

FAQs

WHAT INCENTIVES ARE AVAILABLE FOR LANDMARKS?

SPECIAL VALUATION TAX CREDIT

With a major rehabilitation of a Landmark, you may qualify for **Special Valuation**. For a 10-year period, your rehabilitation costs will be subtracted from the assessed value of your property, reducing your property tax bill substantially.

4CULTURE GRANTS

4Culture grants can help pay for landmark nominations, building condition assessments, rehabilitation of Landmarks, and more. Publicly and privately owned properties are eligible.

Depending on your property type, use, and designation, you may be eligible for additional incentives, such as building or zoning code relief, façade grants in historic districts, state grants, or the **Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit**. Consult with **King County** or **4Culture** staff to learn more.

WHAT LIMITATIONS COME WITH LANDMARK DESIGNATION?

There are limits on changes to Landmarks, but designation is not as restrictive as you might think. Ordinary maintenance is not subject to review. You are not required to open the property to the public, and improvements to the property are not required.

The goal of historic preservation regulation is to manage change and maintain your property's character. Regulations apply to "features of significance," elements specified upon landmark designation.

When altering features of significance, demolishing, or moving a building, you will need a **Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)**. King County staff are available to help guide you through this process, and early consultation is recommended, especially if you are planning a major rehabilitation.

SAVING PLACES THROUGH LANDMARKING

Designation and Incentives for Preservation in King County

SAVING PLACES THROUGH LANDMARKING

Landmark designation in King County recognizes historic places that tell the story of our unique region. Landmarks include historic buildings, sites, objects, structures, and landscapes.

The King County Historic Preservation Program designates landmarks in unincorporated King County and some cities. (Contact King County staff to find out if your city is among them.) Seattle and Bothell have independent historic preservation programs, with separate staff and review processes.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT MY PROPERTY?

To research your property, start with the local library. Your local history museum or historical society may also have its own archives.

Here are a few other places to start:

[King County Historic Preservation Program](#)

[Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation](#)

[Washington State Archives Puget Sound Branch](#)

[Association of King County Heritage Organizations](#)

[King County Archives](#)

[HistoryLink](#)

1 NOMINATION

- Landmarks must be over 40 years old, and have historic, architectural, or cultural significance.
- Anyone may submit a nomination.
- In some jurisdictions, owner consent is required.
- Substantial research is necessary to make the case for a property's significance.
- King County staff can provide technical assistance, and 4Culture grants may help fund this research.

2 REVIEW

- Nominations are usually reviewed by King County staff first.
- Next, there is a public meeting to consider whether the property meets Landmark criteria.

QUESTIONS?

KING COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

www.kingcounty.gov/landmarks
todd.scott@kingcounty.gov | 206.477.4545

4CULTURE

www.4culture.org/preservation
dana.phelan@4culture.org | 206.263.1604

3 DESIGNATION

- If designated, proposed changes are subject to review, and the property owner is eligible for incentives and technical assistance.