

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 field 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](http://www.piercecountywa.org/historicpreservation)



LANDMARKS & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

*Historic  
Preservation  
in  
Pierce County*

12/11

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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.piercecountwa.org/historicpreservation](http://www.piercecountwa.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 prior historic owners or maybe the style, designer or builder. Staff can give you model nominations if you'd like a guide.

## 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.



The Pierce County Register is posted online:  
[www.piercecountywa.org/historicpreservation](http://www.piercecountywa.org/historicpreservation)



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.

**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.**