



Q. What do the terms “contributing” and “non-contributing” mean in historic districts?

A. An historic district is a group of buildings, sites, objects, or structures that are united by their collective historical, architectural, or archaeological significance. In the City of Round Rock, significance is determined by considering the following criteria:

- Previous historic designation by the National Register of Historic Places or Texas Historical Commission;
- The property’s role in the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State or other society;
- Occurrence of a notable event on the property;
- Identification of the property with a person(s) who contributed notably to the culture and development of the City, State or other society;
- Distinctive elements of architectural design, material or craftsmanship, or the distinctiveness of a craftsman, master builder or architect, or a style or innovation;
- Archaeological value that the property can be expected to yield; or
- Other unique historical value.

A property that is determined to be contributing to an historic district adds to the associations, qualities, or values for which the historic district is significant. Usually this means that the property was present during the period of significance of the district and possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time.

Integrity refers to the historic, character-defining physical features that convey a building, object, site or structure’s significance as part of the district. Alterations can damage a property’s historic appearance and its integrity.

Properties that do not add to the qualities, associations, or values that make the district significant are called non-contributing properties. Usually this means that the property:

- was not present during the period of significance of the district, or
- no longer possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time due to alterations, disturbances, additions, or other changes.

Properties are determined to be either contributing or non-contributing based on the most recent historic resources survey of the district.