

What is the difference between a Certificate of Appropriateness and a building permit?

The building permit is issued by the Code Enforcement Officer of the village when any structural change is planned to an existing building or any new construction is under taken. It is outside of the jurisdiction of the OHPC. An application for a building permit can be obtained at the Police Department, 90 Temple Street, Owego 687-2233. The Certificate of Appropriateness, on the other hand, is issued by the OHPC to an applicant in the Historic District for an approved project. In the Historic District of Owego both a building permit and a Certificate of Appropriateness are required by anyone seeking to alter the exterior of a building. You must receive an OHPC certificate before seeking a building permit.

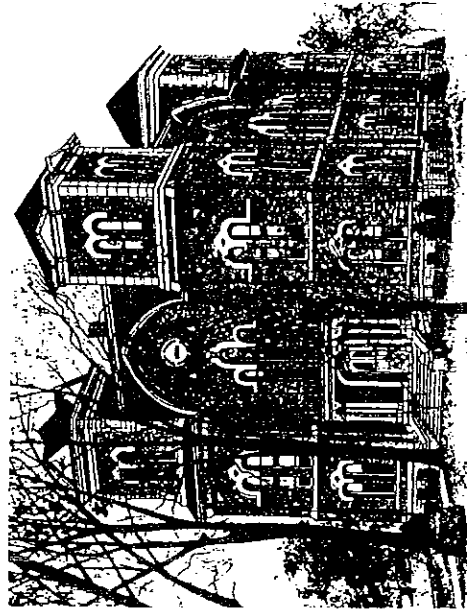
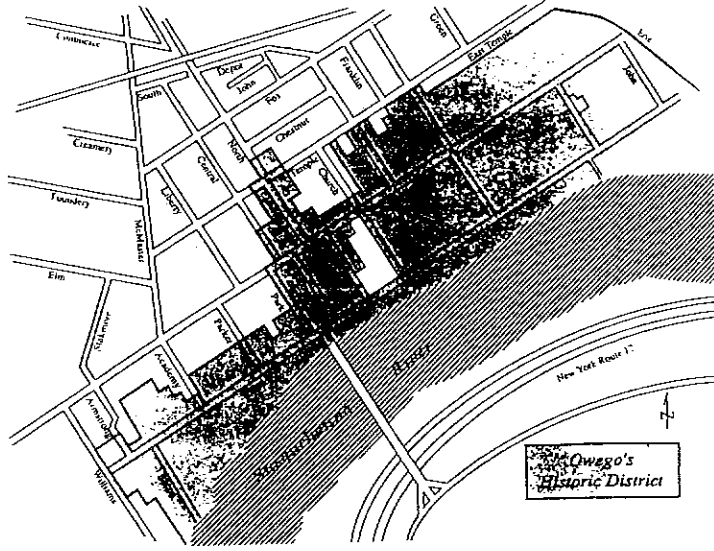
When and where does the OHPC meet?

The OHPC meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 7:00 PM in the board room of the Department of Public Works Annex located at 20 Elm Street, Owego. The OHPC generally requires the property owners or their contractors to present the application and answer questions. OHPC members are available for consultation and advice at these meetings, or informally at an earlier stage in the design process. In order for an application to be reviewed at a meeting, it must be filed in the clerk's office no later than the Wednesday morning preceding that meeting. Property owners are encouraged to meet with the OHPC before planning any major exterior work. The OHPC goal is to work with property owners in maintaining our historical heritage.

How do I get more information?

Call the office of Village Clerk-Treasurer at 178 Main Street, Owego, 687-3555.

OWEGO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



TIOOGA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Owego, New York



*A Guide for the Owners of
Property in the Village of
Owego's Historic District*

What is the National Register of Historic Places and what does it mean?

The National Register of Historic Places was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. It is the official list of the nation's important historic properties. Listing on the National Register places no restrictions on private owners of registered properties. They may sell or alter as they wish, consistent with local ordinances. It does offer the benefits, however, such as federal rehabilitation tax credits. To belong is a matter of great pride for most communities.

Welcome to Owego's Historic District

Whether new to the village or a life long resident, the role you play in the preservation of Owego's Historic District is extremely important. For property owners and those who are thinking of purchasing property in the district, taking an active part in maintaining the integrity of the beautiful structures that grace our streets will be a rewarding experience. Owning property in the historic district comes with certain responsibilities. Often times, however, property owners are confused about how they fit into the preservation puzzle, or are uncertain about the duties of the Village and the Owego Historic Preservation Commission. For that reason, the Village of Owego has developed this simple guide to help answer some of the questions that property owners may have when it comes to maintaining and renovating a building within the Historic District.

Why does Owego have a historic district?

Owego is a village of distinctive architectural and historical character. People come from all over to see our charming historic buildings. We are fortunate to have preserved most of our architecture, but we also have lost many of our landmark buildings to fire, neglect and progress. Since our historic appearance is one of the best features, we want to preserve it.

What are the boundaries of Owego's Historic District?

The Historic District runs from John Street on the east to William Street on the west. It includes all of Front Street, most of Main Street and the side streets in between.

What is the Owego Historic Preservation Commission (OHPC)?

The OHPC consists of seven members appointed by the mayor and chosen, whenever possible, from among local architects, Realtors, historians, Historical Society members, and those who have had previous experience in preservation. Members serve five year terms. They review and approve applications for any proposed alterations to the exteriors of properties in the Owego Historic District. The purpose is to ensure that the changes proposed will not damage or diminish those features or building elements that are significant.

What is a Certificate of Appropriateness?

A Certificate of Appropriateness is the approval that the OHPC must give to anyone who submits an application. This certificate is required before making any exterior alteration to a building in the Historic District.

Where and when can a Commission Review Application be picked up?

Before the commencement of any exterior work, a building owner will pick up a Commission Review Application at the Police Department, 90 Temple Street, Owego 687-2233 or the village offices at 178 Main Street. The OHPC will approve or deny the permit within thirty days from receipt of the completed application. The application should include as much pertinent information as possible such as photographs of property, elevation drawings of proposed changes and samples of materials to be used. The more you tell the OHPC about what you are proposing, the easier it is to move through the process.

Work that typically requires an application.

1. Repair or replacement of windows, doors, roof, or siding.
2. Porch repair or reconstruction
3. Painting (color change only).
4. New construction and additions
5. Changes in commercial exteriors.
6. Signs.
7. Demolition.
8. Any changes to previously approved projects.