



# Architectural Resource Surveys

## Frequently Asked Questions

Architectural Resource Surveys primarily act as a planning tool to provide adequate data to make informed decisions, but most importantly, it documents the City's history and contributes important data into a repository of historical information. Additionally, as a Certified Local Government, there is a commitment by the City to protect its historic resources and provide continuous improvement to historic preservation efforts, including the identification of historic properties within the jurisdiction. The following "Frequently Asked Questions" were composed to provide more information regarding the purpose of architectural resource surveys.

### **What is an Architectural Resource Survey?**

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An Architectural Resource Survey is the identification, research, and documentation of buildings, sites, and structures located in the City of Fort Lauderdale. It includes an evaluation of the architectural style, structural integrity, and character for each building within a specified boundary.

### **How is an Architectural Resource Survey conducted?**

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While the methodology and quantity of information provided for each survey may vary, it typically includes background research, a field survey to photograph each building, and an evaluation of each building.

### **Are there different types of Architectural Resource Surveys?**

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Yes, there are two main types of Architectural Resource Surveys, a "reconnaissance" survey and an "intensive" survey. A reconnaissance survey is utilized as an initial step in an architectural resource survey to gather data in a large area and identify a more focused boundary to conduct further studies. An intensive survey may follow a reconnaissance level survey or may be the initial step. It provides more detailed information and can include a more thorough examination of the significance of the structures in the area, including identification of a property as "contributing" or "non-contributing."

### **What do "Contributing Property" or "Non-Contributing Property" mean?**

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Both definitions are commonly used in historic preservation ordinances throughout the country. They enable a historic district to highlight a property's significance. A "contributing property" is one that adds to the qualities of a designated historic district, which are outlined in a period of significance statement that identifies time periods, architectural styles, and related historical associations. A "non-contributing property" does not add to the qualities for which the area is designated.

### **Why are Architectural Resource Surveys needed?**

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Architectural Resource Surveys serve as a planning tool to facilitate informed decision-making. They also document the City's history and contribute to the repository of historical information, in the event a structure is demolished in the future.



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### **Who will conduct the architectural resource survey?**

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Qualified planners and consultants will conduct the architectural resource survey and determine a building's status. Both planners and consultants working on the survey meet the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's [Professional Qualification Standards](#) for Architectural History or Historic Architecture, which are requirements maintained by the National Park Service in the United States Department of the Interior.

### **Will an architectural resource survey automatically designate my property as a historic resource?**

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No. There are processes and procedures to designate a property as a historic landmark, or a group of buildings as a historic district. In order to designate a property as historic, a complete application must be submitted to the Historic Preservation Board (HPB). The HPB would review the application and provide their recommendations to the City Commission. Following public notice and the opportunity for public input, the City Commission would make a final determination at a Commission meeting. To designate a historic district, the Planning and Zoning Board must also review the application at a public meeting.

### **Where can I find more information?**

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More information can be found on the City's website, under Historic Preservation; or by contacting Trisha Logan, AICP, Historic Preservation Planner and Historic Preservation Board Liaison, at [tlogan@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:tlogan@fortlauderdale.gov) or 954-828-7101.