

## Purpose for Updating Bayfield's Historic Preservation Ordinance

The City of Bayfield's Historic Preservation Ordinance, originally adopted in 1992, is based on historic resource data compiled more than forty years ago. Since that time, the City's physical environment, development patterns, and preservation priorities have evolved significantly. An update is therefore necessary to ensure that the ordinance reflects current conditions, professional preservation standards, and the community's long-term goals.

The primary objective of this effort is to modernize and clarify the City's regulatory framework for managing historic resources. The existing ordinance and review process have, at times, created uncertainty for property owners and applicants seeking to maintain or improve their properties. A revised ordinance will establish clear, consistent, and predictable standards—distinguishing between historically significant structures and those that are not—while streamlining approvals for routine maintenance and new construction.

Updating the ordinance will also position the City to remain compliant with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) guidance and to maintain eligibility as a Certified Local Government (CLG). This status enables Bayfield to access state and federal grant funding for survey work, planning, and rehabilitation programs.

In addition to safeguarding the City's historic character, the updated ordinance will reinforce Bayfield's commitment to encouraging appropriate development and reinvestment. Clearer rules and predictable review processes will give property owners, builders, and investors greater confidence when planning improvements or new construction. By reducing uncertainty and aligning local standards with current practice, the City aims to promote growth and property enhancement that complements Bayfield's unique identity and supports a sustainable local economy.