



# D U R H A M Historic Preservation Commission

## Policy for Applying Local Historic Landmark Criteria

### General Criteria

To be considered a Durham historic landmark, a district, site, building, structure, or object must not currently be undergoing renovation unless it has been approved for state or federal tax credits in accordance with the Secretary of Interior Standards, must possess distinction within the context or period of significance, and must meet at least one of the following criteria.

1. Individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places or on the Study List.
2. Statewide Significance status granted by the State Historic Preservation Office.
3. Integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association on the whole, and:
  - a. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local, regional, or national history; or
  - b. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in local, regional, national history; or
  - c. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represents the work of a master; possesses high artistic values (i.e., the architecture alone is significant in its own right); or
  - d. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to Durham's history or prehistory.

A district, site, building, structure, or object whose components lack individual distinction may still be considered a landmark if the whole is significant.

### Additional Specific Criteria

- A. A religious property will only be considered for its architectural or artistic distinction or historical significance.
- B. A building or structure removed from its original location will only be considered when it is significant primarily for architectural value or when it is the surviving structure most associated with a historic person or event.
- C. A birthplace or grave of an outstanding historical figure will only be considered if no appropriate site or building directly associated with that person's productive life exists.
- D. A cemetery will only be considered when it derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, age, distinctive design features, or association with historic events.

## Attachment C, HPC Policy for Applying Local Historic Landmark Criteria

- E. A reconstructed building will only be considered when accurately rebuilt in a suitable environment, presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived.
- F. A property, primarily commemorative in intent, will only be considered if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance.
- G. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years will only be considered if it is of exceptional importance.

### Definitions

**Architectural significance** – The importance of a property based on physical aspects of its design, materials, form, style, or workmanship, and recognized by criterion C.

**Association** – The link of a historic property with a historic event, activity, or person. Also, the quality of integrity through which a historic property is linked to a particular past time and place.

**Design** – A quality of integrity applying to the elements that create the physical form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

**Feeling** – A quality of integrity through which a historic property evokes the aesthetic or historic sense of past time and place.

**Important person** – An individual who has made significant contributions in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture.

**Integrity** – The authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period.

**Location** – A quality of integrity retained by a historic property existing in the same place as it did during the period of significance.

**Materials** – A quality of integrity applying to the physical elements that were combined or deposited in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

**Period of significance** – The span of time in which a property attained the significance for which it meets the criteria.

**Potential to yield information** – The likelihood of a property to provide information about an important aspect of history or prehistory through its physical composition and remains.

**Setting** – A quality of integrity applying to the physical environment of a historic property.

**Significant contribution** – A meaningful or important contribution likely to have had an effect or influence on the outcome of history.

**Transcendent importance** – An importance which surpasses the limits of ordinary experience or is universally applicable.

**Workmanship** – A quality of integrity applying to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture, people, or artisan.

**Attachment C, HPC Policy for Applying Local Historic Landmark Criteria**

Durham Historic Landmark Criteria Flow Chart

