

Survey Process

Step 2: Documentary Research

A variety of documentary sources are consulted as part of an architectural survey, including city maps, county atlases, "bird's eye" views, Sanborn fire insurance maps, and historic photographs and paintings. Such sources illustrate the development of a city and its neighborhoods through time. They also aid our understanding of the dates of construction of individual buildings and subsequent changes to them.



1854



1867



North Side of Public Square in 1858 (above) and 1860 (right)



Step 3: Assessment

NRHP eligibility of neighborhoods (districts) and individual properties are based on their architectural integrity. The removal of original features, like porches, or the addition of modern fabric (vinyl windows and siding, etc.) can compromise a building's integrity. A neighborhood's integrity can be impacted by the demolition of historic structures and/or construction of new buildings. An assessment of architectural integrity comes from a historic preservation standpoint and is not a reflection of quality of housing or living standards.



Excellent



Good



Moderate



Poor



Excellent



Poor