

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF THE HARB?

The Historic Architectural Review Board consists of no less than seven members appointed by Borough Council for one to five-year terms. As required by State law, one member is a registered architect, one is a licensed real estate broker, and one is a building inspector. The remaining members shall be property owners who reside in the Historic District and who have demonstrated interest, knowledge, ability, experience or expertise in restoration, historic rehabilitation, or neighborhood conservation or revitalization. The HARB serves as an advisor to Borough Council and makes recommendations to Council for final approval of proposed work on Historic District properties. Members of the HARB carefully review all applications. Their recommendations must be in accordance with Act 167 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as amended and with design standards found in the Historic District Ordinance of the Borough. The citizens who serve on the HARB want to help Strasburg residents/owners make desired changes in the most appropriate and cost effective way possible.

WHAT IS THE FIRST STEP TO ASSURE APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED WORK?

The first step is to complete an application for HARB review. Obtain this at the Borough Office 145 Precision Ave., between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. At this time you will be advised of all other steps in the process.

Strasburg Borough Historic District



Historic Architectural Review Board
Borough of Strasburg
145 Precision Avenue
Strasburg, PA 17579
Borough Office Phone: 717-687-7732
Fax: 717-687-6599
www.strasburgboro.org

STRASBURG BOROUGH HISTORIC DISTRICT



Together, you and the members of the HARB are guardians of a rich heritage until such time as it is passed on to new owners, who will then assume the guardianship of that heritage.



STRASBURG BOROUGH HISTORIC DISTRICT

Dear Strasburg Property Owner:

As an owner of property in the Strasburg Borough Historic District, you need to know that there are certain procedures in place to assure the continued historic quality of your property and your neighborhood. We congratulate you on your ownership of this property.

The history of Strasburg reaches back to 1733. The borough's historic architecture serves as an important reminder of the contributions of all those individuals who have over the centuries worked to make this a special place. With the ownership of your property, you are now part of the history and the future of our town.

Also, as an owner of property in the Historic District, you are eligible upon request to receive technical advice on the proper maintenance and repair of your property. As an owner, you also have certain rights and responsibilities.

WHAT IS THE HISTORIC DISTRICT?

The Historic District, established in 1976 through the efforts of the Strasburg Heritage Society and others, is a defined area within the Borough of Strasburg containing buildings and structures linked historically through location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. The Historic District also is that area wherein proposed EXTERIOR changes to buildings or structures must be reviewed by the Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) and approved by the Borough Council of Strasburg BEFORE ACTUAL WORK IS STARTED.

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

The purpose of the Historic District is to identify and protect those neighborhoods that have been determined to be architecturally and/or historically significant and that contribute to the town's overall historic character. Improper alteration of buildings and, worse, demolition of historic buildings, can have a negative impact on neighborhood property values and on the historic quality of Strasburg. The Historic District is the town's best tool for protecting Strasburg's rich architectural and cultural heritage.

WHAT MUST BE REVIEWED

ALL EXTERIOR changes, additions to existing structures, as well as, construction of new homes that can be seen from a public street must be reviewed and approved. All alterations such as siding, doors, windows, roofs, gutters, trim, fences, and awnings, to name a few, as well as, all demolition and construction activity must be reviewed and approved. When any plans are drawn up, before any construction has begun, the property owner and the property owner's architect or builder are required to meet with the HARB Board for discussion.

WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?

You have the right to know what changes your neighbors are planning for the exterior of their properties before the work is started. You have the right to come to public meetings and let the HARB and Borough Council know what you think. You also have the right, before any work is started, to receive technical advice from the HARB members regarding your own proposed improvement projects.

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?

As the owner of a Historic District property, it is your responsibility to obtain approval BEFORE any work is started for all EXTERIOR work visible from a public street. It is your responsibility to file an application, obtained at the Borough Office for this proposed work. There is no application fee. This application must be submitted eight business days prior to the HARB monthly meeting. It is also your responsibility to attend or be represented at the monthly meeting of the HARB when your application is scheduled for review. The HARB usually meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Upon approval from the HARB, it is your responsibility to file an application with the borough for a building permit. When in doubt what to do, it is always best to ask by calling the Borough Office at 717-687-7732.