



# Chatham County Register of Historic Places Fact Sheet



## **Who** is eligible for listing?

- Any community or individual property within Unincorporated Chatham County which meets one or more of the following:
  - Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history;
  - Has special character, land use pattern, or special or aesthetic interest or value;
  - Associated with an event or person(s) of historical or cultural significance to the County of Chatham, State of Georgia or the region;
  - Is one of the few remaining examples of a past architectural style.
- The MPC maintains a list of eligible communities and properties which is regularly updated.

## **What** does it mean to be a Local Historic District or Historic Property?

- The district or property receives recognition from the County as an important historical and cultural resource.
- A set of standards and guidelines for the preservation of historic buildings and appropriate design for new construction will be created for each district.
- All exterior alterations, demolitions, and new construction must be in accordance with the standards and approved by the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission (CCHPC) before a building permit is issued.

## **When** is the deadline for designating a district or property? How long does the process take?

- There is no deadline for completing the designation application. The CCHPC meets the first Wednesday of every month at 2:00 to review applications.
- The process typically takes three to six months to become a historic district or property.

## **Where** does the Historic Preservation Commission meet? Where can I find out more information?

- The CCHPC meets at the MPC, 112 East State Street, in the Arthur Mendonsa Hearing Room.
- For more information contact Ellen Harris, Preservation Professional, 651-1482, or [harrise@thempc.org](mailto:harrise@thempc.org)

## **Why** should a community/property become a local historic district/historic property?

- To provide protection for historic resources from inappropriate alterations or demolitions.
- To preserve the character of a community by ensuring new buildings are compatible.
- To promote a sense of pride within the community by recognizing its historical significance.

## **How** does a community/property become a local historic district/historic property?

- The first step is to meet with the Preservation Professional to see if an area is eligible.
- The next step is to determine the community support- more than 50% of property owners in a proposed district **MUST** consent to the designation. For a historic property, the owner must consent.
- Next, a group representing the neighborhood, or individual property owner, submits an application (available at [www.thempc.org](http://www.thempc.org)). The Preservation Professional will assist with the form if needed.
- The Preservation Professional will draft guidelines and standards for the district.
- The CCHPC will then review the designation application and make a recommendation to the Chatham County Commissioners.
- The County Commissioners will review the application and make the final determination.
- You become a local historic district or property on the Chatham County Register of Historic Places! Congratulations!!!