

**YOUR PRIMARY CONTACT FOR  
PERMITS, INFORMATION &  
ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR HISTORIC  
BUILDING IN THE CITY OF ALLEGAN**

*In the interest of running local government more efficiently, the City of Allegan has privatized its professional code administration staff. Michigan Township Services specializes in providing local governments with qualified professionals. MTS also prides itself on maintaining professional relationships with all county, state and federal regulatory agencies having jurisdictions affecting the City of Allegan.*

**CITY OF ALLEGAN COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT --  
MICHIGAN TOWNSHIP SERVICES, INC.**

*Divisions & contacts:*

*HISTORIC DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION*

*FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT*

*CITY PLANNING*

*Patrick Hudson, AICP, CFM Architectural  
Historian*

*ZONING ADMINISTRATION*

*Tasha Smalley, CZA*

*Zoning Administrator*

*BUILDING PERMITS*

*Dan Poll, Licensed Building Code Official  
and Plan Reviewer*

*ELECTRICAL PERMITS*

*Lyle Lester, Licensed Electrical Inspector*

*PLUMBING & MECHANICAL PERMITS*

*Sam Groothuis, Licensed Plumbing &  
Mechanical Inspector*

**MTS offices: 111 Grand Street**

**phone: (269) 673-3239 or (800) 626-5964;**

**fax 673-9583; email: [mtsallegran@verizon.net](mailto:mtsallegran@verizon.net)**

**IMPORTANT CONTACTS:**

**City of Allegan**

City Hall (269) 673-5511

City Manager-Rob Hillard

Deputy Clerk-Lori VanderClay

Assessor- Dan Scheuerman

Downtown Coordinator-Rob Hillard

(269) 673-5511

(For Historic District information, building, electrical, mechanical & plumbing permits contact Michigan Township Services – see next page)

**State of Michigan**

State Historic Preservation Office

702 W. Kalamazoo St.

P.O. Box 30740

Lansing, MI 48909-8240

(517) 373-1730

[preservation@michigan.gov](mailto:preservation@michigan.gov)

State financial assistance

Brian Lijewski (517) 373-1631

[lijewskib@michigan.gov](mailto:lijewskib@michigan.gov)

Federal Tax Credits

Robbert McKay (517) 335-2727

[mckayr@michigan.gov](mailto:mckayr@michigan.gov)

State financial assistance

Daniel Schneider (517) 373-7653

[schneiderd@michigan.gov](mailto:schneiderd@michigan.gov)

**Michigan Historic Preservation Network**

Amanda Reintjes, Field Representative

(517) 371-8080

[reintjes@mhpn.org](mailto:reintjes@mhpn.org)

**Historic Resources Council**

Website: [www.mhpn.org](http://www.mhpn.org)

E-mail: [info@mhpn.org](mailto:info@mhpn.org)

**Welcomes to Allegan's  
Historic District**

***The City of Allegan  
A Bridge Worth Crossing***

*What you need to know about the City  
of Allegan's Historic Districts:*

*Information Pamphlet*

*The City of Allegan's historic districts provide a stimulus to the local economy, promote economic growth and help to preserve property values, and encourage civic pride. The city's historic districts and Historic District Commission were established in 1985 by ordinance of the City Council in accordance with Michigan Public Act 169 of 1970, as amended.*

**City of Allegan**

112 Locust Street

Allegan, MI 49010

Telephone (269) 673-5511

Facsimile (269) 673-2869

Email: [rhillard@cityofallegan.org](mailto:rhillard@cityofallegan.org)

[www.cityofallegan.org](http://www.cityofallegan.org)

## **We want you to enjoy living & working in our city.**

The key to having a vibrant, beautiful city is to having reasonable, effective ordinances that preserve the best parts of the city so that it can function as an attractive place to live, work and visit.

## **What is a Historic District?**

Historic Districts are areas that retain a significant amount of physical structures that have historic significance to the community, state and/or nation. Historic significance can consist of buildings at least 50 years old representing **architectural styles of the past**. They may also be **places associated with historic persons or events** important to a community's past, or **examples of important developments in architecture, engineering or the social development of the city**. A Local Historic District is an area, structure, site or object officially designated by the City Council with a Local Historic District Ordinance (Chapter 13 Allegan Code of Ordinances) as provided for by State statute (Michigan Public Act 169 of 1970). The City of Allegan has established seven local historic districts and there are six individual structures also listed as historic places.

The purpose of the local historic district is to preserve the elements of the earlier cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history of the Allegan community. This preservation effort is both a valuable element in maintaining community character and an economic development tool making Allegan a destination place and a magnet for business activity as well as a place to live, raise a family and retire. The establishment of a local historic district will preserve and maintain the investments of private property owners in their historic buildings through the regulation of changes and alterations to the exteriors of surrounding

properties. Local historic district designation does not prevent property owners from making alterations to structures or freeze buildings in time but ensures that any proposed alterations and additions to historic properties are completed in a manner consistent with the property's architectural and historic character.

## **What is the Historic District Commission?**

The Allegan Historic District Commission (HDC) is a body of seven citizens appointed by the City Council. Most members of the Commission own homes within a Historic District themselves. They meet generally on the first Monday of each month in Griswold Auditorium, 401 Hubbard Street. Many of the Historic District Commissioners have made repairs and even alterations to their properties in the past. As a group, they have significant knowledge of local history, architecture, appropriate construction techniques, materials and craftsmanship that will ensure that any work done on historic properties is carried out in a responsible and historically appropriate manner.

The Historic District Commission is responsible for developing guidelines and architectural design standards, which regulate all exterior alterations to properties located within the Historic District. The Commission's duties include reviewing requests for exterior changes to buildings in the Historic District, as well as advising the City Council and City Planning Commission on proposed changes that may affect historic buildings or neighborhoods. The Historic District Commission also promotes an appreciation of Allegan history and architecture, and maintains an information service on local history, architecture and historic preservation.

## **Are you asking, "What have I gotten myself into?"**

You have chosen to own a home in one of Allegan's historic districts. Historic Districts were only set up in those parts of the City where the property owners at that time wanted them. Within the historic districts minimal rules have been adopted for the mutual benefit of all property owners. City staff knows the rules and can help you get off on the right foot.

## **Financial Assistance**

To assist property owners in maintaining commercial property, the State of Michigan has set up an incentive program which allows you to recoup some of the cost of maintaining your historic commercial building. **BEFORE**, you begin a project contact the Historic District Administrator for this valuable information.

## **Resources**

In home repair you get what you pay for. A cheap repair does no one any good. Repairing a historic home requires the right kind of experience. You can get either experienced contractors or training for your self through the **Historic Resources Council**. (See the Historic District Administrator)