

What is Historic Preservation?

Compiled – **Historic Preservation is place making through identification, evaluation, and conservation of components of the built environment that convey historic significance for the enjoyment and education of the community now and in the future.** Compilation based on twelve examples provided below.

1) **Wikipedia** - Historic preservation is an endeavor that seeks to preserve, conserve and protect buildings, objects, landscapes or other artifacts of historical significance.

2) **National Trust** - Historic preservation is often defined as the process of identifying, protecting, and enhancing buildings, places, and objects of historical and cultural significance. This process embraces many phases including the survey and evaluation of historical, architectural, and cultural resources in an area; the development of planning and legal measures to protect these resources; the identification of public and private funding sources applicable to preservation projects; the design for the restoration, rehabilitation, and/or adaptive use of historic structures; and the ongoing maintenance of these resources.

3) **Arizona SHPO** - Historic preservation is the identification, management, and protection of tangible elements from the past for future generations. It is the history that we can see and experience. As we move into the future with the explosion of new technologies, historic preservation provides an anchor to our past. Historic preservation encourages the protection of historic and archaeological resources that are associated with important past events, themes, and people; that are representative of periods and types of architecture; possess high artistic value; or that are likely to yield valuable information about the past. Historic preservation helps us to know who we are by teaching us about where we came from.

4) **Theodore R. Hazen** - Historic preservation is the practice of protecting and preserving sites, structures or districts which reflect elements of local or national cultural, social, economic, political, archaeological or architectural history. Preservation has many diverse purposes and rewards, including the strengthening of local economies, stabilization of property values, the fostering of civic beauty and community pride, and the appreciation of local and national history. Historic preservation has a public purpose that advances the education and welfare of citizens, while providing economic and aesthetic benefits as well.

5) **City of Fort Lauderdale** - Historic Preservation is the process of identifying places, sites, and resources that have survived from our past; evaluating the meaning and value they have for us now; and keeping, using, and caring for those significant places, sites, and resources so they will survive into the future.

6) **San Francisco Planning Department** - Historic preservation is a strategy for conserving significant elements of the built environment in order to maintain a tangible physical connection to the past.

7) **Los Angeles Conservancy** - Historic preservation has evolved as a way to protect buildings, structures and landscapes that hold meaning to a community and its heritage which reflect diverse social and cultural histories. However, many people still perceive the preservation movement as not representing their interests, particularly as discussion moves into the contentious terrain of property rights. The Los Angeles Conservancy website has an excellent fact sheet addressing common concerns in their – The Top Ten Myths About Historic Preservation.

http://www.laconservancy.org/preservation/top_ten_myths.pdf

8) Preservation Pennsylvania - Historic preservation is the practice of recognizing, protecting, using and appreciating our nation's diverse cultural resources so that generations to come may benefit from them. Encompassing a wide range of resources--including houses, neighborhoods, commercial buildings, downtowns, bridges, religious buildings, schools and battlefields--historic preservation is also an economic development tool that has proven to be an effective way to revitalize neighborhoods and downtowns.

9) About.com Geography - Historic preservation is a movement in planning designed to conserve old buildings and areas in an effort to tie a place's history to its population and culture. It is also an essential component to green building in that it reuses structures that are already present as opposed to new construction. Additionally, historic preservation can help a city become more competitive because historic, unique buildings give areas more prominence when compared to the homogeneous skyscrapers that dominate in many large cities.

10) Historic Hawaii Foundation - Historic preservation is the effort to preserve, conserve and protect sites, buildings, objects, landscapes and districts of historic significance. Preservation is about deciding what is important, figuring out how to protect it, and passing along an appreciation for what was saved to the next generation.

11) Memphis Heritage Inc. - Historic preservation is a good investment, and it would do us well to encourage its activity. It creates jobs, produces income and produces state and local tax revenue. In addition, historic designation raises property values at a substantially higher rate of return than non-designated areas. All these aspects of preservation are vitally intertwined - historic designation leads to historic rehabilitation, which in turn generates heritage tourism and increased property values. In the end, everyone benefits from historic preservation's robust contribution to the economy.

12) NHPA 1966 (1980) - Historic Preservation is a link through which the memory of an enduring community is preserved and passed on to succeeding generations. It is generally difficult to remember the past without having a connection to the past. The U.S. Congress reaffirmed the reasons for enacting historic preservation programs with the following rationale:

- The spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage.
- The historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people.
- Historic properties significant to the Nation's heritage are being lost or substantially altered with increasing frequency.
- The preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest. Its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans.

<http://www.tempe.gov/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=16186>

Content analysis (systematic identification of salient definition characteristics)

place making – 5/12 = 42%	1) conservation – 11/12 = 92%
identification – 4/12 = 33%	2) built environment – 10/12 = 83%
evaluation – 4/12 = 33%	3) components – 10/12 = 83%
conservation – 11/12 = 92%	4) historic significance – 10/12 = 83%
components – 10/12 = 83%	5) future – 5/12 = 42%
built environment – 10/12 = 83%	6) place making – 5/12 = 42%
historic significance – 10/12 = 83%	7) community – 4/12 = 33%
enjoyment – 2/12 = 17%	8) education – 4/12 = 33%
education – 4/12 = 33%	9) evaluation – 4/12 = 33%
community – 4/12 = 33%	10) now – 4/12 = 33%
now – 4/12 = 33%	11) identification – 4/12 = 33%
in the future – 5/12 = 42%	12) enjoyment – 2/12 = 17%

