

# Chapter 13: Historic Resources

## Survey Results

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1. How important are Historic Resources to you?

- 6** Very Important
- 3** Important
- 5** Somewhat Important
- 0** Not Important
- 0** No opinion

2. As a municipal official, which of the following statements would pertain to your municipality?

- |               |             |                     |   |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------|---|
| <b>14</b> Yes | <b>0</b> No | <b>0</b> Don't know | There is increased public awareness about the existence of historic resources over the last 10 years?   |
| <b>9</b> Yes  | <b>3</b> No | <b>2</b> Don't know | Has the design of new developments taken into account and been sensitive to existing historic resources?  |
| <b>5</b> Yes  | <b>7</b> No | <b>2</b> Don't know | Are historic resources and historic villages being threatened or lost altogether due to development?  |
| <b>7</b> Yes  | <b>6</b> No | <b>1</b> Don't know | Are historic resources and historic villages being lost due to neglect?   |
| <b>11</b> Yes | <b>1</b> No | <b>2</b> Don't know | Are historic resources still viable in meeting today's residential and commercial needs/desires (size, square footage, HVAC adaptability, etc)? |
| <b>11</b> Yes | <b>3</b> No | <b>0</b> Don't know | Recognizing private property rights and historic preservation are generally viewed at being at odds with one another?                           |

3. Has your municipality or other groups in the Region sponsored or participated in any of the following types of historic preservation efforts? Which of these efforts may your municipality be interested in pursuing in the future? (Please check all that apply)

- |               |             |                     |   |                 |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>8</b> Yes  | <b>1</b> No | <b>4</b> Don't know | Centennial, bicentennial, or related celebration                  | <b>7</b> Future |
| <b>12</b> Yes | <b>1</b> No | <b>1</b> Don't know | Municipal newsletter or website articles about historic resources | <b>7</b> Future |

7 Yes	3 No	1 Don't know	A historic village or covered bridge walking, cycling, or driving tour	9 Future
7 Yes	4 No	2 Don't know	Reuse or Rehabilitation Study of historic resources	7 Future
5 Yes	6 No	2 Don't know	Fundraiser to benefit the preservation or rehabilitation of historic resources	6 Future
6 Yes	6 No	2 Don't know	Municipal Historic Commission reviews subdivision or land development plans for their impact on existing historic resources.	6 Future
9 Yes	1 No	3 Don't know	Provide historic information or technical assistance to owners of historic properties	8 Future
6 Yes	1 No	7 Don't know	Provide educational brochures or workshops regarding historic preservation	7 Future
10 Yes	1 No	2 Don't know	Publish a municipal history, or included a municipal history on the municipal website and/or in newsletter	8 Future
6 Yes	4 No	4 Don't know	Witness the successful reuse of a historic building for a new type of use. (e.g. farmhouse converted to a bank)	6 Future
8 Yes	1 No	4 Don't know	Public recognition of a historic preservation effort	7 Future

Please provide a further explanation about any of the above here or provide a description of other historic preservation efforts that have occurred:

- Regarding whether historic resources are viable – There has been more successes by individuals rehabbing older buildings that by developers, who have a particular product in mind. Reuse of historic buildings by developers is seen as an inconvenience and an unnecessary expense.
- Upper Oxford – school house reunions (3)
- Oxford – Borough website has history page. Borough has a Historic Commission that has established a historic district.

- E Nottingham – Township is trying to establish a more finite strategy for their historical committee. This committee is working to catalog and interact with owners of historic properties. Also, showcases in the Township’s General Meeting Room have been set up to display many of the historic artifacts that the Historic Committee has collected.
- Elk – History Committee has hosted several bus tours of Elk with very good participation from residents. In November 2007, the Township celebrated its 200 year anniversary with a discussion on how, when, and why it split from East Nottingham. Information is being compiled on the history of the township. The commission has discussed a fundraiser to collect \$ to repair the stone wall surrounding the Old Stone Graveyard (1720), no action has been taken yet. Is there any grant \$ available at the county or state level? Most of our resources are lost to neglect (barns collapsing, foundations and cemeteries lost to overgrowth). Elk's resources have not suffered from development as those of other townships. Elk was a milling area with the Big and Little Elk creeks providing power. Also, Lewisville was a crossroads between Baltimore and Philly. Many of the older homes in the area are log, nothing pretentious, but represented the homes of mill owners, workers and trades people. The mill town along Springlawn Road, which is now just a few stone walls, foundations, old spillways, may receive some attention as a walk/ride trail has been established and is popular with residents.

**Other Comments:**

The intra-departmental information to other Borough agencies and to the public in the Borough and surrounding municipalities is limited if not almost nonexistent. If you don't subscribe to a once a week newspaper here you wouldn't know much at all. The Oxford Region must develop a better communications system via the local media outlets or better advertising in order to get the information not related to robberies, murder, and other atrocities out to all so that they have access and the ability to find information on a more regular basis. Better communication within the Region is needed.

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