

Benefits of Local Historic Districts

- **Local districts protect the investments of owners and residents.** Buyers know that the aspects that make a particular area attractive will be protected over a period of time. Real estate agents in many cities use historic district status as a marketing tool to sell properties.
- **Local districts encourage better design.** It has been shown through comparative studies that there is a greater sense of relatedness, more innovative use of materials, and greater public appeal within historic districts than in areas without historic designations.
- **Local districts help the environment.** Historic district revitalization can, and should, be part of a comprehensive environmental policy.
- **The educational benefits** of creating local districts are the same as those derived from any historic preservation effort. Districts help explain the development of a place, the source of inspiration, and technological advances. They are a record of ourselves and our communities.
- **A local district can result in a positive economic impact from tourism.** A historic district that is aesthetically cohesive and well promoted can be a community's most important attraction. The retention of historic areas as a way to attract tourist dollars makes good economic sense.
- **The protection of local historic districts can enhance business recruitment potential.** Companies continually re-locate to communities that offer their workers a higher quality of life, which is greatly enhanced by successful local preservation programs and stable historic districts.
- **Local districts provide social and psychological benefits.** A sense of empowerment and confidence develops when community decisions are made through a structured participatory process rather than behind closed doors or without public comment.

GAPC

Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions

University of Georgia • School of Environmental Design • Founders Garden House
325 South Lumpkin Street • Athens, Georgia • 30602-1861 • (706) 542 4731