

# Tyler's Historic Preservation Program

## *Common Myths & Misconceptions*

Often, people who own properties within a historic district have questions about how local preservation ordinances affect them. Sometimes, incorrect information is circulated through word-of-mouth. This section addresses the most common misinformation that occurs about the Historic Preservation Landmark Program.

**Myth: The preservation ordinance restricts what colors I can paint my building.**

Untrue. Exterior colors are not regulated by the City of Tyler's preservation ordinance.

**Myth: The preservation ordinance restricts the interior design of my building.**

Untrue. The interiors of properties are not regulated by the City of Tyler's preservation ordinance.

**Myth: The preservation ordinance will not allow me to alter or add on to my home.**

Untrue. While a historic review may be required for your addition, the historical review standard specifically allows and encourages reinvestment into historic structures.

**Myth: Being listed on the National Register protects a building from being damaged or demolished.**

Untrue. National Register listing does not offer protection to properties. However, local ordinances do offer protection.

**Myth: New replacement windows are better and more energy efficient than old historic windows.**

Untrue. Although some believe that new replacement windows are more efficient, this is misleading at best. Study after study has shown that replacing historic windows instead of maintaining them is more costly for several reasons:

- The increase in the insulating value of a new window is minimal at best.
- The addition of a storm window to an existing window results in equal or better insulation value compared to a replacement window.
- Historic windows can last indefinitely when properly maintained. Replacement windows have a relatively short lifespan.



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