

**Local Designated Historic Places
include:**

Church Street Historic District

Church Street between Menomonee River Parkway and
Milwaukee Avenue

Kneeland Walker House

7406 Hillcrest Drive

Dittmar-Robertson Building

1409-1427 Underwood Avenue

Thomas Benjamin Hart House

1609 Church Street

**Milwaukee County School of Agriculture &
Domestic Economy Buildings**

9722 Watertown Plank Road

**You, too, can be part of this
distinguished list.**

Read on....

Contact information:

City of Wauwatosa

Historic Preservation Commission

Community Development Department-Planning Division

7725 West North Avenue

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

(414) 479-8957

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**What is the Wauwatosa Historic Preservation
Commission?**

The City of Wauwatosa Historic Preservation Commission is composed of citizen members and one alderperson. The mayor with the consent of the Common Council appoints members. The Commission includes individuals with expertise in preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of historic structures and sites.

The principal responsibilities of the Commission are to recommend sites and structures for historic designation, and to review some exterior alterations and construction to designated properties.

The Commission also sponsors awareness programs and publishes historic preservation resource materials. These materials are available at the Wauwatosa Public Library and at City Hall to view or to purchase.

City of Wauwatosa

**A Property
Owner's Guide to
Local Historic
Designation**

October 2010

**City of Wauwatosa
Historic Preservation Commission**

A Property Owner's Guide to Local Historic Designation

Wauwatosa is a community with many beautiful historic buildings and homes. Historic designation is a way for you to participate in the stewardship of the community.

What is Local Historic Designation?

Historic designation is the process by which a site, structure, district or area is officially recognized as having historical, architectural, or archeological significance within the City of Wauwatosa. It is the primary means for identifying and preserving Wauwatosa's historic resources.

Is My Property Eligible for Designation?

A property of site is eligible if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

- ◆ Exemplifies or reflects the broad cultural, political, economic, or social history of the community;
- ◆ Is identified with an historic person or persons or with important events in national, state, or local history;
- ◆ Contains architectural or distinctive characteristics that are valuable for research and study of a specific period of time, style, method of construction, material, or craftsmanship;
- ◆ Represents the work of a master builder or architect;
- ◆ Contains historic information; or
- ◆ Is significant based solely on the depth and quality or the architecture represented.

How Do I Benefit?

Designation is a way of expressing that you are proud of your property. There is satisfaction in knowing that you are keeping up your home or building in the very best way—and keeping its resale value up, too.

Local designation is an honor. It recognizes that a building or site is important to the City's historic and cultural heritage.

"We feel so honored to be living in a home designed by Ernest Flagg, the architect of the Corcoran Art Museum in Washington, DC, and the US Naval Academy." Dennis and Kathy Wicht, owners of a designated home on Grand Parkway.

How Does the Community Benefit?

Local designation protects properties from inappropriate and unmanaged change by requiring additions and some exterior alterations be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Historic preservation enriches the lives of all Wauwatosa residents. It fosters civic pride in the beauty and accomplishments of the past and protects this heritage for future generations.

Preservation improves the quality of life by adding character to the area, promoting tourism, and increasing property values. Local designation also encourages owners of historic landmarks to invest in their buildings.

Am I Required to Restore My Property?

No. Local historic designation does not require property owners to recreate the original

appearance of the building. However, because the property is historically significant, preservation is encouraged.

Can I Make Changes to My Property?

Yes. Only changes that affect the exterior of the structure and that require a building permit are reviewed by the Preservation Commission. When approved, the Commission issues a Certificate of Appropriateness, a written affirmation that the proposed change is consistent with the historic character of the property while meeting the modern day needs of the residents.

How Do I Apply for Local Designation?

- ◆ An application form may be obtained by calling the Community Development Department at (414) 479-8957.
- ◆ The completed application is submitted to the Historic Preservation Commission.
- ◆ After a public hearing to discuss the pending designation, the Commission forwards its recommendation to the Common Council.
- ◆ The Common Council acts upon the Commission's recommendation.

Applicants are encouraged to attend all meetings and comment on their application.

How Do I Obtain Additional Information on Local Historic Designation?

Photographs of designated properties are on display at Wauwatosa City Hall.

For more information about the designation process, call the Community Development Department at (414) 479-8957 or visit www.wauwatosa.net