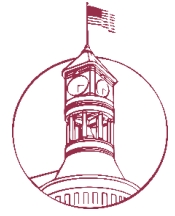


CITY OF COLUMBUS  
Historic Landmarks Preservation Commission  
105 N. Dickason Blvd  
Columbus, WI 53925



March 15, 2026

Dear Property Owner:

In 1992, the National Register of Historic Places identified our downtown business neighborhood as the **Columbus Downtown Historic District**. This district is roughly bounded by Mill, Water, and Harrison Streets, along with Dickason Boulevard. This 10-acre area features 79, mostly cream-brick, buildings constructed between 1852 and 1938, serving as the city's commercial hub. In addition, Columbus has several other historic districts that have also been identified by the National Register of Historic Places:

**Prairie Street Historic District:** A residential district comprising 39 houses, two carriage houses, and a church, showcasing diverse architectural styles, including Victorian Gothic and American Craftsman. It is noted for its large, subdivided lots and houses dating from 1860 to 1936.

**Dix Street-Warner Street Historic District:** A residential area on the west side featuring 26 houses, highlighting residential development patterns.

**South Columbus Historic District:** Recognized for its well-preserved, cohesive neighborhood, illustrating early 1800s development patterns

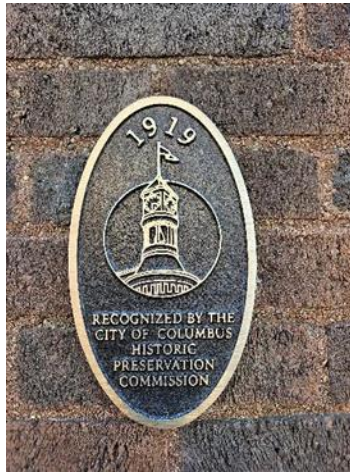
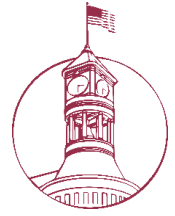
Shortly after the historic downtown identification in the 1990's, the Columbus Historic Landmarks and Preservation Commission (CHLPC) was able to support this identification with bronze plaques that were mounted on the exterior of some of the historic downtown buildings.

Today, CHLPC has identified the remaining historic buildings in this historic district. The commission has purchased similar plaques for the remaining properties and would like to include your building by identifying it as part of the Columbus Downtown Historic District. These additional bronze plaques that have been purchased are specific to each property with the year that the property was built and still contains the Columbus City Hall clock tower like the plaques mounted in the 1990's. This plaque is available to you at no cost.

The intent of this plaque is to have it displayed on the street address side on the exterior of your building so it can be identified as one of the buildings in the Columbus Historic Downtown District. Mounting this plaque will require specialized tools that can penetrate the concrete and will be positioned consistently with the other plaques already mounted in this district. Care should be given to avoid damaging brick and mortar and preserving the integrity of the exterior.

Below is a visual of the bronze plaque that was mounted on some of the buildings in the 1990's and is like the new plaque designated for your building:

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Mounting these plaques should occur in the spring when the weather has warmed. CHLPC has enlisted a partnership with the Columbus Area Historical Society to coordinate the mounting of the plaques. We invite you to accept the plaque for your building by contacting Duane Gilbertson, the volunteer from the Columbus Area Historical Society who is coordinating the mounting of the plaques at 608.566.8861 or by email at [duane.g.gilbertson@gmail.com](mailto:duane.g.gilbertson@gmail.com)

If you are interested in learning more about the National Register of Historic Places or Wisconsin Historic Property tax credits, that can be found here:

<https://wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS15299>

If you would like to learn about the city of Columbus' façade (exterior presentation of your building) grant program for the downtown buildings, you can find that here:

<https://www.cityofcolumbuswi.com/2546/Facade-Grants>

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for your support in Columbus's local history.

Sincerely,  
Libby Gilbertson, CHLPC Vice Chair / Member of the Columbus Area Historical Society  
920.946.4475 [dulib913@gmail.com](mailto:dulib913@gmail.com)  
Brian Nagle, CHLPC Commissioner  
503.869.1051 [brianjnagle@gmail.com](mailto:brianjnagle@gmail.com)