



THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT

To encourage the restoration and preservation of privately owned structures designated on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation*, either individually or within a historic district, the Montgomery County Council in 1984 passed legislation providing for a tax credit against County real property taxes (Chapter 52, Article VI). The legislation was amended in 2013 to increase the tax credit to 25% of documented expenses for exterior maintenance, restoration, or preservation work. The work must be certified eligible by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

ELIGIBLE WORK MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. Be certified by the HPC as contributing to the restoration or preservation of sites listed on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* either individually or within an historic district;
2. Be exterior work only;
3. Be undertaken with a previously approved Historic Area Work Permit (HAWP) if alterations that require a HAWP are proposed; **OR**
4. Be ordinary maintenance exceeding \$1,000 in expense; the work must be certified at the time the HPC reviews the tax credit application as being consistent with the purposes of Chapter 24A, the County's historic preservation ordinance;
5. Be performed by a licensed contractor.

THE TAX CREDIT IS ALLOWABLE FOR:

Eligible work includes repairs, restoration, or preservation of exterior features of designated structures. Examples of eligible projects would include (but not be limited to):

- Painting
- Repairing roofs or replacing them in-kind
- Repairing or restoring windows
- Repairing architectural trim or ornament
- Uncovering and repairing original siding
- Repointing brick or stone foundations or chimneys
- Restoring a documented feature such as a dormer or porch that was previously altered or removed
- Repairing and maintaining outbuildings such as barns and garages.

THE TAX CREDIT IS NOT ALLOWABLE FOR:

Examples of ineligible expenditures include:

- New construction of a structure, or a new addition to an historic building
- Work requiring an approved HAWP that is completed without the approval of the HPC
- Interior work
- The value of labor unless performed by a licensed contractor
- Landscaping or yard work
- Repaving driveways or paving
- Replacing features (such as windows) with new features that are not identical in size and material, and repairing mechanical equipment
- Tool and equipment purchases
- Professional services (design fees, annual pest control, structural reports)