



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Cedar Rapids Historic Sites and Districts Identification System

Why was this system developed?

The Cedar Rapids Historic Sites and Districts Identification System was developed in 2015 under the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which was entered into after the June 2008 flooding event that resulted in the demolition of historic properties in Cedar Rapids. The MOA signatories included the following:

- Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department
- The City of Cedar Rapids
- The Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The agreement was regarding the demolition of historic properties in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and called for the development of a comprehensive database for inventoried historic resources.

How was this system developed?

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. worked with the City of Cedar Rapids, SHPO, and historic preservation consultants to gather information on existing properties within city limits that were already inventoried and on the National Register of Historic Places. The final database also includes results of architectural and historical surveys, and features information on the location and eligibility status of all previously surveyed properties.

This project was produced under the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, among the Federal Emergency Management Agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department, and the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa regarding the demolition of historic properties in Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa. FEMA administered Federal disaster assistance through FEMA's Public Assistance Program pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act for the demolition of historic properties damaged as a result of flooding in July 2008 that resulted in declared disaster DR-1763-IA.



USING THE SYSTEM

Cedar Rapids Historic Sites and Districts Identification System

Where do I find the system?

You can access the system online at <http://crgis.cedar-rapids.org/HDV/index.html>.

What can I access on the system?

The interactive, color-coded map provides the ability to browse the historic sites in the city or to quickly navigate between sites. In addition, users can find:

- Architectural survey reports
- National Register nominations of sites (as available)
- Information collected from the City's Assessor's website.

Are there any special programs I need to purchase to be able to use the system or map viewer?

An internet connection, internet browser, and updated version of Adobe Acrobat Reader ([free download here](#)) to read the PDF files is all that is required to use the system. *Note: faster internet connections reduce the load time of the data and download time for photos and surveys.*

When I first load the map, all I see are dashed lines, is this normal?

Yes. To enable the data in this system to load faster, data will not display at all scales. Data will begin to appear as users zoom in closer. A "How To" video can be found online at:

<http://www.cedar-rapids.org/government/boardsandcommissions/governmentoperations/historicpreservationcommission/pages/historic-surveys-and-data.aspx>

The property I looked up does not have a color associated with it, why is this?

If a parcel has no color, it means the property has not been surveyed for historical significance. The city has nearly 70,000 parcels and just over 12,000 of them have had some survey for potential historic significance.

The property I looked up shows as demolished but there is a structure on it, why is this?

If a parcel shows as demolished and a structure is present, a new structure has been built on the site. The structure was added to the site after the time of the intensive historical survey.

The property I looked up has a green outline around it indicating multiple structures are present, but the entire parcel is indicated as one color – is the historic designation the same for every evaluated resource on the parcel?

Not necessarily. Some properties have multiple resources which are eligible, while others have resources which are both eligible and not eligible on the same parcel. The view of your map also depends upon the order of the layers; layers listed higher in the hierarchy take precedence over layers underneath them. For example, Eligible Resources will display over the top of Not Eligible Resources.

Another explanation for multiple resources on the same parcel also occurs when a property was surveyed more than once. In these instances, the Survey and Survey Author will generally be different. The result of that survey will be displayed at the top of the popup window; it is possible survey results will not match one another for a multitude of reasons ranging from integrity of the structure to the context in which the survey was completed.

Please watch the informational video on useful tips and tricks to see a demonstration of how to use the system, where it is specifically shown how to cycle through multiple resources on the parcel, alter the resources displayed on the map or obtain the results from multiple surveys that have observed the parcel.

What if I just want to read the historic survey findings, where can I find these at?

All the surveys the City has digital copies of are posted online at: <http://www.cedar-rapids.org/government/boardsandcommissions/governmentoperations/historicpreservationcommission/pages/historic-surveys-and-data.aspx>

What if I think I've identified an error?

Mistakes do happen and there is a chance something was entered into the system incorrectly. Please email Jeff Hintz, j.hintz@cedar-rapids.org or Anne Russett at a.russett@cedar-rapids.org or give either of us a call at (319) 286-5041 so we may look into it and correct the problem.

Other Resources

A comprehensive Glossary of Terms can be accessed at: <http://www.cedar-rapids.org/government/boardsandcommissions/governmentoperations/historicpreservationcommission/Documents/viewer-glossary.pdf>

Historic Preservation website: www.CityofCR.com/HPC.

Contact Us

For other inquiries about the system, please contact the City's Community Development Department at (319) 286-5041 or email us at development@cedar-rapids.org