

City of Edmonds Development Information



The Edmonds Register of Historic Places

Introduction

Listing on the Edmonds register of historic places is an honorary designation denoting significant association with the historic, archaeological, engineering or cultural heritage of the community. The purpose of this handout is to provide practical information on nominating a property for inclusion on the Edmonds Register of Historic Places. For more information on the purposes and importance of Historic Preservation and the Historic Preservation Commission please refer to the brochure created by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Criteria

Any building, structure, site, object or district may be designated for inclusion in the Edmonds register of historic places if it meets all of the following criteria:

- A. Is significantly associated with the history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or cultural heritage of the community;
- B. Has integrity;
- C. Is at least 50 years old, or is of lesser age and has exceptional importance; and
- D. Falls into at least one of the following categories:
 1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state or local history.
 2. Embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style or method of design or construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
 3. Is an outstanding work of a designer, builder or architect who has made a substantial contribution to the art.
 4. Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the city's cultural, special, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering or architectural history.
 5. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state or local history.
 6. Has yielded or may be likely to yield important archaeological information related to history or prehistory.
 7. Is a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the only surviving structure significantly associated with a historic person or event.
 8. Is a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance and is the only surviving structure or site associated with that person.
 9. Is a cemetery which derives its primary significance from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events or cultural patterns.

10. Is a reconstructed building that has been executed in a historically accurate manner on the original site.
11. Is a creative and unique example of folk architecture and design created by persons not formally trained in the architectural or design professions, and which does not fit into formal architectural or historical categories; the designation shall include description of the boundaries.

Applying to Nominate a Property for the Edmonds Register of Historic Places

Anyone can make a nomination for inclusion on the Register. However, actual placement on the register requires owner permission.

Application Materials

The following materials are required for an application to nominate a property for inclusion on the Edmonds Register of Historic Places:

- The Edmonds Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (see handout #P40).
- A description of all interior and exterior features and outbuildings that contribute to the designation as listed on a completed architectural character checklist.
- A map that shows the property.
- Photographs that detail the historic nature of the property. Photos must be 3" X 3" or 3" by 5" minimum format in black and white with negatives. They must be clearly labeled to identify case, location, subjects and the direction from which the photograph was taken.

Application Process

After a complete application has been submitted to the City, and the property owner has given their permission for the property to be listed on the Register, staff will review the application and schedule the application for presentation to the Historic Preservation Commission at a public hearing. The owner(s) of the property as well as the owners of all adjacent properties receive notice of the hearing. If the Historic Preservation Commission decides that the property is eligible for listing on the Edmonds register, they make a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council then makes the decision on whether or not the property is eligible for listing on the Register. If the City Council decides the property is eligible to be placed on the Register, an ordinance is passed by City Council that officially designates the property. The designation of the property is then recorded on official zoning records with an "HR" designation.

Resources

Local resources for documenting the history of a property include the Snohomish County Assessor and Auditor, the Edmonds Museum, and the public library. Examining your own property ownership documents, talking with neighbors and former residents, and researching archives of local newspapers can also be invaluable. The brochure "House Detective, Finding History in Your Home" discusses the process of putting together the history of a property, lists specific resources, and makes suggestions for further reading.

Note: This information should not be used as a substitute for City codes and regulations. The Edmonds Community Development Code (ECDC) may be viewed at www.edmondswa.gov. The applicant is responsible for ensuring compliance with the fees and regulations that are applicable at the time of submittal. If you have a specific question about a certain aspect of your project, please contact the Planning Division at 121 Fifth Avenue North, (425) 771-0220. Please note that other local, state, and/or federal permits or approvals may be required.