What is the Landmarks Preservation Commission?

• In 1974, the City Council created the Landmarks Preservation Commission, a body appointed to identify, preserve and recommend for designation historic landmarks within the city.
• The Historic Preservation Officer staffs the Commission.
• The Landmarks Preservation Commission responsibilities include design review for changes proposed to any historic building listed on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.
• The Commission also reviews nominations for the Tacoma Register of Historic Places and Special Tax applications then passes its recommendations on to the City Council for final approval.
• The Commission meets twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m.
Design Review Process

- Contact the Historic Preservation Office for a Design Review Application and discuss your project.
- Return the Design Review Application 14 days before the next scheduled Landmarks Preservation Commission Meeting. The Commission meets twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m.
- You may be scheduled for an initial review by the Architectural Review Committee of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.
- After the Architectural Review Committee’s review, you will be scheduled to appear before the Landmarks Preservation Commission for final review of your project.
- The Commission will discuss your project and make a determination regarding approval, denial or deferral of your project.
- When approved, the Historic Preservation Officer will sign off on your building permit.

What Projects Require Design Review?

If your house is located within a historic district or is individually listed on the Tacoma Register then any changes to the exterior of your property require design review by the Historic Preservation Officer and the Landmarks Preservation Commission. This includes changes to windows, siding, additions, chimneys, porches, and decks. In addition, you may be eligible for a program to reduce your property taxes for a period of 10 years.

Failure to follow the permit and design review process may result in required removal of any unauthorized work.