



Historic Preservation Commission 2015-2016 Strategic Action Plan

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Acknowledgements

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Other Thanks

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Introduction

Warrensburg, Missouri is located in western Missouri at the intersection of Highways 13 and 50, approximately 60 miles southeast of Kansas City. Warrensburg serves as the county seat of Johnson County, and is home to the University of Central Missouri and nearby Whiteman Air Force Base. The 2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates put the population at 19,332.

Warrensburg was founded in 1835 by John and Martin D. Warren. The official platting came a year later in 1836, and Warrensburg was incorporated in 1855. The original business center is the old public square at Main and Gay Streets, still occupied by the first Johnson County Courthouse and oldest commercial structure, the Davis Store. Area rail service spurred the development of a second business center east of the old town square in the 1850s. The “new” business center is home to the current Johnson County Courthouse and historic downtown central business district. Further transportation developments again shifted the main corridor of the community to Maguire Street/Business Highway 13 and Young Street/Business Highway 50, where the majority of the general business district and auto-centric development has taken place.

At the time of this writing, Warrensburg has one National Register of Historic Places District, the Grover Street Victorian Historic District, and seven surviving buildings listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. There is also one Local Landmark, located at 411 W. Pine Street. However, there are many historic treasures that go unrecognized, unlisted, and unprotected.

Why preserve and plan? Warrensburg is home to a wealth of historic resources that give the City of Warrensburg its current identity and community pride. Historic architecture and resources cannot be replaced once they are lost, and many of the resources in Warrensburg have an historic significance that extends throughout Johnson County, and even the State of Missouri. In addition, Historic Preservation,

- Encourages revitalization,
- Strengthens local economies,
- Increases property values,
- Attracts tourists,
- Is environmentally friendly, and
- Identifies and honors local heritage.

The City of Warrensburg Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) hopes this strategic action plan will help focus preservation efforts within the City of Warrensburg, raise awareness of our invaluable local resources, and recognize the preservation efforts of our local property owners, business owners, and community.

Accomplishments

The Historic Preservation Commission has made significant strides in furthering preservation efforts in the 10 years since its re-establishment in 2005. A highlight of major accomplishments is included here.

Ordinance 4255 adopted, strengthening the Historic Overlay District Ordinance in June 2007.

City of Warrensburg designated as a Certified Local Government in July 2008.

Cultural Resource Survey Phase I and II completed by Sally Schwenk Associates in September 2008.

Grover Street Victorian Historic District and Multiple Property Documentation Form completed by Deb Sheals, Historic Preservation Consultant, with an Historic Preservation Fund Grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in 2011-2012.

411 W. Pine Street listed as a Local Landmark in November 2014.

Grover Street Victorian Historic District signage and individual property plaques installed 2014-2015.

Celebration of National Preservation Month for the first time in May 2015 with the introduction of,

First annual Notable Structures and Preservation Opportunities booklet.

First annual Architectural Scavenger Hunt.

Updated webpage and publications.

Goal 1

Increase community awareness of the importance and benefits of preservation

Build on annual Preservation Month activities.

Continue and expand upon the Architectural Scavenger Hunt, with an emphasis on involvement with the local schools.

Continue to publish an annual Notable Structures & Preservation Opportunities booklet in May.

Develop a Warrensburg Heritage Show where citizens are encouraged to bring in locally relevant historical items for display during May.

Develop additional Historic Warrensburg tours and events including,
Downtown Walking Tour

Front Porch Tour of local landmark and National Register of Historic Places properties.

Fright Nights, first celebrated in October 2015 in partnership with the Johnson County Historical Society and Warrensburg Convention & Visitors Bureau. Try to collaborate with the local schools in the future to involve students.

Holiday Homes Tour, reach out to Johnson County Hospice to partner with their Holiday Homes Tour.

Long term goal to integrate self guided tours with the Warrensburg Convention & Visitors Bureau through an app or other interactive media.

Host future Missouri Preservation Conference.

Issue press releases and proclamations for Historic Preservation Month, the 50 year anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2016, and other preservation related events and milestones.

Work with local media outlets to have Historic Preservation Commissioners and staff share information on a quarterly basis.

Coordinate with historic property owners to have Commissioners tour properties quarterly to increase their knowledge of historic resources in Warrensburg.

Overlapping goals

Encourage fundraising activities for local preservation projects and groups, as detailed under Goal 3.

Goal 2

Increase formal recognition of historic properties

Encourage National Register of Historic Places nominations.

Continue the process of listing the Holden and Pine Streets Commercial Historic District.

Re-evaluate the eligibility of the West Gay Street Residential Historic District recommended by Tiffany Patterson of SHPO in 2010.

Long term goal of establishing assistance for property owners wanting to complete a National Register of Historic Places nomination.

Encourage Local Landmark nominations. Reach out to property owners of notable and significant properties.

Apply for a Historic Preservation Fund Grant to complete a cemetery survey, including a preservation plan and maintenance plan.

Overlapping goals

Build on annual Preservation Month activities, as detailed under Goal 1.

Develop Historic Warrensburg Tours, as detailed under Goal 1.

Commissioner tours, as detailed under Goal 1.

Goal 3

Strengthen community partnerships

Warrensburg Convention & Visitors Bureau

Continue efforts to create tours and other events in collaboration with WCVB, as detailed under Goal 1.

Johnson County Historical Society

Continue efforts to create tours and other events in collaboration with the Historical Society, as detailed under Goal 1.

Continue to hold an annual membership with the Historical Society.

Prioritize one seat on the Commission to be held by a representative chosen in collaboration with the Historical Society.

Main Street

Continue efforts to create tours and other events in collaboration with Main Street, , as detailed under Goal 1.

Prioritize one seat on the Commission to be held by a representative chosen in collaboration with Main Street.

Local Schools

Continue to look for opportunities to involve primary and secondary education students throughout Johnson County in events, both as participants and coordinators.

Look for opportunities to utilize University of Central Missouri students, and students of other Missouri institutions, to further preservation goals.

Media

Strengthen relationship with local media outlets to encourage stories relating to preservation efforts and events.

Goal 4

Strengthen technological resources that assist with identifying, monitoring, and protecting historic resources

Create an Historic Warrensburg GIS Database including information on,

National Register Listings

Local Landmarks & Districts

Cultural Resource Survey

Long term goal of finding a means to make historic information readily accessible to the public electronically.