



National Register Historic District Nomination Outline

INITIATIVE

The City of Stevens Point has three distinct historic districts.

1. Mathias Mitchell Public Square Historic District – National / State & Local Register
2. Clark Street Residential Historic District – Local Register
3. Downtown Historic / Design Review District – Local Register

Only the Mathias Mitchell Public Square District is on the state and national registers. This designation allows property owners within the historic district to obtain tax credits from the state and federal government for building renovation and restoration activities. Unfortunately, property owners in other districts are not eligible to receive tax credits, unless individually placed on the register.

In 2011, a contractor conducted a historical intensive survey of the community's historical integrity and character, which included several recommendations for historic preservation. A significant first step recommendation was to nominate additional districts to the national register, to assist with preserving historic neighborhood character, culture, and architecture. The following districts were proposed:

1. Clark Street – Main Street Residential Historic District (expands current local residential district)
2. Pine Street – Plover Street Residential Historic District (new district)
3. Church Street Residential Historic District (new district)
4. Sunset Fork Residential Historic District (new district)
5. Church of Intercession – Saint Stephens R.C. Church Historic District (new district)

Creating historic districts and achieving national register status is performed through individual state historic preservation offices (SHPO). The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) acts as the SHPO for the state and offers grants through the Certified Local Government (CLG) program to assist with costs for district nomination applications. The City of Stevens Point became a CLG in July on 1985 and is eligible to receive funding. District nomination applications can be quite lengthy, requiring great detail and thorough research. Grants through CLG can assist in reimbursing 100% of the costs for a qualified consultant to apply for district nominations.

NATIONAL REGISTERED DISTRICTS

The National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American History, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. National Register properties have significance to the history of their community, state, or nation (National Register of Historic Places Program: Frequently Asked Questions).

Benefits of Historic Preservation & District Nomination (Wisconsin Historic Preservation Commission Workshop)

- Assists in preserving culture and character for future generations
- Honorific Recognition
- Eligibility to apply for Federal renovation/rehabilitation tax credits – 20%
- Eligibility to apply for Wisconsin State renovation/rehabilitation tax credits – 20%
- Promotes Revitalization
- Encourages Tourism
- Stabilizes Neighborhoods
- Increases Property Values

DISTRICT NOMINATION STEPS (not all inclusive)

1. **Meeting with WI - SHPO:** The WHS is available to educate staff and commissioners about the CLG grant program, along with the district nomination process.
2. **WI-SHPO District Review:** Staff from the WI-SHPO will tour the proposed historic district(s), meet with staff, and review existing district materials to determine eligibility. Feedback regarding the district boundaries and properties will then be provided by the WI-SHPO.
3. **Historic District Workshop:** A workshop to educate stakeholders, property owners, commissioners, and the general public will be led by WI-SHPO staff and city staff. Nationally registered districts will be discussed thoroughly, along with the nomination process and proposal along with anticipated outcomes from the designation.
4. **Letter of Intent – Apply for CLG Funds:** A letter of intent to apply for CLG funds is due September, 2016. Furthermore the letter must specify the request, including proposed district nominations, as well as contractors pursued and capable of completing the national register district applications.
5. **Submission of CLG Application:** A complete CLG application must be submitted by November, 2016. At least two estimates from professional preferred consultants for project work must be included within the application. The project period will last from February, 2015 to July, 2016.
6. **Consultant:** A preferred WI-SHPO consultant will likely be chosen shortly after the award of CLG funds in February or March, 2017. Once chosen, the district nomination application process will begin, led primarily by the consultant.
7. **Proposed District Nomination Determination:** Review of the proposed district nominations will occur by the National Parks Services' Historic Preservation Division. Final determination of the proposed historic districts is anticipated for 2018.

ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE

City staff will initially work closely with the WI-SHPO and eventually the chosen consultant. Furthermore, the historic district designation process will be led by city staff through organizing meetings with the consultant or stakeholders, scheduling workshops, recording all comments, and acting as the liaison to parties involved. Staff may also assist with the creation of maps or educational materials. Lastly, staff will maintain and present all materials to the Historic Preservation / Design Review Commission and the general public.

Historic Preservation / Design Review Commission (HP/DRC): The HP/DRC will have a very active role in the overall process; invited to attend every meeting and event relating to the district nomination, while also making key decisions such as consultant selection. Staff will present frequent progress reports for

review during regular or special meetings. The HP/DRC will eventually make final recommendations on the entire nomination project to the common council.

Plan Commission, Finance Committee, and Common Council: Alderpersons and commission and committee members will be invited and encouraged to attend all workshops and commission meetings. Furthermore, all bodies will also be provided with project updates. The common council will make the final decision regarding the pursuit of additional historic districts and any financial appropriation associated.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

One or more community workshops will accompany the steps above. The community will be engaged through these workshops, especially those property owners whose properties are proposed within the districts. Educational materials, presentations, meeting minutes, maps, etc. will be available to the general public via a dedicated city project website. Furthermore, outside assistance from the WI-SPHO will be attained to present facts with regard to nationally registered historic districts. Much information can already be obtained and will remain available on the WHS website. All workshops and meetings will be notified on the city's website and/or using other sources.

Works Cited

Thomason & Associates Preservation Architects. (2006). *Wisconsin Historical Society*. Retrieved March 11, 2014, from Wisconsin Historic Preservation Workshop part 1:

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/hp/clgs/workshop/documents/hpcw1.pdf>

National Register of Historic Places Program: Frequently Asked Questions. (n.d.). Retrieved March 11, 2014, from National Register of Historic Places Program: Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://www.nps.gov/nr/faq.htm>