

Making the Save: Step-by-step Guide

“SAVE IT” Step 1: Lay the Foundation



START
HERE

Do Your Homework

Ask yourself the following questions, gather this pertinent information about the site, and keep it for easy reference:

- What is the site's zoning?
- Is it listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#)?
- Is it listed as part of a local historic district?
- Has it been determined eligible for the National Register?
- Are federal or state funds being used for the project?
- Who is the owner?
- Are there any recent building permits on file?
- What is the condition of the property?
- What is the date of construction?
- Who was the original architect?
- Is the architect significant?
- Have there been additions?
- Who was the architect that most recently worked on it?

Also take these steps:

- Locate historic photos
- Take current photos
- Get copies of all your community's relevant planning documents such as the General Plan, Community or neighborhood level master plans, Community preservation plan, Historic preservation ordinance, Design guidelines
- Attend your [local historic preservation commission](#), planning commission, and city council meetings and provide public input. Get to know your public officials and their goals for the future of the site and the city.

Identify the Threat

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What is the threat and how severe is it? (Examples might include demolition, neglect, insensitive alteration, and incompatible use)
- How much time do you have?
- What is the owner's position?
- Who else already wants to get involved? Are they credible and believable?
- What does the financial picture look like?
- What are your chances of success and what will it take to achieve a victory?

DO A REALITY CHECK: This could be a big task. Is this for you? If yes, proceed to Step 2: Make Your Case.

Full URL addresses for links in this section:

- National Register of Historic Places: <http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreg/docs/About.html>
- Local historic preservation commission: <http://heritage.utah.gov/history/clgs>

Many of our preservation partners around the country have put together excellent resources and advocacy tools that allow us not to have to reinvent the wheel. Yes a few things may be different, but the framework is the same no matter where you live. While Utah Heritage Foundation is providing you with a basic framework, check out the following resources for additional detailed information on making your next save.

- Historic Seattle: Successful Historic Preservation Advocacy - <http://historicseattle.org/preservationseattle/techniques/defaultSEPT06.htm>
- Preservation Alliance of Minnesota: Community Action Guide - http://www.mnpreservation.org/pdf/Community_Action_Guide.pdf
- Preservation Alliance of Minnesota: Preservation Crisis Handbook - http://www.mnpreservation.org/pdf/Preservation_Crisis_Handbook.pdf
- Preservation Pennsylvania: The Crisis Handbook: A Guide to Community Action - <http://www.preservationpa.org/uploads/pdf/CrisisHandbook.pdf>
- Preservation Pennsylvania: How to Preserve and Protect the Historic Places that Matter to You - http://www.preservationpa.org/uploads/NPS_FullVersion.pdf