SAVING LANDMARKS THROUGH A HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE

Historic Preservation Ordinance

- Authorized by Indiana Code 36-7-11
- Enables a local government – municipality or county - to create a historic preservation commission and establishes the responsibilities of that commission.
- Passage does not automatically designate local districts. Local historic districts can only be established by separate ordinance.

Historic Preservation Commissions

- Identify historically and architecturally significant buildings and districts
- Work towards designating local historic districts
- Other activities may include:
    - Recognizing good restorations through annual awards programs
    - Publish walking tour brochures
    - Engaging in hands-on restoration
    - Nominating individual buildings and districts to the National Register of Historic Places

While activities of preservation commissions are as varied as the communities they serve, the creation of local historic districts with design review has the greatest positive economic and preservation impact.

Local Historic Districts

- Have been around since the 1930s and have proven to be the best method for protecting historic buildings.
- Can be designated based on their historical and architectural importance to the community.
- Can be a single building, a neighborhood or a commercial area with hundreds of structures, monuments, and even old parks.
- After designation by ordinance, the historic preservation commission works with property owners within the district to develop user-friendly design and preservation guidelines, specific to the district.
- Using the guidelines and the preservation commission as a resource, building owners request approval for exterior changes to the structures in the district (does not include general maintenance).
- The design review process functions as insurance against "remuddling" and demolition and reassures property owners that their buildings will not be reduced in value by inappropriate or unattractive work elsewhere in the district.