

Heritage Preservation Commission

The Heritage Preservation Commission was started in 1975. Prior to that date a committee called the Red Wing Historic Site committee was formed in 1967. The Historic Site Committee was later turned into the current commission. The commission since its conception has looked at preserving and publicizing the history of Red Wing in its historical and architecturally significant sites and buildings. Any changes made to the exterior of such buildings must be approved by the commission before being completed. Due to the Heritage Preservation Committees ongoing preservation effort in Red Wing there are 24 sites on the National Register of Historic Places, three National Register Districts, and five locally designated Historic districts as of 2018.

The Red Wing Historic Sites Committee was appointed by Mayor Demetrius Jelatis at the City Council meeting held February 2, 1967 at the recommendation of the Planning Commission. The committee was an advisory unit of the Planning Commission. The first committee consisted of five members. The focus of the Committee was to make a study of historic sites, buildings and properties having significant historic values and to present recommendation to the City Council as to publicizing and making known such existing land marks. The committee held a total of eight meetings its first year. Many of the early project included plaques describing the significance of certain areas. An example of this would be the plaque located in Jordan Court Yard near the Sheldon theater. The early committee operated under the name Red Wing Historic Sites Committee until 1975.

On November 10, 1975 City Ordinance No. 62 was signed by Mayor Demetrius Jelatis. The Ordinance created the Heritage Preservation Commission. The Historic Site Committee members became the first commissioners of the Heritage Preservation Commission. The new commission had their first meeting on July 14, 1976.

In a pamphlet printed by the commission in 1981 there is a broad overview of the Heritage Preservation Committee the functions of the Commission are broken down into five Categories. Identification and recognition of historic resources by a systematic city-wide survey listing all of the buildings, Landmarks and districts in the city. Education of the public to greater awareness of the city's Architectural Heritage. Securing Federal recognition of important sites and areas through the National Register of Historic places. Protection of outstanding groups of buildings through the creation of historic districts. Encouragement of appropriate rehabilitation and reuse of older buildings.

There are five local Historic districts of the Red Wing Area Created by the Heritage Preservation Commission. The districts are an area with several buildings or other feature reflecting the cities architectural or historic heritage. The five districts being the St. James District, Downtown District, Historic Mall District, West Residential Conservation district, South End Residential Conservation district. Within these districts any changes made to the buildings within must be approved by the Heritage preservation committee.