

Answers to questions concerning historic districting in Marietta

The following article was written by the historical districting committee of the Marietta Restoration Assoc.

It is an explanation of that committee's proposal to create an historic district in Marietta.

Only the first half of the committee's explanation appears below. We will print the rest of their article next week.

Recently the subject of historic districting was raised in the community of Marietta. Answers to the most frequently asked questions are:

1. What is "historic districting"? Historic districting is a method by which a community can legally protect a defined area comprised of structures which are of either historic or architectural importance. The legislation allowing the creation of historic districts was enacted by the State on June 13, 1961. Since that time, twenty-eight cities and municipalities in Pennsylvania have created historic districts. Among those in the area are Lancaster (1967), Strasburg (1970), York (1970), Harrisburg (1974), and Lower Paxton Township (1976).

2. Why is historic districting being considered for Marietta? This is being done because Marietta is a unique town which is largely as it was when it was founded. Few homes and businesses, which escaped past floods and other natural forms of destruction, have been torn down to make way for more modern dwellings. Most properties have not been altered substantially

from their original state and many can easily be restored to their former style, should the owner decide to do so. In addition, the growth which transpired here was not at the expense of earlier properties; therefore, we have excellent examples of Victorian architecture and twentieth century styles, as well as our early brick and log homes. It is felt that this uniqueness can be both preserved and enhanced by the protection and encouragement afforded with the establishment of a historic district. This has been true in other towns larger and smaller than Marietta which have chosen this method of preserving their past for the future.

3. How will historic districting benefit me? The creation of a historic district in Marietta will serve to protect both your property and the homes and businesses around you for your benefit and future generations. Our area is historic and has so far been well preserved. You should be benefitted from the fact that your home and those properties around you, because of their location in the historic district, will be more valuable to buyers in the future should you decide to sell this has been the experience of many property owners in other historic districts.

4. Is historic districting like zoning? No. Historic districting is designed to work with existing zoning laws and is, by itself, not zoning. No provisions dealing with land use are included; that job is already done by our zoning laws.

5. How is historic districting organized? The key to historic districting is reasonableness and enforceability. It is organized around a review board which is appointed to review exterior changes which require a building permit. The goal is to make sure our homes in the district maintain their individual character. The law establishing a historic district, when passed by Borough Council, must be

reviewed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in Harrisburg. This agency will make sure that our law is in keeping with the legislation passed in 1961 permitting the establishment of historic districts.

6. What powers does the Architectural Review Board have? The Architectural Review Board is an advisory group. By state law, it must be comprised of not less

than five members which will include one registered architect, one licensed real estate broker, and one zoning officer. The remaining members shall be persons with knowledge of and interest in the preservation of historic districts. Some of the members are usually residents of the historic district. All members are appointed for definite terms in a manner similar to our planning

commission.

Under our present Borough zoning laws, any additions, changes, or alterations to the outside of your home (exceeding fair market value of \$300) require a building permit. If your home or business is in the historic district, your request for exterior changes will be reviewed at an open meeting of the Architectural Review Board. This review

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Mt. Joy bicen town

by Cheryl Hallgren

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gingrich, co-chairmen of the Mount Joy Bicentennial Commission, have been notified that Mount Joy has been listed with the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration as an official Bicentennial Community. Letters of congratulations to the community were received from Senator Richard Schweiker, Senator Hugh Scott, Congressman Edwin Eshleman and the Bicentennial Commission of PA.

The Bicentennial schedule for May includes:

May 22 - Prayer Breakfast sponsored by the Church Council at 7 a.m. at Hostetter's Banquet Hall.

May 22 - Miss Mount Joy Pageant sponsored by the Jaycees.

May 22, 23 - Hobby and Craft Show at Donegal High School sponsored by the B.P.W.

May 23 - Music in the Park, dedication of the Boro Seal by the Horizon Committee of the Bicentennial Commission. Music by the Community Chorus.

May 26, 27, 28, 29 - Jaycee carnival at Boro Park. Stands available for organizations Contact Robert Hoffer.

May 28 - Opening game of baseball season at Kunkle field - 6 p.m.

May 29, 30 - Mount Joy Vo-Teck Hemophilia Softball Marathon - 9 a.m.

May 29 - Annual parade, floats needed with historical theme. Parade time 2 p.m. Fireworks at dusk at Boro Park. Lions club sponsoring prizes for costumes along the parade route 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

May 30 - Rifle shoot at Sportmen's Farm, Second Company 5th Battalion of the PA Militia at 1 p.m.

May 31 - Memorial Service, American Legion Post 185 to be held in Memorial Park.

The Merchants Association will also be sponsoring window displays during the Bicentennial week.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Boro Hall.

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children play with me.
Love,
Your phone
company

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