

A site, structure, building, district or monument may be designated for preservation as a landmark or historic district and thus may be included within the Historical Preservation Overlay District if such possesses the following attributes within the following categories:

- 1) Historical/Cultural Category:
 - a) Such has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the locality, state or nation; or is associated with the life of a personality significant to the past; or
 - b) Such is the site of a historical event with a significant effect upon the development,

- c) Such exemplifies a facet of the cultural, political, economic, social or historical heritage of the community.
- 2) Architectural/Engineering Category:
 - a) Such portrays the environment in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style; or
 - b) Such embodies those distinguished characteristics of an architectural type or engineering specimen; or
 - c) Such is the work of a designer or architect or contractor whose individual work has influenced the development of the community or of this nation; or
 - d) Such contains elements of design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represents a style unique to the past; or
 - e) Such is a part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area and thus, should be developed and preserved according to a plan based on a historical, cultural or architectural motif; or
 - f) Such represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or skyline owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristics.

3. Archeological Category

- a) Such has yielded, based upon physical evidence, information important to the history or pre-history; or
- b) Such is part of or related to a distinctive geographical area, which should be developed or preserved according to a plan based on cultural, historic or architectural motif.



Old Central Junior High