

Historic Preservation

Rockville has taken numerous steps to preserve and promote its heritage after the 1965 decision of the Mayor and Council to create the Historic District Commission.

The Historic Resource Management Plan (HRMP) outlines the management of Rockville's historic buildings and areas. The current plan was written in 1986, establishing and identifying the historic periods, cultural trends, and building styles in Rockville's history. The goal of the 1986 HRMP was to identify historic resources, present recommendations and implementation steps to protect said resources, and coordinate the management of these historic resources through the Rockville Historic District Commission. The current HRMP is in process of an update, which is being drafted by Johnson, Mirmiram, and Thompson Inc. (JMT) of Baltimore. This updated HRMP will be a living document, being continually updated as required. and will include a comprehensive database with frequently updated historical resources. The updated HRMP will also define new contexts for the 1931-1945 and 1945-1995 periods, which the 1986 HRMP is not prepared to address, as these eras were not defined as historic since a building or area had to be over 50 years old to be considered historic at the time of its writing. The updated HRMP will also identify potential new or expanded districts for local designation, identify the need for design guidelines in individual communities, and discuss strategies for infill and/or non-contributing structures within historic districts and for commercial resources. Finally, the document will feature a 10 year action plan with detailed priorities and implementation steps for historic preservation in the future. Attached below are the introduction to and the objectives of the 1986 HRMP, along with one of JMT's revised drafts for the updated HRMP, from November of 2020.

As part of the 2040 Comprehensive Master Plan update, the City also developed Historic Preservation Trends Report and the draft Historic Preservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan (anticipated to be adopted in summer of 2021)

Additionally, to support the efforts of its residents in historic preservation, Rockville participates in a tax credit program for local structures designated as historic. If the property of the resident in Rockville is designated by the city as historic and the resident

spends at least \$1,000 on exterior maintenance, they may be eligible for reduction of your property taxes for the coming year, up to 25% of the approved expenses. Eligible projects include: exterior painting, uncovering and repairing original siding, repairing roofs or replacing them in-kind, repointing brick or stone foundations, or chimneys, repairing windows, architectural trim or ornament, repairing and maintaining outbuildings, such as barns and garages, restoring a documented feature, such as a dormer or porch that was previously altered or removed.

City of Rockville is a supporter and is among the sponsors of Peerless Rockville Historic Preservation, Ltd. is an award-winning nonprofit, community-based organization founded in 1974 to preserve buildings, objects, and information important to Rockville's heritage. Peerless Rockville advances its goals through education, example, advocacy, and community involvement.

- 1986 Historic Resources Management Plan:
<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1326/Historic-Resources-Management-Plan-1986---Abstract?bidId=>
<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1328/Historic-Resources-Management-Plan-1986---Chapter-II---Goals-and-Objectives?bidId=>
- Historic Preservation Trends Report
<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14119/Historic-Preservation-Trends-Report?bidId=>
- Historic Preservation Element (page 96)
<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40921/Comprehensive-Plan-Elements---PC-Approved-Draft?bidId=>
- Historic Resources Management Plan Memo and Update
<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40472/HRMP-Memo-and-Action-Plan-Update-Nov192020>

- Tax credits <https://rockvillereports.com/working-on-a-historic-property-you-could-qualify-for-a-tax-credit-2/>
- Peerless Rockville: <https://www.peerlessrockville.org/>