



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Request to Include Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Cassandra Schiffler, Arts & Culture Coordinator
Meeting Date: April 14, 2026
Presenter: N/A
Estimated Time: N/A
Topic: Historic Preservation Plan Adoption

Recommended Council Action:

Move to approve the Resolution adopting the Meridian Historic Preservation Plan as the official guiding document for the City's historic preservation efforts.

Background:

The City's previous preservation plan was adopted in 2014. To remain in compliance with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) recommendations and to reflect the significant growth Meridian has experienced over the last decade, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) initiated a comprehensive plan update in early 2025, funded through a grant from SHPO.

Following a robust public engagement process, which included a community-wide survey, stakeholder interviews, and public outreach events, the HPC unanimously recommended the adoption of this plan on December 12, 2025.

Analysis:

The Historic Preservation Plan establishes a framework for the efforts of the Meridian Historic Preservation Commission. In direct response to Council's preference for a balanced approach to historic preservation, the plan focuses on the following key goals and high-priority strategies:

- **Identify and Evaluate Meridian's Historic Resources:** This goal prioritizes professional surveys to document properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A primary 2026 objective is the nomination of the Meridian Water Tower, followed by the 2027 objective of nominating two small districts in the downtown area.
- **Preserve and Protect Meridian's Historic Resources:** The plan explores voluntary tools for preservation, including National Register listings or a potential local landmark program. It emphasizes collaborating with the Planning Department and MDC to align preservation with the "Destination Downtown Plan" and city design standards. Notably, a key objective regarding the development of an SOP with Planning for development application reviews has already been addressed.
- **Increase Public Awareness and Outreach:** Focuses on community education through collaborations with regional preservation and history groups. Implementation includes the

promotion of Preservation Month in May and the continued development of workshops, walking tours, and expanded digital resources.

- **Operation and Administration:** Aims to streamline preservation processes through implementing the plan, collaborating with other departments and commissions, and the efficient use of available resources.

Financial Impact:

Adoption of this plan requires no budget allocation. It serves as a strategic roadmap to guide existing staff and commission work and ensures the City remains eligible for federal Certified Local Government (CLG) grants, which are essential for funding future survey and education projects.

Conclusion:

The Meridian Historic Preservation Plan offers a proactive, balanced strategy for protecting and celebrating the historic resources that make Meridian a unique place to live, work and raise a family. Staff recommends Council approve the resolution for adoption.