



DHR

Department of Historic Resources

Historic Districts

Introduction

- What are historic districts and how do they come into being?
- What are the different levels of historic district designation and what are their consequences and benefits?

National, State, and Local Historic District Designations

- Local Historic Districts
 - adopted pursuant to §15.2-2306 of the *Code of Virginia*
- Virginia Landmarks Register
 - procedure established in §10.1-2206 of the Code of Virginia
- National Register of Historic Places
 - National Historic Preservation Act, as amended
- National Historic Landmarks
 - 36 CFR 65.5

What is a district?

- Significant concentration or linkage of resources
- A place important for one or more reasons—architecture, history, people, archaeology
- As a whole, the district captures the feel of an era or the evolution of many eras

Contributing vs. Non-contributing

A contributing resource adds to the historic character of the district because:

- It was present during the time when the district gained its significance (period of significance)
- It relates to the significant historic themes of the district
- It retains historic integrity from the period of significance (physically still appears as a historic building)

What does non-contributing mean?

The resource does not add to the historic character of the district because:

- It was built outside the period of significance (after *or* before)
- It does not relate to the historic theme(s) in the district
- Due to alterations, changes, or additions, it no longer retains historic integrity (no longer looks like a historic building)

What is the process for VLR/NR listing?

- Preliminary information form submitted, rated, evaluated by DHR staff and State Review Board.
- Survey
- Nomination form submitted to DHR
- DHR reviews, processes nomination, notifies all owners and adjacent owners of process
- If more than half of *owners* object, nomination does not go forward
- Historic Resources Board and State Review Board place on VLR and/or recommend to NRHP

What VLR/NRHP district listing doesn't do:

- No design review from state (unless tax credits or easements are involved)
- No restrictions on use
- No requirement to be open to the public
- No requirements to maintain or restore
- No causal increase in property taxes
- No protection for your property



What are the benefits of a VLR/NRHP historic district?

- Records History and Brings it to People's Attention: DHR and NPS websites, plaques, highway markers, VLR Book, etc.
- Heritage Tourism/Education: brochures, curriculum, walking tour, interpretive trails, websites, etc.
- Economic Opportunities: tax credits, easements
- Smart Growth/Community Identity: local incentives/assistance, local preservation districts, technical assistance available from DHR, encourages responsible growth decisions
- Section 106/environmental review

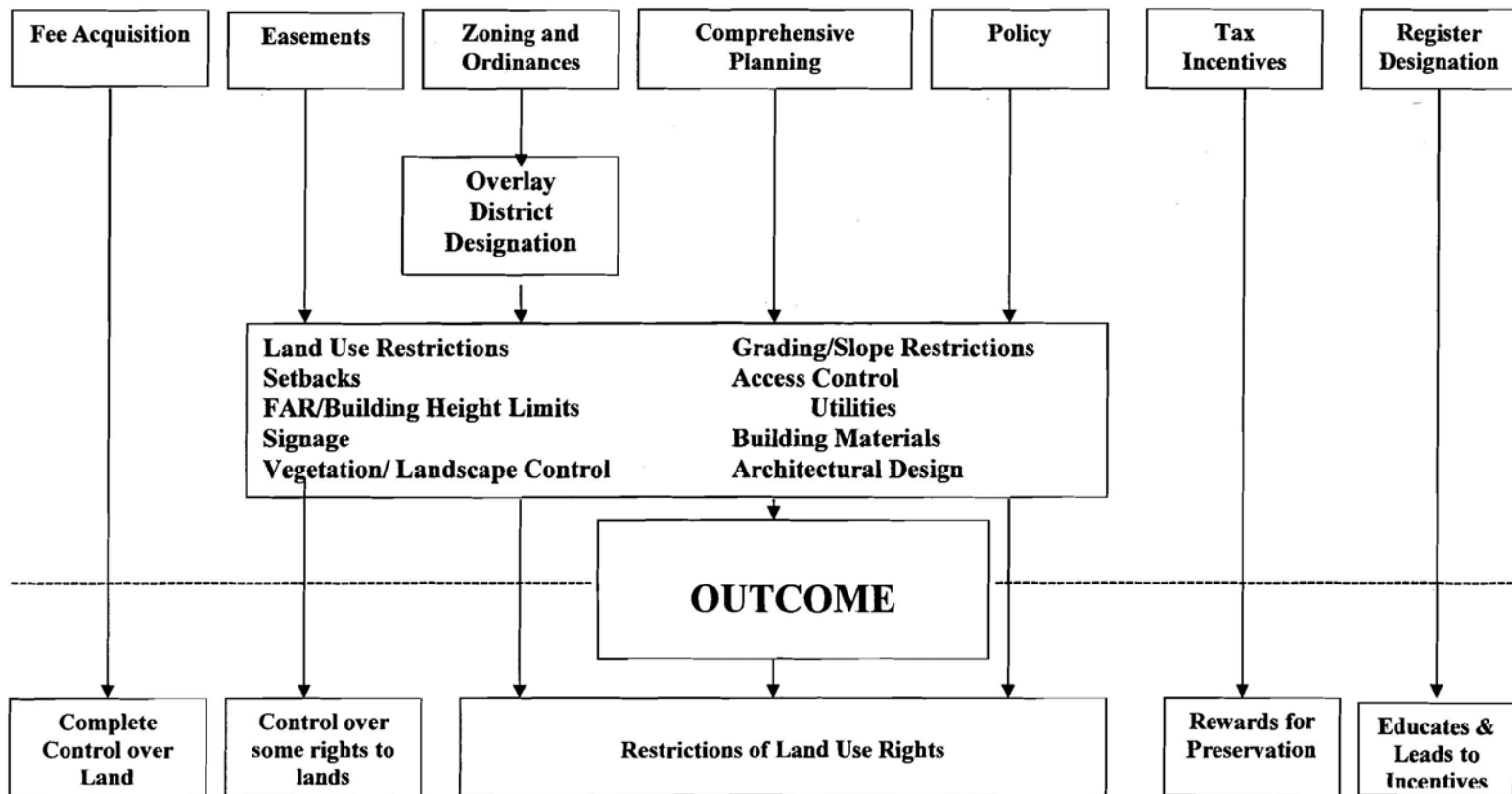


Benefits of Local District Designation

- Tool for managing change while maintaining the character of a district
- Recognizes the value of existing places and helps to preserve a sense of place.
- Encourages re-investment and protects property owner and local government investment
- Helps to encourage better design
- Connects residents and visitors to an area's history and architecture.
- Can be linked to plaques, signage and local tax abatements

HISTORIC RESOURCE PROTECTION TECHNIQUES

Most Powerful ----- Least Powerful





Resource: www.dhr.virginia.gov

- *Financial Incentives and Opportunities for Historic Preservation and Archaeology in Virginia*, DHR 2008, link available on the “Forms and Publications” page.
- Use the links on the left of the home page for more information on tax credits, easements, historic properties, etc.



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Thank you!

Questions?