

THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

How may the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds be used under the historic preservation category?

The CPA states that funds may be used for the "acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources".

What qualifies as an historic resource?

The CPA defines historic resources as "A building, structure, vessel, real property, document or artifact that is listed on the state register of historic places or has been determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archeology, architecture or culture of a city or town."

Who makes the decision that a building, structure, object is an historic resource?

The Westport Historical Commission (the local historic preservation commission) decides whether or not a resource is an historic resource. If the resource is deemed historic, it is then listed on the Westport Historic Inventory which in turn is submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission to be considered for and placed on the State Register of Historic Places.

What are possible criteria for this evaluation that respect the CPA's criteria of significance (see above)?

"The Historic Properties Survey Manual: guidelines for the identification of historic and archeological resources in Massachusetts" suggests possible criteria for evaluation (note that these are in addition to the consideration of the age and the purity of the resource):

"Specific inventory considerations

1. Works of known builders, architectural firms, architects.
2. Noteworthy or rare examples of commercial, industrial, institutional, or transportation buildings.
3. Noteworthy or rare examples of any architectural style, period or method of construction.
4. Churches of outstanding architectural or historical significance.
5. Properties connected with significant events in political, military, economic, scientific, cultural, or social history.

6. Homes or places related to significant activities or personages noteworthy to the community."

What are the initial steps for an applicant requesting CPA funds under the historic preservation category?

- Check the Westport Historic Inventory list on the town website to determine whether the resource--building, structure, object--is on the Inventory.
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- If the resource is listed on the Inventory, move on to the next step (see below).
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- If the resource is not listed on the Inventory, gather and organize criteria to present to the Westport Historical Commission (WHC) for consideration for inclusion on the Inventory.
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- In either case, listed or not listed, contact the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) representative of the WHC about being placed on the WHC agenda for a review of the resource.

▪ What are the next steps?

- If the resource is on the Westport Historic Inventory, after reviewing the request, the WHC will provide assistance to the CPC's review of the project's scope of work.
- If the resource is not on the Westport Historic Inventory, the WHC must determine whether it is locally significant.
 - If the WHC determines that it is not, then the project is not eligible for funding under the historic preservation category of the CPA.
 - If the WHC determines that it is, then the WHC will be of assistance with listing the resource on the Westport Historic Inventory, with contacting the Massachusetts Historical Commission, with reviewing the project if it comes before the CPC.