

8

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

INTRODUCTION

The City of Watertown recognizes the importance of preserving our community's heritage. In June of 1998, a group of interested residents formed the Watertown Area Historical Society and set out to identify areas of historical significance for the City of Watertown. The Society marshaled support from residents and financial support from the City to research, document and record the long and rich history of the community.

PURPOSE

The purpose of including the Historic Preservation element in the City of Watertown 2030 Comprehensive Plan document is to make provisions for the preservation of historical sites, landmarks, buildings with exceptional style or unique architectural vernacular, and other areas of particular historical interest or character that reflect the heritage of the community and provide educational value.

The City of Watertown Historic Area of Interest Map (see Map 8-1) delineates a general area worthy of recognition due to various significant cultural, social and educational contributions to the City's history. It is intended only for the purpose of defining a possible search area for further historical research. The area outlined on the map includes some of the City's earliest buildings, particularly near the Crow River.

Currently the City of Watertown does not have a designated *Historic District*, and it would like to pursue opportunities to work with Carver County and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify such a district. This would require development of a local register of historic properties, sites, buildings, etc. that hold significant historical value. The City of Watertown is considering the creation of a Historic Preservation Commission, whose role would be to devise a method of criteria and evaluation as well as a register for historic properties, buildings, sites, and areas of significant historic value.

MISSION

Watertown Area Historical Society Mission Statement:

The Mission of the Society shall be the collection, preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the Watertown area and township and to relate that history to the State of Minnesota. More particularly its objective shall be:

1. To locate and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the city and township. These materials shall include but are not limited to printed matter such as histories, genealogies, biographies, gazetteers, directories, newspapers, pamphlets, catalogues, circulars, handbills, programs and posters; geological and Native American artifacts; manuscript materials such as letters, diaries, journals, memoranda, maps, reminiscences, rosters, service records, account books, charts, oral history interviews; audio tapes, video cassettes, films, and other multi-media materials; and other museum materials such as pictures, photographs, paintings, portraits, furniture, scenery, and such artifacts that are illustrative of events and activities of its residents in the state of Minnesota. These materials are to be collected, exhibited and preserved in accordance with all laws and regulations that may apply to the collection, possession and exhibition of such materials.*
2. To disseminate historical information to any interested persons, groups, and institutions and to arouse interest in the past by any of the following means: publishing historical materials in newspapers, books and World Wide Web; holding meetings featuring workshops, lectures or informative programs; conducting historic tours; marking or restoring historic buildings and sites; and by operating a museum or historic site.

*Refers to artifacts imported illegally and to the possession and display of Native American artifacts, such as pipes and religious or burial artifacts.
3. To make this material available for study and research by individuals and scholars by making sure that it is accessible to the public in compliance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
4. To accomplish these goals through the establishment of clearly defined collection, conservation and interpretation policies and procedures.
5. To provide that all programs, functions and events of the Society

including membership, shall be made available to anyone regardless of race, color, age, national origin, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, sex or sexual preference.

6. And that this Society shall have the power to own property, to apply for and receive grants, that it may accept bequests and may establish and maintain an endowment fund for carrying out the above stated purposes.

GOALS, POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The overall goal to preserve significant historic resources in the Watertown area requires strategic planning. Appropriate strategies and policies must be in place to attain the preservation of such resources, and there must be coordinated efforts among interested groups, individuals and the City. The following goals, objectives and strategies provide necessary steps in order to achieve the vision for historic preservation within the community.

1. GOAL

Encourage a sense of pride about living in Watertown

POLICY

Provide opportunities to educate community about the history of Watertown

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Actively support the efforts of the Watertown Area Historical Society
- Work with area schools to introduce components on Watertown’s history into curriculum

2. GOAL

Maintain the City of Watertown’s unique historical character and identity

POLICY

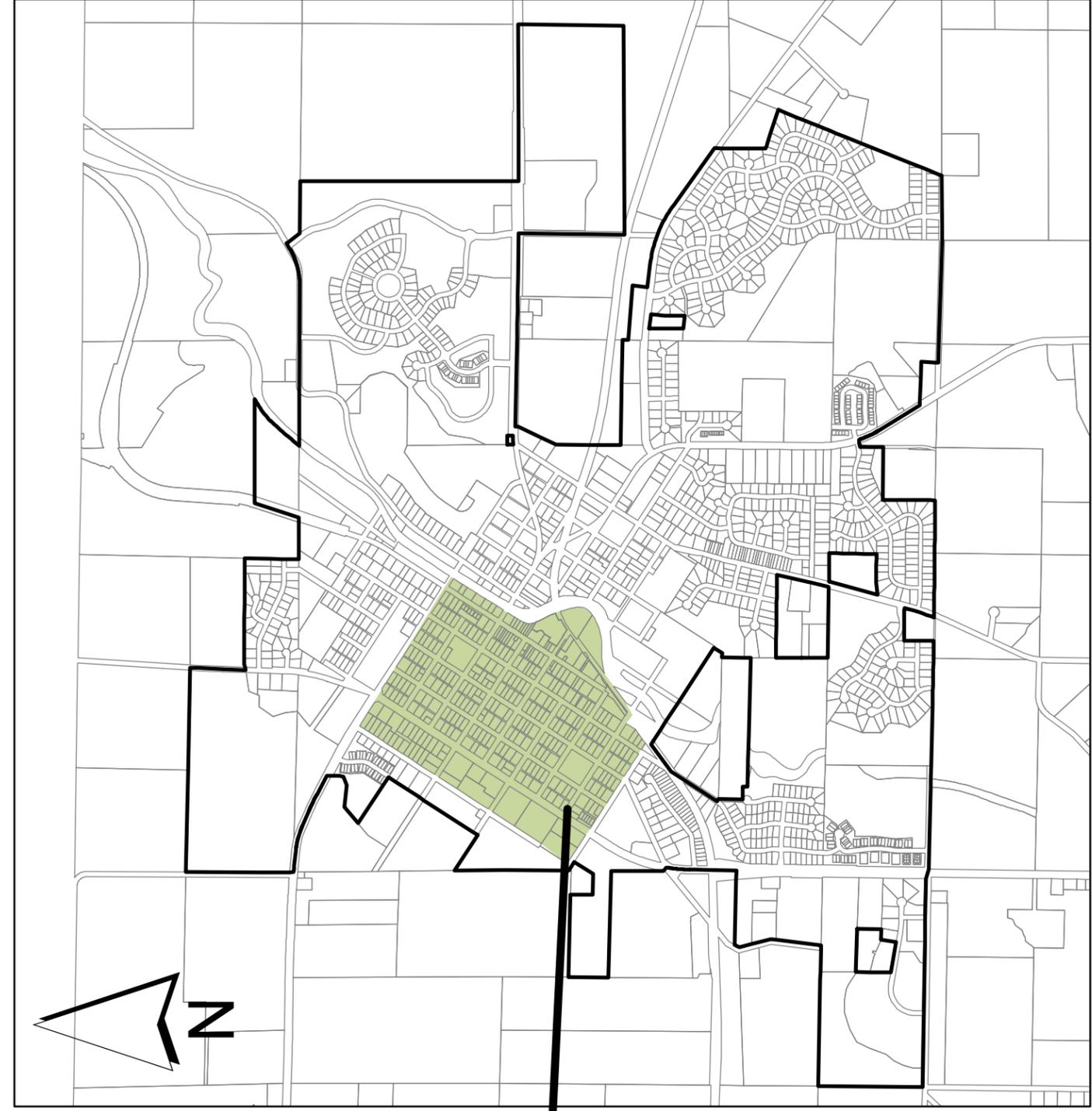
Preserve the significant cultural and historical resources within the community

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Actively support the efforts of the Watertown Area Historical Society
- Seek funding such as grants to assist with preservation efforts
- Develop a designated Historic Preservation Commission or assign charges to the Watertown Area Historical Society to assist with history-related planning efforts
- Establish a Watertown Local Area Register (WLAR)—a locally-maintained register of historically significant buildings, sites, and areas of interest
- Develop database and maps identifying historical buildings, sites, and landmarks for educational and informative purposes and regularly update the inventory
- Require design review of historic buildings by the designated Historic

Preservation Commission prior to redevelopment or improvements of historic buildings and properties

- Develop a method of evaluation and registration for historic buildings, landmarks, or sites within the Watertown area
- Work the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to pursue appropriate historic designations of properties and places of historic value within Watertown



CITY OF WATERTOWN



Legend

-  City Boundary
-  Watertown Area of Historical Interest

**HISTORICAL AREA OF INTEREST
MAP 8-1**

