

Cultural & Historic Resource FAQs

What is a Historic Property?

There are five types of historic resources.



Building:

A building, such as a house, barn, church, or store, is created to shelter any form of human activity. Examples include courthouses, detached kitchens and bathrooms, garages, hotels, libraries, post offices, and schools.

Historic home in Wahikuli. Photo courtesy of quamproperties.com.



Site:

A site is the location of a significant event, or a pre-contact or historic occupation or activity. It may also be a building or structure – whether standing, ruined, or vanished – where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archaeological value. Examples include habitation sites, burial sites, rock shelters, village sites, fishing sites, *heiau*, petroglyphs, battlefields, ruins of historic buildings and structures, sites of treaty signings, trails, and designed landscapes.

Historical image of Mokuula.



Structure:

A structure is a functional construction (different than buildings) that is usually built for purposes other than human shelter. Examples includes bridges, tunnels, systems of roadways and paths, boats and ships, and railroad locomotives and cars.

Olowalu Tunnel. Photo courtesy of mapio.net.



Object:

An object is a construction (different than buildings and structures) that is artistic in nature or relatively small in scale. An object may be moveable, but it is usually associated with a specific setting or environment. Examples include sculptures, monuments, and statues.

Lahainaluna "L." Photo Courtesy of Lahainanews.com.



District:

A district is an area that contains a significant concentration of sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are related to each other by plan or physical development. Examples include commercial areas, neighborhoods, rural villages, ranches, farms, estates, transportation networks, and landscaped parks.

Historical image of County historic district no. 2 in Lahaina.

What is Historic Preservation?

Historic preservation is safeguarding the existence and appearance of historic properties (buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts).

Why Should I Care About Historic Preservation?

Preservation of historic properties can add to your understanding of, and pride in, your community's history.

Simply put:

"A community that respects its history respects itself. The preservation of that history through the preservation of sites important to it can help a community realize its strengths and use them to improve the lives of all its residents."

– The Community Toolbox, Center for Community Health and Development, University of Kansas

What Options are Available for Preserving Cultural & Historic Properties?

If you are interested in preserving historic properties, there are several different options available. Depending on your interests, you can:

- Research historic properties
- Volunteer for community organizations that advocate for or *malama* (steward) historic properties
- Form a community organization that advocates for or *malama* historic properties
- Maintain or restore sites such as fish ponds and *loi kalo*
- Rehabilitate, maintain, or restore historic buildings
- Designate historic properties to the Hawaii and National Registers
- Designate a County historic district
- Establish cultural preserves or parks
- Join the Cultural Resources Commission
- Join the Maui/Lanai Burial Council
- Sign up for meeting agenda notices for Burial Council, Cultural Resources Commission, Planning Commission, and County Council. Testify on items that affect historic properties.

County of Maui
Department of Planning
2200 Main Street, Suite 601
Wailuku, HI 96793

Phone: (808) 270-7214 Web: www.wearemaui.org Email: wearewestmaui@mauicounty.gov

