

CHAPTER 25 HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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2-25-1 PURPOSE AND INTENT. The purpose of this proclamation is to:

1. Promote the education, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the recognition, enhancement, and perpetuation of sites and districts of historical and cultural significance.
2. Safeguard the City’s historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage by preserving sites and districts of historical and cultural significance.
3. Stabilize and improve property values.
4. Foster pride in the legacy of beauty and achievements of the past.
5. Protect and enhance the City’s attractions to tourists and visitors and the support and stimulus to business thereby provided.
6. Strengthen the economy of the City.
7. Promote the use of sites and districts of historic and cultural significance as places for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people of the City.

2-25-2 DEFINITIONS. The following words and phrases whenever used in the ordinances of the City, shall be construed as defined in this section unless, from the context, a different meaning is intended or unless different meaning is specifically defined and more particularly directed to the use of such words or phrases:

1. “Commission” shall mean The Maquoketa Historic Preservation Commission, as established by their proclamation.
2. “Historic District” shall mean an area which contains a significant portion of buildings, structures or other improvements which, considered as a whole, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and;
 - a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that presents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or,

b. Is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our local, State or national history; or,

c. Possesses a coherent and distinctive visual character or integrity based upon similarity of scale, design, color, setting, workmanship, materials, or combinations thereof, which is deemed to add significantly to the value and attractiveness of properties within such area; or,

d. Is associated with the lives or persons significant to our past; or,

e. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

3. "Historic Site" means a structure or building which;

a. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or,

b. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or,

c. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method construction, or that represents a work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or,

d. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

2-25-3 MAQUOKETA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION.

1. The Commission shall consist of five (5) members who shall be residents of the City.

(Ord. 706, 4-17-89)

(Ord. 1128, Passed February 2, 2016)

2. Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council. Members should demonstrate a positive interest in historic preservation, possessing interest in historic preservation, possessing interest or expertise in architecture, architectural history, historic preservation, city planning, building rehabilitation, conservation in general of real estate.

3. The original appointment of the Members of the Commission shall be three (3) for two (2) years, and two (2) for three (3) years, January 1, following the year of such appointment or until their successor is appointed to serve for the term of three (3) years.

4. Vacancies occurring in the Commission, other than expiration of term of office, shall be only for the unexpired portion of the term of the Member replaced.

5. Members may serve for more than one (1) term and each member shall serve until the appointment of a successor.

6. Vacancies shall be filled by the City according to the original selection as aforesaid.
7. Members shall serve without compensation.
8. A simple majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
9. The Commission shall elect a Chairman who shall preside over all Commission meetings and elect a Secretary who shall be responsible for maintaining written records of the Commission's proceedings.
10. The Commission shall meet at least three (3) times a year.

2-25-4 POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

1. The Commission may conduct inventory studies for identification and designation of Historic Districts and sites meeting the definitions established by this Ordinance. (The necessary inventory forms and procedures for their completion are available from the State Office for Historic Preservation). The Commission may proceed at its own initiative or upon a petition from any person, group, or association. The Commission shall maintain records of all studies and inventories for public use.
2. The Commission may make a recommendation to the State Office of Historic Preservation for the listing of a historical district or site in the National Register or Historic Places and may conduct a public hearing thereon.
3. The Commission may investigate and recommend to the City Council the adoption of ordinances designating historic sites and historic districts if they qualify as defined herein; and,
4. Other Powers. In addition to those duties and powers specified above, the Commission may, with City approval:
 - a. Accept unconditional gifts and donations of real and personal property, including money, for the purpose of historic preservation.
 - b. Acquire by purchase, bequest, or donation, fee and lesser interests in historic properties, including properties adjacent to or associated with historic preservation.
 - c. Preserve, restore, maintain and operate historic properties, under the ownership or control of the Commission.
 - d. Lease, sell, and otherwise transfer or dispose of historic properties subject to rights of public access and other covenants and in a manner that will preserve the property.

e. Contract, with the approval of the governing body, with the State or Federal government or other organizations.

f. Cooperate with the Federal, State and Local governments in the pursuance of the objectives of historic preservation.

g. Provide information for the purpose of historic preservation to the governing body.

h. Promote and conduct an educational and interpretive program on historic properties within its jurisdiction.

2-25-5 SEPARABILITY. Should any section or provision of this proclamation be decided by a court of this State to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole or part thereof other than the part so decided to be unconstitutional or invalid.

2-25-6 AMENDATORY PROVISIONS. The City may amend this proclamation to meet any unforeseen circumstances which may affect the duties and responsibilities of the Commission.

(Ord. 674, 1-5-87)

2-25-7 EFFECTIVE DATE. This proclamation shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as required by law, being March 12, 1986.