

Examples of Preservation in Joliet National Register Landmarks



Joliet Municipal Airport Ca. 1930



Union Station Ca. 1915



Rialto Square Theater Ca. 1926

Where Can I Get More Information?

The Historic Preservation Commission meetings are open to the public and are held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of every month in East Wing Conference room of the Municipal Building, 150 W. Jefferson St., Joliet Il.

Copies of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and other preservation material can be found at the Joliet Public Library Reference Department. Additional information is also available from the National Trust on Historic Preservation & the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

You can contact the Commission Secretary at 815.724.4052 or e-mail bnewberg@jolietcity.org

For other informational materials, visit our website at www.joliethpc.com

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Historic Preservation Commission



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JOLIET HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
Bridging the Past to the Present and Future

*What Is
Historic
Preservation?*

A photograph of a large, ornate, red brick building with a prominent tower and several windows. The building is surrounded by trees and a paved area.

What Is Historic Preservation?

Local landmarks, in the form of buildings, structures, and sites, collectively form our cultural heritage. Recognizing this cultural heritage is important to honor the past and to understand the present and future. Historic preservation seeks to continually identify, preserve and protect landmarks that make up our cultural heritage for our use, education, observation, and pleasure. Historic preservation is present on national, state and local levels.

How Does Historic Preservation Work?

- In the federal government, the Secretary of the Interior is responsible for establishing standards and guidelines; for advising on the preservation of historic properties, sites, and objects; and for administering preservation tax incentive programs. These programs and others were established through the National Preservation Act of 1966. Historic areas can be designated as historic districts, while specific sites can be designated as landmarks. The purpose of both designations is to offer protection for sites and allow for compatible modifications of them. There is also a national organization chartered by Congress to promote preservation: The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

- At the state level, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency oversees the functions of the national preservation program. This agency administers several incentive programs for rehabilitating historic buildings, including state and federal grant programs. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency identifies, protects, and promotes historically significant sites and districts in Illinois communities through its Certified Local Government program.

- A community can show support for historic preservation by enacting an ordinance and working with state and federal agencies and organizations.

Is Historic Preservation in Joliet?

With respect to the national programs, Joliet has two historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The East Side Historic District was established in 1981 and the Upper Bluff District was established in 1991. Local property listings on the National Register include the Rialto Square Theater, Louis Joliet Hotel, Joliet Post Office, Union Station, Joliet Municipal Airport, US Steel Building, Hiram Scutt Mansion and the Jacob Henry Mansion.

On the local level, Joliet has a historic preservation ordinance. In September 1990 the Joliet City Council approved the Joliet Historic Preservation Ordinance and has

since made several amendments. This ordinance established a 12-member Historic Preservation Commission, which has nominated numerous local landmarks.

The Commission also works to establish local historic preservation districts and/or urban conservation districts in the City of Joliet. The Commission works with both state and federal programs and agencies to further the goals of historic preservation. In 1995 the Commission was named a Certified Local Government for the State of Illinois.

Why Have Historic Preservation?

Preservation of our local resources provides important cultural, educational, and economic assets for our city. Local landmarks show a sense of civic pride for all of us. Designation as a local historic district or urban conservation district helps maintain neighborhood stability and character. The character of historic buildings and neighborhoods need not be lost through inappropriate expansion, alteration, or change of use or appearance. We can all participate in the preservation of sites, buildings, and objects significant to our history and culture.