

PRESERVATION TOOLS

There are a number of tools available to assist communities in identifying, protecting, and promoting their historic, cultural, and archaeological resources. The “Preservation Toolbox” contains a variety of techniques for documenting, regulating, and restoring historic resources. These tools vary in their scope and may be utilized by a variety of players from municipal governments, to non-profit preservation groups, to private citizens.

DOCUMENTATION TOOLS

- **Historic resource surveys** document properties that contribute to a community’s history and character and can provide the legal framework for communities to set priorities for resources they have.
- The **National Register of Historic Places** is the nation’s official list of historically significant resources, which includes any district, site, building, structure or object that is important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture.

REGULATORY TOOLS

- **Zoning ordinances**, as allowed by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, can protect historic resources from demolition or provide incentives for restoration.

(TOOLS CONTINUED)

- An **Act 167 Local Historic District** is a special district wherein proposed alterations to historic resources must be reviewed and approved by an official body known as a Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB).

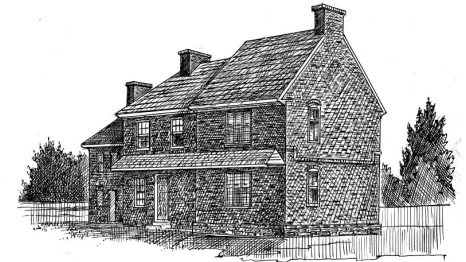
REVITALIZATION TOOLS

- Encouraging **building conservation** and preventive maintenance for historic properties in your community through code enforcement and education reduces the need for major restoration projects down the road.
- **Adaptive reuse** allows historic resources that are well-built, architecturally distinctive, or particularly significant to the community to be adapted to suit new uses while still maintaining a sense of character and community identity.

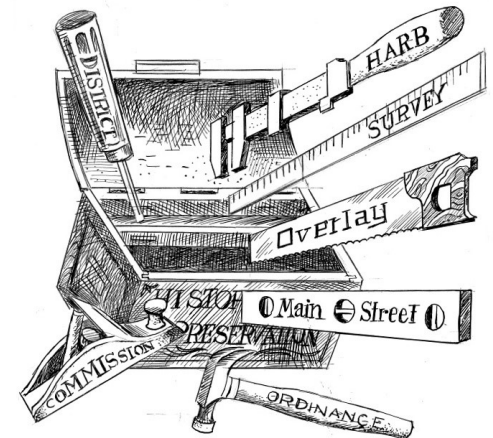


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PRESERVATION PRIMER



UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



WHAT IS HISTORIC PRESERVATION?

Historic preservation is the practice of safeguarding significant places existing in our communities today for the use, enjoyment, and enrichment of future generations. There are a variety of tools and techniques that can be utilized to accomplish this objective, a few of which are touched on in this document.

WHAT IS HISTORIC?

- Historic resources are objects, buildings, structures, or sites in the built environment that represent important aspects of the past such as events, people, or cultural movements.
- Historic places could include houses, neighborhoods, bridges, statues, landscapes, barns, factories, and archaeological sites.
- Some resources are deemed historic due to their age and association with historic people or events, but others are important as representations of certain architectural styles or engineering designs.
- Most preservation practitioners consider a resource historic if it is 50 years old or older.
- Any resource that is important to a community can be considered a historic resource and be the focus of a preservation effort.

WHY PRESERVE?

Historic preservation aims to protect buildings, structures, and sites that are important to a community's cultural identity, thus maintaining a visible record of its history. Preservation has several important benefits that encourage the increased use of this practice.

- Preservation promotes community pride which can encourage better property maintenance, more engaged and responsible citizens, and enhanced quality of life.
- Preservation benefits the environment by maintaining existing buildings and structures, thereby reducing the waste and energy use associated with building demolition and new construction.
- Communities that promote historic preservation become destinations for residents and tourists drawn to their history and character.
- Historic communities have been shown to have higher property values, demonstrating that many people will pay a premium for historic architecture and unique character.
- Economic benefits of rehabilitating historic buildings include job creation, revitalization of struggling areas of the community, and increased tourism for heritage-based sites.

HOW TO PRESERVE

STEP 1: IDENTIFY

The best way to start a preservation effort is to identify and document historic resources, narratives, and themes in the community. Officials and residents should also work together to identify overall goals for historic resources.

STEP 2: PROTECT

The community should protect resources that have the most meaning, cultural impact, or historical significance to them and select preservation tools that will serve their goals. See reverse for examples of preservation tools.

STEP 3: PROMOTE

Finally, in order to increase public support and appreciation for the project, promote the benefit that historic resources and historic preservation practices contribute to the community's character and future prosperity.



Benjamin Ring House, Brandywine Battlefield Park, Chadds Ford