



“Mark It, Seguin!”

a project of the Seguin Conservation Society and the Main Street Program

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PROGRAM

Seguin is a unique city with an amazing story to tell about its place in history, its architecture, and its diverse culture. A Local Historic Landmark Program is now in place that will allow this amazing story to be told to our residents and visitors to Seguin.

What is a Local Historic Landmark Program? There are several ways to provide official recognition to a historic property. If it meets certain criteria, it may be eligible for a state or national marker approved by the Texas Historical Commission and the National Park Service. When a property has more local relevance or, for some reason, does not meet the stringent requirements for a state or national marker, the property may be eligible for consideration for a Local Historic Landmark designation. A Local Historic Landmark involves the recognition of local historic properties through the use of plaques purchased by the property owner, following an application and review process.

What are the criteria for designating a property as a Local Historic Landmark? These criteria include but are not limited to the following:

- Significance in history, architecture, archeology, or culture;
- Association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local, regional, state, or national history;
- Association with the lives of significant historical persons;
- Characteristics of type, period, or method of construction;
- Association with the work of a master designer, builder, or craftsman; or
- Association with an established and visual feature of the City.

Who decides if my property qualifies as a Local Historic Landmark? If you qualify for a state or national historic marker, then you automatically qualify for the local marker. Each application will be reviewed by members of the Guadalupe County Historical Commission and the Seguin Conservation Society. Each body will then make a recommendation regarding the application to the City’s Historic Design Review Committee. Seguin City Council will provide the final review and determination. The entire process should be completed in 90-days or less.

If my property is approved as a Local Historic Landmark, who pays for the plaque?

Property owners are responsible for the purchase of the plaque for their property. While a City tax abatement is not currently available for a local historic marker, properties with a state or national marker are eligible such an abatement.

What information am I going to need to apply? In addition to the application itself, some or all of the following information should be provided: surveys, photographs of the property past and present, elevation drawings if available, and any documentation in the way of letters, records or newspaper clippings that help document the history and significance of the property.

If my property is approved as a Local Historic Landmark does it limit what I can do to my property in the future? Properties awarded designation as a Local Historic Landmark have a responsibility to help maintain the historic and architectural significance of the property. If a building permit is issued for the property for work to the exterior then a Certificate of Appropriate Design will be required. This means the construction plans will be reviewed by the Historic Design Review Committee prior to the start of any construction. Upon designation as a Local Historic Landmark the designation shall be recorded in the Real Property Records of Guadalupe County, Texas, the tax records of the City and the Guadalupe County Appraisal District for a nominal fee. Improvements that do not require a building permit are not regulated nor is the choice of color when painting a historic structure. However, professionals are available to provide free design assistance upon request.

What if I don't maintain my Local Historic Landmark or comply with the requirements of the Historic Design Review Committee? Failure to comply could result in one of the following: i) removal of any marker identifying the property as a historic landmark; and ii) removal of the historic landmark designation from the County deed records. Most people with a historic property that would apply for a Local Historic Landmark appreciate the need to maintain the integrity of the property and program so it is anticipated that these penalties will rarely be necessary.

Besides the cost of the plaque, is there a cost to be designated as a Local Historic Landmark?

At this time there are no fees to receive this designation.

For more information: Contact Local Historic Landmark Volunteer Coordinator Christina Kibel at 830-379-7790 or go to www.ci.seguin.tx.us, select Main Street and then Historic Preservation.

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Seguin Main Street Program, P.O. Box 591, Seguin, Texas 78156
Phone: 830-401-2448 Fax: 830-401-2358
Email: mainstreet@ci.seguin.tx.us
www.ci.seguin.tx.us