

Congratulations!

You are the proud owner of a property in Bellefonte Borough's Historic District.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT ME?

It is an investment in time; both the past and the future. You are the steward of the property during the time you own the home.

As the caretaker, you are in charge of maintaining the historic details and architectural features of the property.

This brochure is to help you understand the process of maintaining the historic value for future generations.



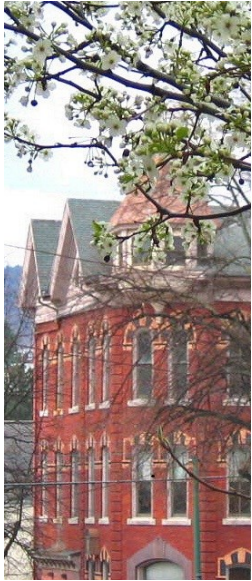
Bellefonte Borough

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD



Protecting and preserving the architectural character and historic integrity of the Bellefonte Historic District

THE HISTORY OF HARB



The Bellefonte Historic District ordinance was adopted in 1970 to protect the District's distinctive historic character within the borough.

A board of Historical Architectural Review was established to review the alteration of buildings in the Historic District.

They are an advisory board and make recommendations, based on the Secretary of the Interior Standards, to Borough Council for approval on any exterior changes. By encouraging maintenance, sensitive alterations, and appropriate new construction that maintains the feel of the district, design review in a local historic district helps protect and enhance property values.

In addition to being a locally designated and regulated historic district, Bellefonte's Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This designation assists in preserving historic properties by recognizing their significance and providing community pride.

WHAT AND WHO IS HARB

HARB is an acronym that stands for Historical Architectural Review Board. It consists of seven volunteer members. A licensed real estate broker, an architect, a building code official, a historic district business owner, and three other individuals knowledgeable about historic preservation. The board meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. in the borough building at 236 W. Lamb Street. HARB is regulated by ordinance and its review process must be complied with. Construction cannot begin on a project until a Certificate of Appropriateness is issued.

WHAT REQUIRES HARB REVIEW

Exterior work visible from any public right away on all properties in the historic district, even if the property is vacant or contains buildings that are not historic, requires review

HARB also reviews property features include signs, awnings, fences, walls, sheds, decks, pools, sidewalks, driveways, and all other built features of a property.

Not all projects have to reviewed by the board. Staff can review and approve most exterior repair and maintenance projects where the color, size, texture, shape, and composition of building materials remain unchanged.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We are happy to offer technical assistance,

answer questions, and help you formulate the best way to preserve your historic property. The HARB consultant is available for consultations prior to submitting an application. Discussion items are also welcome at the board meeting to help with preliminary planning or brainstorm solutions.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

HARB Applications are available online at <http://bellefonte.net/historic-preservation> or at the Borough office. Complete the application and include supporting documentation like digital pictures, site plan to scale, drawings, color swatches, material samples, and anything else that will help HARB make an informed decision. Applications need to be received by the HARB Consultant twelve (12) days prior to the meeting date. Applications can be dropped off at the Borough office or emailed to boro@bellefontepa.gov.

You or a project representative must attend the meeting to present the project and answer any questions the board may have. Unapproved absences can result in applications being tabled until the next meeting.

HARB's recommendation proceeds to Borough Council for final approval. Following Council's approval, a Certificate of Appropriateness will be issued and work can begin. Please allot around a month for the entire review process.