

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why Local Historic Districts?

In local districts, any proposed change to a building must be reviewed to make sure the change will not alter the unique character of the district. Local districts can preserve a town's heritage, encourage better design of new structures, promote neighborhood identity and pride, provide a forum for owners to comment on proposed changes to their neighborhood, and increase property values by protecting the investments of owners of historic buildings in the districts.

2. How old does a building have to be to be considered historic?

50 Years

3. What's the difference between the Cheshire Historical Society and the Historic District Commission?

The CHS is a private group, based at the Hitchcock Phillips House on the Green, with membership open to all. The HDC is a town commission composed of eight appointed members which conducts design reviews of proposed changes in buildings within the two historic districts. It conducts its business from the Planning Department in the Town Hall. Both groups work in different ways toward the preservation of historic resources.