

WHO WE ARE

The Shepherdstown Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) consists of five members who possess deep, firsthand knowledge of our town's unique architectural and cultural heritage. These commissioners live within our community and share a personal investment in preserving historic Shepherdstown's character. Their local expertise allows them to effectively leverage the benefits of being a Certified Local Government (CLG), such as accessing technical assistance for building assessments and directing funds for rehabilitation work. By balancing modern sustainability with the protection of the built environment, these community members ensure that Shepherdstown maintains high property values and a strong sense of place that comes with active historic preservation.

VISIT US ONLINE!

To find more information about local government services, boards, and meeting schedules, visit our website. Also included online are resources on historic preservation, such as the Historic District Design Guidelines, the Certificate of Appropriateness process (CoA), and local ordinances. Visitors and residents can find contact information, applications, and updates related to preservation and community.



<https://Shepherdstown.gov>

WHAT WE DO

DEDICATED REVIEW

The HLC evaluates proposed changes to the exterior architectural features of buildings and landscapes in the Historic District to ensure they align with our town's ordinances and design guidelines.

FREE WORKSHOPS

The HLC offers free workshops to help applicants ensure that their project adheres to Shepherdstown's design guidelines.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Formal reviews and commission business are conducted during monthly meetings. The public is welcome to attend.

FEDERAL INTEGRATION

As a CLG, the HLC is an active partner in the Federal Historic Preservation Program, with access to specialized technical assistance and building assessments from State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff.

SHEPHERDSTOWN BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS

The HLC assists with grants provided by the town to help improve the appearance of the Town's buildings and walkways.



WHY WE DO IT

The historic character of Shepherdstown makes it a beautiful place to live and drives the economy. By preserving Shepherdstown's built environment, the HLC honors the town's diverse heritage and ensures that its character and sense of place remain for the benefit of future generations. Preservation supports sound community planning, maintains a unique aesthetic, and enhances livability. In addition, preservation fosters sustainability and catalyzes economic development, helping improve the lives of all residents. Whether rehabilitating neglected structures to meet modern needs or protecting historic landscapes, the HLC's efforts combine to instill a sense of pride and foster a stronger, more connected community.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

HOMEOWNERS

Homeowners play a vital role in supporting the HLC by acting as the stewards of the town's unique architectural legacy. To assist the HLC's mission of honoring diverse heritage and maintaining community character, residents should proactively review the town's preservation guidelines before beginning any exterior work. By applying to the HLC for a CoA for changes to exterior architectural features, homeowners ensure their property's rehabilitation aligns with local ordinances, helping maintain higher property values and supporting sound community development.

BUSINESS OWNERS

Business owners can actively support the HLC by recognizing that the town's historic aesthetic is a primary driver of economic development and heritage tourism. By investing in the rehabilitation of historic commercial structures, business owners not only preserve the town's unique character but also contribute to the sustainable environment that attracts customers. Business owners can lead by example by ensuring any exterior signage or architectural modifications undergo the CoA review process, and by adhering to town ordinances and preservation guidelines.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS

Real estate agents can support the HLC by acting as informed liaisons who educate potential buyers on the value of living in a historic district. By highlighting that preservation efforts lead to higher property values, agents can market the town's unique character as a premium asset. They can ensure homeowners are aware of the technical review process, including the requirement to obtain a CoA before altering exterior architectural features. Ultimately, these agents promote the beauty and unique character that make Shepherdstown such a desirable place to live.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Shepherdstown Historic District Design Guidelines can be accessed through the Corporation of Shepherdstown's website.



CoA PROCESS

In Shepherdstown, a Certificate of Appropriateness (CoA) is required before making specific changes in the historic district. Information and applications are available on the town's website and at the Planning and Zoning Office.



CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A Certified Local Government (CLG) is a program that supports historic preservation through partnerships with state and federal agencies. Information about the CLG program is available on the SHPO website and the National Park Service website.



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Shepherdstown
WEST VIRGINIA

HISTORIC
LANDMARKS
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