

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Preserve buildings and sites that contribute to Round Rock's history.

Policy Description:

Public input received indicated that residents are very supportive of historic preservation and feel that the city should protect sites and structures that represent the heritage and history of Round Rock. Round Rock has had a historic preservation program since 1979. Historic assets play an essential role in shaping the identity of a place. Historic buildings, neighborhoods, and other important vestiges of the past define a unique and special sense of character in a community. As Round Rock continues to grow and mature, its historic resources remain an important part of the community's identity. Historic preservation encourages the continued use of older properties, safeguards the existence of significant historic elements, and contributes to community development objectives such as quality of life, sustainability, and economic development.



Mayor, Historic Preservation Commissioners, members of nonprofit Round Rock Preservation, and the public at celebration after the relocation of the Stagecoach Inn.

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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:

- Explore means for financing the city's historic preservation program including a new dedicated annual allocation in the city's budget.
- Complete the restoration of the Stagecoach Inn.
- Consider new incentive programs specifically to assist property owners and developers with maintenance and rehabilitation of historic properties.
- Continue administering the Partial Tax Exemptions for Historically Significant Sites program and guide property owners through the application review process.
- Consider expanding the number of historically designated properties. Review the designation criteria in the Round Rock Development Code to adapt the definition of historic significance. Identify structures recently annexed into the city and mid-century structures which are now, or will soon be, eligible for designation.
- Explore establishing a historic district for the *Downtown Master Plan* area which regulates exterior building materials for all structures.
- Establish a policy to address whether performance advances in building materials could, in certain circumstances, justify the application of non-historic materials to aid the long-term preservation of historic structures.
- Establish methods, guidelines, priorities, and a dedicated funding source for preservation of city-owned historically designated properties.
- Contribute historic preservation expertise to ensure the development surrounding the Water Tower is contextually appropriate and does not diminish the Tower's historic integrity.
- Advise the Parks and Recreation Department regarding historic features of the Bathing Beach Park and Heritage Trail projects.
- Foster a network of preservation advocates and allies, like the nonprofit Round Rock Preservation, by collaborating with preservation partners at the local, regional, and state levels.
- Support the Williamson Museum's efforts to continue local history programming in Round Rock.
- Partner with other preservation organizations to create a local historic preservation award program to recognize preservation success stories.
- Create opportunities to record and celebrate the history of the city through a local history archive and resources at the new library.
- Increase focus on heritage tourism citywide through promotion of the city's historic assets. Consider becoming a designated Preserve America community.
- Capitalize on historic assets as an economic engine for Round Rock by promoting historic sites to areas outside of the city.
- Increase stakeholder and public awareness of the city's historic preservation program by providing training opportunities, hosting public events, and creating educational materials.