THE PIERCE COUNTY
LANDMARKS & HISTORIC
PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Preserving the built history of Pierce County
was formalized in 1984 by the County Council
with the creation of the Pierce County
Landmarks & Historic Preservation
Commission. The Commission is a body
of volunteers comprised of citizens with
an interest in history and professionals
in the fields of architecture, cultural history, and
archaeology. One Commission duty is to review
applications for landmark status for historic
properties in unincorporated Pierce County.
The Commission also reviews proposed exterior
changes to landmarked properties. Special local
and Federal tax benefits can be available for
registered historic structures rehabilitated in
accordance with the Commission guidelines
and standards set by the U.S. Secretary
of the Interior.
The Commission spearheads the County’s
efforts to maintain a blend of old and new,
assisting growth and development while
maintaining pride in our built heritage.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

We are here to help.
Pierce County’s Historic Preservation Program
is in the Planning and Land Services Department.
Call 253-798-3683 or 253-798-3736 or go online at:
www.piercecountywa.org/historicpreservation

PIERCE COUNTY
LANDMARKS & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
COMMISSION
WHAT'S THE PIERCE COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES?

Essentially, the register is a list of historic properties. Buildings, sites and facilities listed on the register must possess historic significance and have integrity of character defining features.

In addition to individual listings, Pierce County has a historic district on the register. Home, Washington. Design review by the Pierce County Landmarks & Historic Preservation Commission is a requirement for structures listed on the local register.

5 EASY STEPS TO LIST YOUR PROPERTY ON THE PIERCE COUNTY HISTORIC REGISTER

1) VISIT THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PAGE
   www.piercecountywa.org/historicpreservation  The application for the Pierce County register is found on this site. Information on tax incentives and how to research historic properties is also available.

2) FILL IN THE APPLICATION
   Answer the easy questions; staff can help with the rest. Focus on the exterior; the importance of interior historic owners or maybe the style, designer or builder. Staff can give you model nominations if you'd like a guide.

3) SUBMIT TO STAFF
   County staff can review the application and then recommend changes. Then you can submit the final, finished copy.

4) ATTEND THE HEARING
   The Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission meetings are open to the public, and are generally held at the Pierce County Annex, on the second Tuesday of each month.

5) FINAL ACTION
   If the Commission rules in favor of your application, the application will be forwarded to the Pierce County Council for final action and listing on the Pierce County Register of Historic Places.

The Pierce County Register is posted online: www.piercecountywa.org/historicpreservation

ADVANTAGES OF LISTING ON THE PIERCE COUNTY REGISTER

Eligibility for the Special Valuation Tax program.
In Pierce County, a registered historic site can have its tax burden reduced for a decade based on the amount invested in the property's rehabilitation.

Flexibility for meeting the building code.
Pierce County has adopted the International Existing Building Code, which addresses existing buildings in our communities. This code is designed to encourage reinvestment in older structures by providing safe and cost-effective alternate safety solutions for many of the most common situations presented by existing buildings. This can remove the need for unnecessary work, saving time and money.

Free professional guidance! The Landmarks and Historic Preservation Commission is dedicated to providing assistance on maintenance, restoration, and research questions. Preservation provides a tangible link to our history. Historic and cultural properties are non-renewable resources and showcase significant history, architectural styles, or cultural groups.

Property values and the marketability of historic properties are typically enhanced by historic register listing.