

Historic Preservation

Why Old Homes Matter

"He who loves an old house never loves in vain."

Historic preservation is about protecting our history, architectural accomplishments, and the fabric of our communities. The City of Bexley has taken a wonderful step by recently forming a Historic Preservation Working Group. This group was created:

"To implement new practices towards the preservation of historic structures within Bexley, and to recognize the benefits of preserving our existing quality in order to maintain the historically unique character seen throughout our community."

Historic community buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes embody the lives of those who built, lived or worked in them. They have stories to tell about what the community was and how it became what it is, and that help us understand who we are. In simple terms, historic preservation means safeguarding the existence and appearance of historic elements of the community.

Types of Historic Elements

Structures:

Historical value resides in the building itself. It may be valuable as a stellar example of an architectural style, a unique construction process, or simply for its age. Many houses that were unremarkable when they were built have gained historical value because they've lasted, and are among the few left from their time.

Historical significance usually has to do with a link between the building and a particular historical event or series of events. Many historically significant buildings are architecturally important, but they don't have to be. As an example, the house at 1334 Livingston Ave., just west of Bexley, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The house is small and simple, but it is the childhood home of Edward Vernon Rickenbacker, who was America's most successful fighter ace in World War I.

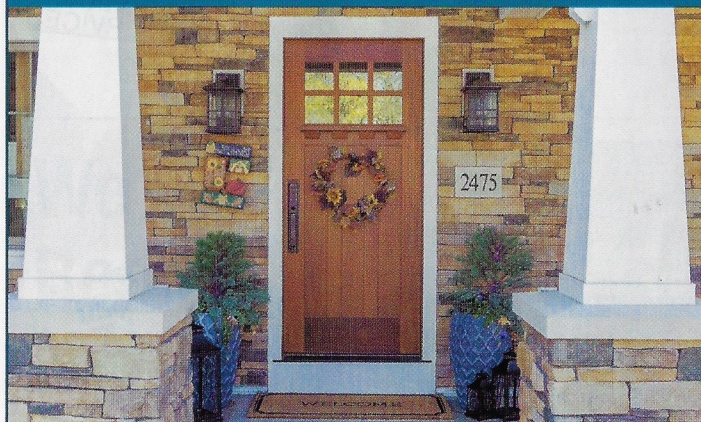
Neighborhoods:

Neighborhoods may be historically important because of their architecture, or because they still present a picture of a previous era. Here in Columbus, German Village is a great example of this, and this entire neighborhood is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

Landscapes:

A landscape itself may be either historically valuable or historically significant. Bexley has the distinction of being the first city in the United States to be designated an arboretum in 2013. The city has cataloged over 14,000 trees and 100 different species in parks or right-of-way areas managed by the Bexley forester. This doesn't even include trees within resident's yards!

Isn't Your Home Worth It?



Lauerhass Architecture

Specializing in Renovating Bexley Homes for over Twenty Years!

Amy Lauerhass - President

614-371-3523 | LauerhassArchitecture.com

Elements of Historic Preservation

The term “historic preservation” actually includes four different possible activities, according to the U.S. National Park Service, which oversees the Department of the Interior’s Historic Preservation program.

Preservation:

Preservation is preserving a place as it is in the present. It assumes that all historic features, materials, etc. will be kept where it’s humanly possible to restore or repair them, and will be maintained as they are in the future. Preservation values not only the origin of a building, but its occupants over time, and the uses to which it was put, and assumes that all evidence of them will be preserved, as well as the original character of the structure.

Rehabilitation:

Rehabilitation fixes up a deteriorated historic property often for a use other than its original. Like preservation, it puts a premium on retaining and repairing historic features, but allows more leeway for repair and replacement of elements that have been severely damaged by time.

Restoration:

Restoration means putting a building or landscape back the way it was originally, or at a historically significant time in its past. That means eliminating any repairs or alterations that came after that period, including additions to the building and other major features, and re-creating, with historic materials and techniques, missing features that are known or obvious.

Reconstruction:

Reconstruction is the creation of an historically accurate copy of either a specific historic property that no longer exists, or an example of one from a chosen historical period. The reconstruction may use traditional techniques and materials, but the materials

will be new, and therefore different from the actual materials that would be found in an original structure.

Why Encourage Historic Preservation?

Preserving our homes, neighborhoods and trees maintains the historic, architectural, and aesthetic character and heritage of a community, and helps to provide a sense of place and continuity. As suburban sprawl make more and more places look the same, it becomes important for communities to keep their identities intact.

Historic preservation also conserves resources, reduces waste, and saves money by repairing and reusing existing buildings instead of tearing them down and building new ones. Reusing a historic structure helps to greatly reduce the carbon footprint of a building.

It preserves old methods of workmanship. Because many modern buildings are built on the assumption that they will only be needed for a relatively short time before they are replaced, workmanship is not as careful or durable as methods used in the past, when buildings were expected to last indefinitely. By working on historic buildings, new generations of craftsmen learn the techniques to improve modern buildings as well.

It can add character and/or charm to a community, and emphasize its uniqueness. The preservation of old buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes can determine the look of a community, and may be an attraction for tourists as well.

With input from the community, Bexley has just begun to work on what we feel historic preservation means for our city. Moving forward, we can all work together and become a part of preserving our wonderful community for generations to come.



Attention, readers and residents. If you own a historic home in Bexley, we would like to spotlight your home and tell a story about why it is, and share this with our city and its residents. Please email us at: bexleyliving@n2pub.com with information.