



Frequently Asked Questions Historic Preservation and Surveys

1. Why did I receive this notice/is my property historic?

You have received this notice because your property falls within the boundaries of the area which was surveyed for historic significance. The survey results can be obtained by visiting: <https://bit.ly/3bpq9a4>

2. If my property is found to be historic, does this change how I use it or what I can do to it?

Short answer, no to both questions.

A survey is just an inventory of what's out there that, at first look, appears to meet the minimum criteria for historic designation. It does not result in any designation of any property on any register (local, state or national). To be added to a registry for historic significance, a separate process with different notices takes place. This survey will not add your property to a historic district or designate it individually as a historic landmark.

The survey has zero impact on what you do with your property (that is regulated by the City Zoning Ordinance) and it has no impact on what you can do to the property. Any changes you make to buildings on your property are still regulated by the Building Code and Building Permits may be required. A survey does not change that process.

3. Do my taxes change if my property is found to be historic?

No. Historic status does not have any bearing on your taxes. Taxation rates are based on:

- New development in the City (adds taxable value);
- The total dollars a city, approves/desires as an operating budget;
- The mill (tax) rate property is taxed at; and
- The assessed value of a property.

4. How was this funded and why was this project being undertaken?

The Department of City Development received a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) which is funding 100% of the cost of the survey.

The project is being undertaken as a component of the City's Heritage Preservation Plan which was adopted by the Common Council in February of 2019. Goal number one of this plan is to, "Identify, document, and preserve heritage resources significant to Racine's heritage." This area of the City was identified by the Planning, Heritage and Design Commission (PHDC) as an area of interest and potential historical significance.





5. Have other places of the City been surveyed for historic significance?

Yes, several areas have been surveyed and include: Manree Park (in west Racine), West Racine business district (along Washington Avenue), Washington Avenue Corridor (through Uptown), West Sixth Street area, downtown, south side (neighborhoods immediately south of downtown) and the north side (zoo area and northwards).

6. Does this stop me from selling or renting my property?

No, you are still able to sell or rent your property regardless of historic significance.

7. Is this shutting my business down or will I have to move?

No, a historical survey does not require you to change anything about your property or how you currently use it.

8. Is this City purchasing property as part of this survey?

Absolutely not. The survey is not informing any acquisition of property and there are no plans to purchase property as a result of this historical survey.

9. Who is my Alderman on the Common Council?

Your Alderman can be found on the City's Website at: <https://www.cityofracine.org/CityAlderman/>

10. How can I ask a question outside of the informational meeting?

Emailing citydevelopment@cityofracine.org or calling (262) 636-9151 with your question, contact information, and your property address; all of this information is important so staff can research your question and provide you with an answer. A staff member will respond to your inquiry as soon as possible.

