

*Introducing the  
Haverford Township  
Historical Commission*



WORKING TO  
PRESERVE OUR  
HISTORIC  
RESOURCES

It is important to balance Haverford Township's rich history with its progress and continued development. Through an ongoing commitment between Haverford Township's citizens and the Board of Commissioners, the preservation of local historic character and the promotion of sensitive compatible development have been identified as Township priorities.

To address the need to protect the historical significance of Haverford Township, in December 2009 the Board of Commissioners passed a *Historic Preservation Ordinance* to preserve these valuable resources.

## **HISTORIC RESOURCES OVERLAY**

Haverford Township preserves its resources through three methods: documentation of architectural history, culture, and buildings; regulations and ordinances; and direct assistance to property owners to help them make informed choices about property improvements. With the passage of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, the *Historic Resources Survey* was deemed an overlay on all zoning districts within the Township. The *Historic Resources Overlay*:

- Protects historic resources
- Encourages preservation of historic resources, settings, and landscapes
- Encourages the continued use and promotes the reuse of historic resources
- Discourages unnecessary demolition of historic resources
- Promotes retention of historical integrity in the context of proposed changes
- Establishes a process to review land use changes that affect historic resources

The *Historical Commission* was established to maintain and update the Historic Resources Survey and to provide recommendations to the Board of Commissioners.

## **THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

The Historical Commission is a volunteer advisory body created in January 2010. Seven Township residents serve staggered four-year terms with members chosen for their expertise in historic preservation, architectural history, legal process, commitment to public service, and

familiarity with the Township's historical development and resources. The Historical Commission:

- Recommends properties for classification or removal from the Township's Historic Resources Survey
- Works with property owners to discourage demolition, and encourage preservation and renovation of properties in a manner that is compatible with a property's historic character in accordance with The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation*
- Reviews and advises the Township Zoning Officer and Board of Commissioners on permit applications for alterations, additions, or construction that pertains to or may impact historic resources

## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION REVIEW**

The Historical Commission reviews proposed exterior changes to buildings, structures, and properties included on the Historic Resources Survey that affect their historical or structural integrity. The

Commission reviews proposals to determine whether they are appropriate to the individual property with regard to style, form, and materials. The types of work reviewed by the Historical Commission include:

- Exterior alterations
- Additions and new construction
- Demolition and building relocation

Once the Historical Commission determines whether proposed changes are appropriate, it makes a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners which makes the final determination.

The Historical Commission does not review any interior changes unless they impact the exterior appearance of the building. Property owners can contact the Township Zoning Officer to determine whether a proposed project is subject to review.

## **HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY**

The Historic Resources Survey was prepared in 1994 by the Delaware County Planning Department and includes over 100 properties throughout Haverford Township.

These resources were evaluated for historical and architectural integrity and significance.

To be included in the Historic Resources Survey, a property must meet specific criteria for designation. Some of the criteria for designation include:

- Listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or contributing to a National Register District, or having a Determination of Eligibility for inclusion on the National Register
- Resource is at least 50 years old
- Resource is of historical, cultural, aesthetic or architectural significance to Haverford Township, or has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or culture of the Township, County, Region, Commonwealth, or Nation
- Resource is associated with persons or events significant in the history of the Township, County, Region, Commonwealth, or Nation
- Resource represents the work of an important architect or the work of a master craftsman

- Resource has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in pre-history or history

In addition to the pride of stewardship and the prestige of owning a historic resource in Haverford Township, other positive aspects of being part of the Historic Resources Survey include consideration of the resource with regard to development of surrounding areas, and assistance from the Historical Commission in helping property owners maintain the integrity of their historic resource.

Residents can request that their property be considered for inclusion on the Historic Resources Survey by contacting the Township Zoning Officer.

## REVIEW SCHEDULE

The Haverford Township Historical Commission generally meets at 7:00 P.M. on the third Monday of the month. The meetings are open to the public and are held in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Ernest J. Quatrani Building, 2325 Darby Road, Havertown, PA.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

The Historical Commission reviews proposed changes to properties on the Historic Resources Survey. To determine whether a property is on the Historic Resources Survey, whether a proposed project is subject to review, the meeting schedule, and submission information, please contact the Haverford Township Zoning Officer at 610-446-1000, or visit the Township's website at [www.haverfordtownship.com](http://www.haverfordtownship.com).

*Cover photograph: Allgates, Haverford Township, c. 1917, from The American Architect (& Building News) in William Morrison, The Main Line Country Houses 1870-1930 (New York, Acanthus Press, 2002), 124, courtesy John H. Deming, Jr.*

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