

1.7 Historic Preservation

Contact: Bob Douglas
(417) 682-5431



Assessment Process	
A.	To assess needs, Barton County Historical Society seeks input from the Community Betterment annual surveys, individuals, town meetings, and the public in general.
B.	Short-term and long-term goals are based on surveys, and goals from the Community Betterment Board of Directors on the urgency of need as well as resources available, or those that become available in future years.
C.	Plans are prepared by the Lamar Community Betterment Board of Directors, in cooperation with the Barton County Historical Society, Barton County Chamber of Commerce, the City of Lamar, the administrator of the Harry S Truman Birthplace State Park Historic Site, and the Division of Parks and Historic Preservation. Implementation of these plans is underway.
D.	The program some progress will have ongoing Evaluation as well as an annual review and update, with any necessary changes, by the Community betterment Board, Chamber of Commerce, city of Lamar, as well as input given by any individual.

Program Standards	
A.	Organization: The Lamar Community Betterment Council has the overall responsibility for administration of the various programs as monies are consolidated in community betterment and earmarked for such programs. The Barton County Historical Society, organized in 1971, will play a key role in coordination with the city and the Chamber of Commerce.
B.	Mission Statement: The mission of the Historic Preservation Program is to continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect, store, and make available to the public information on mining and historical landmarks • Maintain a historical museum containing artifacts and other memorabilia pertaining to Barton County • Have such items available to the public without charge • Maintain a microfilm library of the Lamar Democrat newspaper 1887 to 1982 on file available for research
C.	Historic Survey: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Historical Society has collected and produced a slide program of historical homes in the City of Lamar, the way they looked in 1903, along with the way they are now. Victorian homes are also included. 2. The Historical Society has undertaken a project to obtain pictures of commercial buildings and document business types in each for the purpose of locating sites and buildings no longer in existence in Lamar. This project is 80% complete, but on hold due to the death of the project director. 3. The historical society has compiled a slide Program on various businesses, farm structures, and homes from pictures dating back to 1903.
D.	Historical Inventory: The Barton County historical Society is designated to maintain inventories in as much as the society already has the foundation for information of this nature. A day-to-day inventory will be both short-term and long-term in nature.
E.	Education/Outreach: Multimedia slide programs are presented to various civic organizations, clubs, and to various classes in Lamar High school. Presentations are made on various events of the county's history as well. Celebrations of Barton County's heritage are not limited to just one week of the year. Historic Preservation is celebrated in several of the community's special events and festivals throughout the year.

F.	Protection: A historic district has been established in the area surrounding the President Truman Birthplace State Park. In addition to local zoning ordinances, this is a designated historic site by the State of Missouri. These protections allow for long-term expansion of the state park’s amenities and attractions, while maintaining the historical integrity of the site.
G.	Design Assistance: The Lamar DownTown Association has secured the services of an architect well-versed in historic preservation and restoration. Architectural renderings of the Downtown Square district are available to provide design assistance in various aspects of Downtown revitalization.
H.	Incentives: Through the Historical Society, residential property owners may access state and federal resources and incentives for historic preservation. The Chamber of Commerce and Lamar DownTown Association will utilize commercial building historic preservation incentives in a retail redevelopment program. Through the association, a local bank has made available an attractive loan program toward building revitalization for local businesses.
I.	Networking: The Barton County Historical Society, Lamar Community Betterment, and the Barton County Chamber of Commerce all participate in activities at various levels that allow Lamar to identify and implement successful ideas and trends in Historic Preservation.

Program Goals and Planning

Goal	Enhance historical significance of Lamar as the birthplace of President Harry S Truman
Strategy	Expand activities and facilities at the Harry S Truman State Birthplace Historic Site. A master plan has been developed by the State Parks division of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with massive local support for the projects. Plans call for expansion of the state park land and boundaries, replication of historic structures on the site, and the implementation of new interpretive and recreational activities.
Funding	Components of this project will be funded by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the City of Lamar. Some funding may potentially be derived from a foundation of retired United Automotive Workers, a supportive cause close to the heart of President Truman.
Timeline	A timeline developed by Department of Natural Resources in the master plan addresses benchmarks and deadlines necessary for successful completion of the project in multi-year phases.
Goal Evaluation	Increase in visitor counts; increases in economic impact for historic preservation and tourism

Program Evaluation

<p>The success of Historic Preservation endeavors for Lamar are addressed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmarks and best practices guidelines established through related state and national organizations • Participation in activities and services provided by the Barton County Historical Society • Annual Surveys from Lamar Community Betterment and the Chamber of Commerce • Annual Strategic Planning exercises of local organizations affiliated with historic preservation
