

ORDINANCE NO. 47, 2000

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

SECTION 1. Purposes and Definitions

- (a) **PURPOSES.** The purpose of this chapter is to promote the education, cultural and general welfare of the citizens of Valparaiso and to insure the harmonious and orderly growth and development of the municipality; to maintain established residential neighborhoods in danger of having their distinctiveness destroyed; to enhance property values and attract new residents; to ensure viability of the traditional Downtown area and to encourage tourism within the City of Valparaiso.

It is deemed essential by the City of Valparaiso that qualities relating to our history and harmonious outward appearance of its structures needs to be preserved. This purpose is advanced through the restoration and preservation of historic areas and buildings, the construction and compatible new buildings where appropriate, and the maintenance and insurance of compatibility in regards to style, form, proportion, texture and material between historic buildings and those of contemporary design. It is the intention of the City of Valparaiso through this ordinance to provide a method to preserve and protect historic and architecturally worthy buildings, structures, sites, monuments, streetscapes and neighborhoods which impart a distinct aesthetic quality to the City and serve as visible reminders of its historic heritage.

- (b) **DEFINITIONS.** The following terms shall have the following meaning unless a contrary meaning is required by the context or is specifically prescribed. Words in the present tense include the future tense. The singular number includes the plural, and the plural, the singular. The word "person" includes a firm, partnership, a limited liability company, or a corporation, as well as an individual. Terms not defined in this section shall have the meanings customarily assigned to them.

ALTERATION A material or color change in the external architectural features of any building, structure, or site within a historic district.

CITY means the City of Valparaiso, Indiana.

CLASSIFICATIONS:

OUTSTANDING the "O" classification means that the property has sufficient historic or architectural significance that is listed, or is eligible for individual listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. Outstanding resources can be of local, state, or national importance.

NOTABLE the classification of "N" means that the property does not merit the outstanding rating, but it is above average in its importance. A notable structure may be eligible for the National Register.

CONTRIBUTING the "C" classification means the property is at least 40 years old, but does not meet the criteria for an "O" or "N" classification. Such resources are important to the density or

continuity of the area's historic fabric. Contributing structures can be listed in the National Register only as part of a historic district.

NON-CONTRIBUTING a property classified as "NC" is not included in an inventory unless it is located within the boundaries of a historic district. Such properties may be less than 50 years old, or they may be older structures that have been altered in such a way that have been altered in such a way they have lost their historic character, or they may be otherwise incompatible with their historic surroundings. These properties are not eligible for listing in the national Register.

DEMOLITION The complete or substantial removal of any building, structure, or site located in a historic district.

HISTORIC DISTRICT a single building, structure, object, spaces, or sites, the boundaries of which are described or delineated on a map approved in an ordinance adopted under this title.

INTERESTED PARTY means one of the following:

- a. The Mayor
- b. The City Council
- c. The City Plan Commission
- d. A neighborhood association, whether incorporated or unincorporated, a majority of whose members are residents of a historic district designated by an ordinance adopted under this title.
- e. An owner or occupant of property located in a historic district established by an ordinance adopted under this title.
- f. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Inc., or any of its successors.
- g. The state historic preservation officer designated under I.C.14-3-3.4-10.

PRESERVATION GUIDELINES CRITERIA, locally developed, which identify local design concerns in an effort to assist property owners in maintaining the character of the designated district or buildings during the process of rehabilitation or new construction.

PRIMARY AREA the principal area of historic and/or architectural significance within a historic district s delineated on the map establishing the boundaries of the historic district.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE work for which no certificate of appropriateness is required.

SECONDARY AREA an area in a historic district delineated on the map establishing the boundaries of the historic district that is adjacent to a primary area and which has a visual relationship to the primary area and could affect the preservation of the primary area. The purpose of designating a secondary area is to assure its compatibility and harmony with an adjacent, primary area.

STREETSCAPE appearance from a public way, the distinguishing characteristics of which are created by the width of the street and sidewalks, their paving materials and color, the design of the street furniture (e.g., street lights, trash receptacles, benches, etc.) use of plant materials such as trees and shrubs and the setback, mass and proportion of those buildings which enclose the street.

VISUAL COMPATIBILITY those elements of design that meet the guidelines set out in Section 8 of this title.

SECTION 2. Historic Preservation Commission

(a) Establishment and Organization

- a. *Creation:* there is hereby established the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Valparaiso, Indiana (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission").
- b. *Composition:* the Commission shall consist of five (5) members to be appointed by the Mayor, who shall be residents of the City of Valparaiso. The members of the commission should include professionals in the disciplines of architecture history and planning, if such professionals are available in the community. Nonvoting advisory members may be appointed to the commission by the Mayor as deemed appropriate. Commission members and nonvoting advisory members shall serve without compensation except for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, unless otherwise provided by the Common Council of the City of Valparaiso through the Annual Salary Ordinance.
- c. *Term:* voting members shall serve for a term of three (3) years; however the initial term of members shall be one (1) for a period of one year, two (2) for a period of two years and three (3) for a period of three years in order to provide for staggered terms. The term for any nonvoting advisory shall be three (3) years. Any vacancy that occurs during the term of a member shall be filled within ninety (90) days and shall be for the duration of the remaining term of such member.
- d. *Commission Administrator:* the office of the City Planner is designated to serve as Ex-Officio Administrator of the Commission. The administrator shall perform such duties as may be required by the commission and may call upon other members of the City Administration for assistance in performing the duties directed by the commission.
- e. *Officers:* the Commission shall elect from its membership a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer, who shall serve for one (1) year and who may be re-elected.
- f. *Rules:* the Commission shall adopt rules consistent with this title for the transaction of its business. The rules must include the time and place of regular meetings and a procedure for the calling of special meetings.
- g. *Meetings:* Commission meetings must be open to the public in accordance with Indiana's Open Door Law and a public record shall be kept of the Commission's resolutions, proceedings and actions. The Commission shall hold regular meetings at least monthly, except when it has no business pending. Special meetings may be called in a manner determined by the Commission and its rules.

SECTION 3. Powers and Duties of the Commission

- (a) The Commission shall be concerned with those elements of development, redevelopment, rehabilitation and preservation that affect visual quality in a historic district, which include, but are not limited to viewsheds, landscapes and streetscapes of historic importance. The Commission may not consider details of design, interior arrangements, or building features, are not subject to public view, and may not make any requirement except for the purpose of

preventing development, alteration, or demolition in the historic district obviously incongruous with historic district.

- (b) The Commission shall conduct surveys and establish historic districts in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of this title.
- (c) The Commission may adopt preservation guidelines for architectural review. If adopted, preservation guidelines shall be published and made readily accessible to the general public.
- (d) The Commission has the authority to receive funds in order to promote its stated purpose.
- (e) The Commission shall promote public interest in historic preservation by initiating and carrying on a public relations and community education program.
- (f) The Commission through this ordinance may:
 - a. Acquire by purchase, gift, grant bequest, devise, or lease any real or personal property, including easements, that is appropriate for carrying for carrying out the purposes of the Commission.
 - b. Hold title to real and personal property; and
 - c. Sell, lease, rent or otherwise dispose of real and personal property at a public or private sale on the terms and conditions that the Commission considers best.
- (g) The Commission shall establish procedures that the Commission must follow in acquiring and disposing of property.

SECTION 4. Historic Districts, Conservation Districts and Guidelines

- (a) It is hereby acknowledged that a Historic Preservation District currently exists in the City of Valparaiso as previously established by the City and the then existing Downtown Business Association. It is further acknowledged that there are a variety of properties located in the City of Valparaiso that are on the National Historic Register and/or are eligible for such designation. This Ordinance shall not be interpreted to have any impact on the existence of such district registered properties or eligible properties.
- (b) All recommendations for the establishment of a historic district shall be in the form of a written report and must be based on the criteria outlines in this section. A recommendation for establishing a historic district may be initiated from either of the following two (2) Sources:
 - a. Based on its survey, the Commission may draw and submit historic district maps for City Council approval.
 - b. Owners of property in fee simple wishing to establish a historic district which includes, their property may petition the Commission to consider drawing and submitting a map or maps of said property to the City Council for its approval. The Commission may establish in its rules criteria to be met before it considers a petition.
- (c) Conservation Districts: the Commission may recommend, and the City Council may provide that the establishment of a historic district shall occur in two (2) phases. During the first phase which continues for a period of three (3) years from the date the ordinance is adopted, a certificate of appropriateness is required for the following activities: the demolition of any building; the moving of any building; and any new construction of a principal building or accessory building or structure subject to view from a public way.
 - a. At the expiration of the initial three (3) year period, the first phase of a conservation district continues and the second phase does not become effective if a majority of the

property owners in the district object to the Appropriateness be issued for the following activities:

- i. a conspicuous change in the exterior appearance of historic buildings by additions, construction, alteration, or maintenance involving exterior color changes;
 - ii. a change in walls and fences or construction of walls and fences, if along public ways;
 - iii. a conspicuous change in exterior appearance of non-historic buildings subject to view from a public way by additions, reconstruction, alterations, or maintenance involving exterior color change.
- (d) Commission preparation of historic district maps: in order to establish a historic district, the Commission shall first prepare a map describing the district in accordance with the following:
- a. The map shall be based on a survey conducted by the Commission, which identifies historic buildings, structures and sites located within the City.
 - b. A district may be limited to the boundaries of a property containing a single building, structure or site.
 - c. The map may divide the district into primary and secondary areas as follows:
 - i. Primary Area: the principal area of historic and architectural significance.
 - ii. Secondary Area: an area adjacent to a primary area, which has a visual relationship to the primary area and could affect the preservation of the primary area. The purpose of designating a secondary area to assure its compatibility and harmony with an adjacent primary area.
- (e) The Commission shall classify and designate on the map all buildings, structures, and sites within each historic district described on the map. Buildings, structures, and sites shall be classified as historic or non-historic. Historic buildings, structures and sites must possess identified historic or architectural merit of a degree warranting their preservation. The Commission shall further classify and designate all buildings and structures within a proposed historic district as follows:
- a. Outstanding.
 - b. Notable; or
 - c. Contributing.
- Non-historic buildings, structures and sites are those not classified on the map as historic. In lieu of other classifications, the Commission may devise its own system of further classification of historic buildings, structures and sites.
- (f) City Council approval of maps of historic districts: before a historic district is established and the building classifications take effect, the map setting forth the district's boundaries and building classifications must be submitted to, and approved in an ordinance by, the City Council.
- (g) Recording the fact of designation: the map establishing boundaries of a historic district may be recorded in the Office of the Porter County Recorder.

SECTION 5. Interim Protection

- (a) When submitting a map to the City Council under Section 4 of this title, the Commission may declare one (1) or more buildings or structures that are classified and designated as historic on the map to be under interim protection.

- (b) Not more than two (2) working days after declaring a building, structure, or site to be under interim protection under this section, the Commission shall, by personal delivery or first class mail, provide the owner or occupant of the building, structure or site with a written notice of the declaration. The written notice must:
 - a. Cite the authority of the Commission to put the building, structure or site under interim protection under this section;
 - b. Explain the effect of putting the building, structure or site under interim protection; and
 - c. Indicate that the interim protection is temporary.
- (c) A building or structure put under the interim protection under subsection (a) remains under interim protection until the map is:
 - a. Submitted to; and
 - b. Approved in an ordinance or rejected by the City Council.
- (d) While a building, structure, or site is under interim protection under this section:
 - a. The building, structure or site may not be demolished or moved; and
 - b. The exterior appearance of the building, structure or site may not be conspicuously changed by:
 - i. Addition;
 - ii. Reconstruction; or
 - iii. Alteration.
- (e) The Commission may approve a Certificate of Appropriateness at any time during the period of interim protection, provided the proposed change meets the criteria for considering effect of actions on historic buildings in Section 6 (d) of this ordinance and any proposed preservation guidelines prepared for the building, structure or site, but the Certificate of Appropriateness shall have no effect, and no action may be taken pursuant thereto, unless the map including the building, structure or site is approved by the City Council.

SECTION 6. Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)

- (a) Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) required: a Certificate of Appropriateness must be issued by the Commission before a permit is issue for, or work is begun on, any of the following:
 - a. Within all areas of a historic district:
 - i. The demolition of any building or structure;
 - ii. The moving of any building or structure;
 - iii. A conspicuous change in the exterior appearance of any historic building or any part of or appurtenance to such a building, including walls, fences, light fixtures, steps, paving, and signs by additions, reconstruction, alteration, or maintenance involving exterior color change if cited by individual ordinance;
 - iv. Any new construction of a principal building or accessory building or structure subject
 - b. Within a primary area of a historic district:
 - i. A change in walls and fences, or the construction of walls and fences along public ways;
 - ii. A conspicuous change in the exterior appearance of non-historic buildings subject to view from a public way by additions, reconstruction. alteration and/or maintenance involving exterior color change.

- c. Within a conservation district:
 - i. The moving of any building;
 - ii. The demolition of any building; or
 - iii. Any new construction of a principal building or accessory building or structure to view from a public way.
- (b) Application for Certificates of Appropriateness: an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be made in the office of the Commission or its designee on forms provided by that office. All applications shall be subject to the rules and requirements established by the Commission. Rules may include, but are not limited to, filing deadlines and application requirements such as sketches, drawings, photographs, descriptions, or other information, which the Commission requires to make a decision.
- (c) Approval or denial of Certificate of Appropriateness: the Commission may approve or deny Certificates of Appropriateness for any actions covered by this title. If an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness is approved by the Commission, or is not acted on by the Commission within thirty (30) days after its filed, a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be issued. The Commission may grant an extension of the thirty-day limit if the applicant agrees to it. The Commission must report its findings and the reasons for its decision in written form, and supply the applicant with a copy of its report. A copy of the Certificate of Appropriateness must be submitted with the application for a building or demolition permit; no building or demolition permit shall be issued unless a copy of the Certificate of Appropriateness is provided by the applicant with the application.
- (d) Criteria for considering the effect of actions on historic buildings: the Commission, in considering the appropriateness of any reconstruction, alteration, maintenance, or moving of a historic building, structure, site or any part of a appurtenance to such building or structure, including walls, fences, light fixtures, steps, paving and signs shall require that such work be done in a manner that will preserve the historical and architectural character of the building, structure, or appurtenance. In considering historic and architectural character, the Commission shall consider, among other things, the follow:
 - a. Purposes of this title;
 - b. Historic and architectural value and significance of the building, structure, site or appurtenance;
 - c. Compatibility and significance of additions, alterations, details, materials, or other non-original elements, which may be of a different style and construction date than the original;
 - d. The texture, material color, style and detailing of the building, structure, site or appurtenance;
 - e. The continued preservation and protection of original or otherwise significant structure, material and ornamentation;
 - f. The relationship of buildings, structures, appurtenance or architectural features similar to one within the same historic district, including, for primary areas, visual compatibility as defined in Section 8(b); and
 - g. The position of the building or structure in relation to the street, public right-of-way and to other buildings and structures.

SECTION 7. Staff Approvals

- (a) The Commission may authorize the staff of the Commission, on behalf of the Commission, to grant or deny an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness.
- (b) The Commission shall specify by rule the types of applications for Certificates of Appropriateness that the staff of the Commission is authorized to grant or deny. The staff may not be authorized to grant or deny an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the following:
 - a. The demolition of a building, structure or site.
 - b. The moving of a building or structure.
 - c. The construction of an addition to a building or structure.
 - d. The construction of a new building or structure.

SECTION 8. Visual Compatibility

- (a) For a new construction, contemporary design, and non-historic buildings: to preserve and encourage the integrity of historic buildings, structures, sites, monuments, streetscapes, and neighborhoods and to ensure their compatibility with any new work, the construction of a new building or structure, and the moving, reconstruction, alteration, color change, major maintenance, or repair conspicuously affecting the external appearance of any non-historic building, structure, or appurtenance within the primary area must be generally of a design, form, proportion, mass, configuration, building material, texture, color and location on a lot compatible with other buildings in the historic district and with places to which it is visually related.
- (b) Criteria for considering visual compatibility within historic primary areas: within the primary area of a historic district, new buildings, structures, and appurtenance that are moved, reconstructed, materially altered, repaired, or changed in color, must be visually compatible with buildings and places to which they are visually related generally in terms of the following visual compatibility factors:
 - a. *Height*: the height of proposed buildings must be visually compatible with adjacent buildings.
 - b. *Proportion of building's front façade*: the relationship of the width of a building to the height of the front elevation must be visually compatible with buildings, squares and places to which it is visually related.
 - c. *Proportion of building's front façade*: the relationship of the width of a building to the height of the front elevation must be visually compatible with buildings, squares and places to which is visually related.
 - d. *Relationship of solids to voids in front facades*: the relationship of a building to the open space between it and adjoining buildings must be visually compatible with buildings, squares and places to which it is visually related.
 - e. *Rhythm of spacing of buildings on streets*: the relationship of a building to the open space between it and adjoining buildings must be visually related.
 - f. *Rhythm of entrances and porch projections*: the relationship of entrances and porch projections of a building to sidewalks must be visually compatible with buildings, squares and places to which it is visually related.
 - g. *Relationship of materials, textures and color*: the relationship of materials, textures and color of the façade of a building must be visually related.

- h. *Roof Shapes*: the roof shape of a building must be visually compatible with buildings, squares and places to which it is visually related.
- i. *Wall of continuity*: appurtenance of a building or site, such as walls, wrought iron fences, evergreen landscape masses and building facades, must form cohesive walls of enclosure along street, if necessary to ensure visual compatibility of the building to the buildings and places to which it is visually related.
- j. *Scale of the building*: the size of a building and the building mass of a building in relation to open spaces, windows, door openings, porches, and balconies must be visually compatible with the buildings and places to which it is visually related.
- k. *Directional expression of front elevation*: a building must be visually compatible with buildings, squares and places to which it is visually related in its directional character, including vertical character, horizontal character, or non-directional character.

SECTION 9. Preservation of Historical and Architectural Character Upon Alteration or Relocation Mandated

- (a) A historic building or structure or any part of or appurtenance to such a building or structure, including stone walls, fences, light fixtures, steps, paving and signs may be moved, reconstructed, altered, or maintained only in a manner that will preserve the historic and architectural character of the building, structure, or appurtenance.
- (b) A historic building may be relocated to another site only if it is shown that preservation on its current site is inconsistent with subsection (a).

SECTION 10. Appeal Provisions

- (a) The purpose of this section is to preserve historic buildings that are important to the education, culture, traditions and economic values of the City and to afford the City, historic organizations, property owners, and other interested persons the opportunity to acquire or to arrange for the preservation of these buildings.
- (b) If the Commission denies the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the demolition of a building, structure, or site, a demolition permit may be issued by other agencies and a building, structure, or site may be demolished, but only after the property owner has demonstrated to the Commission that the historic building, structure or site is incapable of earning an economic return on its value, as appraised by a licensed real estate appraiser.
- (c) Notice of the proposed demolition must be given for a period fixed by the Commission, based on the Commission's classification on the approved map, but not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one (1) year. notice must be posted on the premises of the building or structure proposed for demolition in a location clearly visible from the street. In addition, notice must be published in a newspaper of general local circulation at least three (3) times before demolition, with the first publication not more than fifteen (15) days after the application for a permit to demolish is filed, and the final publication at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the permit.
- (d) The Commission may approve a Certificate of Appropriateness at any time during the notice period under subsection (c). If the Certificate of Appropriateness is approved, a demolition permit shall be issued without further delay, and demolition may proceed.

SECTION 11. Maintenance

- (a) Historic buildings, structures, and sites shall be maintained to meet the applicable requirements established under state statute for buildings generally so as to prevent the loss of historic material and deterioration of important character defining details and features.
- (b) Ordinary repairs and maintenance: nothing in this section shall be construed so as to prevent the ordinary repairs and maintenance of any building, structure, or site, provided that such repairs or maintenance do not result in a conspicuous change in the design, form, proportion, mass, configuration, building material, texture, color, location, or external visual appearance of any structure, or part thereof.

SECTION 12. Relationship with Zoning Districts

- (a) Zoning districts lying within the boundaries of the historic district are subject to regulations for both the zoning district and the historic district. If there is a conflict between the requirements of the zoning district and the requirements of the historic district, the more restrictive requirements shall apply.

SECTION 13. Paint Colors

- (a) In an ordinance approving the establishment of a historic district, the City may exclude changes in paint colors from the activities requiring the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness under Section 6 of this ordinance before a permit may be issued or work begun.

SECTION 14. Interested Parties

- (a) An interested party (as defined in Section 1 (b)) has a private right of action to enforce and prevent violation of provisions of this Ordinance or an ordinance adopted by the city under this Ordinance, and with respect to any building, structure, or site within a historic district, and has the right to restrain, enjoin, or enforce by restraining order or injunction, temporarily or permanently, any person from violating a provision of this ordinance or an ordinance adopted under this ordinance.
- (b) The interested party does not have to allege or prove irreparable harm or injury to any person or property to obtain relief under this section.
- (c) The interested party bringing an action under this section does not have to post a bond unless the court, after a hearing, determines that a bond should be required in the interest of justice.
- (d) The interested party that brings an action under this section is not liable to any person for damages resulting from bringing or prosecuting the action unless the action was brought without good faith or without a reasonable belief that a provision of this ordinance, or an ordinance adopted by a unit under this ordinance, had been, or was about to be violated.
- (e) An interested party who obtains a favorable judgement in an action under this section may recover reasonable attorney fees and court costs from the person against whom the judgement was rendered.
- (f) An action arising under this section must be brought in the circuit or superior court of the county in which the historic district lies and no charge of venue from the county shall be allowed in the action.
- (g) The remedy provided in this section is an addition to other remedies that may be available at law or in equity.

SECTION 15. Enforcement, Penalties, and Judicial Review

- (a) Any person, whether as principal, agent, owner, lessee, tenant, contractor, builder, architect, engineer, or otherwise, who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to a fine as follows:
 - a. not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for demolition; and
 - b. Not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for all other offenses.
- (b) Each day of the existence of any violation of this ordinance shall be separate offense.
- (c) The erection, construction, enlargement, alteration, repair, demolition, color change, moving, or maintenance of any building, structure, or appurtenance which is begun, continued, or maintained contrary to any provisions of this ordinance is hereby declared to be a nuisance and in violation of this ordinance and unlawful. The City may institute a suit for injunction in the circuit Court or Superior Court of Porter County to restrain any person or government unit from violating any provisions of this ordinance and to cause such violation to be prevented, abated, or removed. Such action may also be instituted by any property owner who is adversely affected by the violation of any provision of this chapter.
- (d) The remedies provided for in this section shall be cumulative and not exclusive and shall be in addition to any other remedies provided by law.
- (e) Any person or party aggrieved by a decision or action taken by the Commission shall be entitled to a judicial review hereof in accordance with I.C. 4-22-1.

SECTION 16. Severability

- (a) If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this ordinance is adjusted unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

