



Historic Preservation Commission Members:

Charlie Brewer, Chairman

Andy Bell

John Marsh

Emily Severin

Margaret Mayfield

Debbie Purvis

Leigh Whatley



HPC Liaison:

Lisa Harrelson

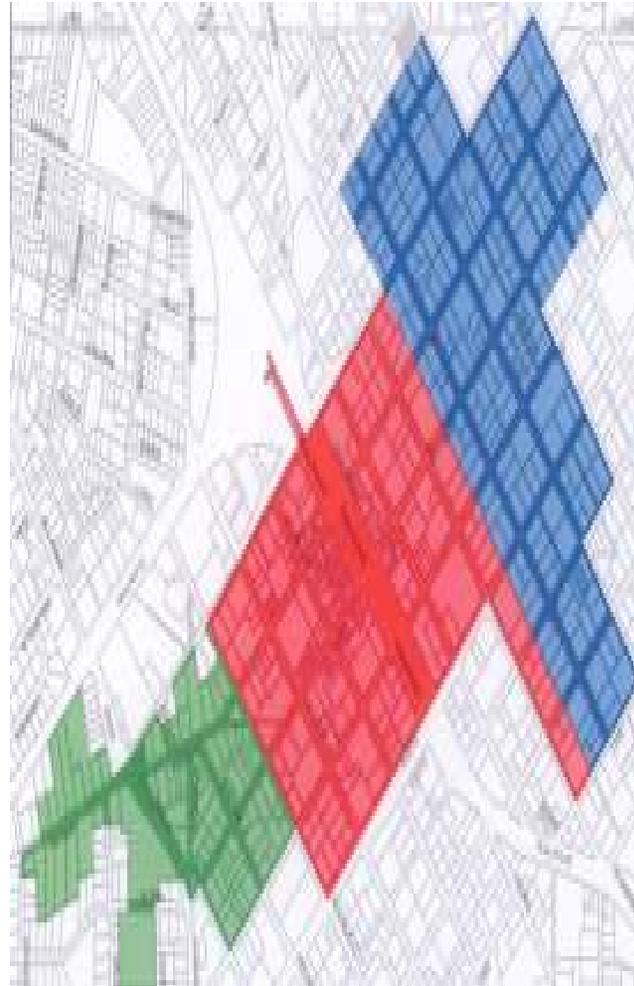
City of Opelika

Community Development

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Historic Districts:

Northside / **Downtown** / **Geneva**

Opelika Historic Preservation Commission



Guide for Planning And Constructing Exterior Improvements

Opelika Historic Preservation Commission:

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was formed by the City of Opelika to support its historical, cultural, and aesthetic heritage. The purpose of the HPC is to:

- Stimulate revitalization of the business districts and historic neighborhoods.
- Protect and enhance local historical attractions to tourists and thereby promote and stimulate business.
- Enhance the opportunities for Federal or State tax benefits.
- Provide for the designation, protection, preservation, and rehabilitation of historic properties and historic districts.

Façade Grants:

The Opelika HPC has teamed with **Main Street** to provide matching funds, up to \$7,000, in Façade Grants to assist downtown business owners.

For more information contact:

Pam Powers-Smith
Main Street Director
(334) 745-0466

This program receives federal funds from the National Park Service administered through the Alabama Historical Commission. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental federally assisted programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Designated Districts:

Since the adoption of a Historic Preservation Commission by the City Council in 1997, three areas have been designated as Historic

Districts:

- *Downtown Central Business District*
- *North Opelika Residential Area*
- *Geneva Street Residential Area*

Historic District Property

Owners:

As a property owner in a Historic District, it is important to remember that **prior** to beginning any **exterior** changes to your property, please contact Lisa Harrelson, (334) 705-5155, for information on how to obtain a **Certificate of Appropriation (COA)**.

Staff Review:

Not every project requires a formal hearing. There are many projects that allow an administrative review. For example:

~ Re-painting, repairs, replacement. These items are considered "routine maintenance" and only require a simple application.

~Painting, installation, minor additions can be reviewed by staff. A completed application with all of the necessary information (samples, elevations, photos, etc.) can be reviewed within 2 or 3 days.

The City of Opelika Historic Preservation



Commission webpage, www.opelika.org, contains the Design Review Guides, Certificate of Appropriation applications as well as a map of the Historic Districts.

Steps to a Successful Application:

1. Consult the Design Review Guidelines for assistance in planning your project.
2. Complete the simple application and provide whatever samples to assist the review. An application fee must be included.
3. If your project requires a hearing before the HPC, your attendance is required. The members may have questions that only you or your contractor can answer.
4. At the meeting it is very helpful to have as many samples of materials, specifications, paint chips, elevations, etc., that may be available.
5. The members may offer suggestions or alternatives should your project not meet the guidelines.
6. The commission will try to make a decision the same day. You may be asked to come back with a revised plan.

Commission Members:

It is important to remember that the Commission members are unpaid volunteers, who are your neighbors, and are available to assist you with any questions.