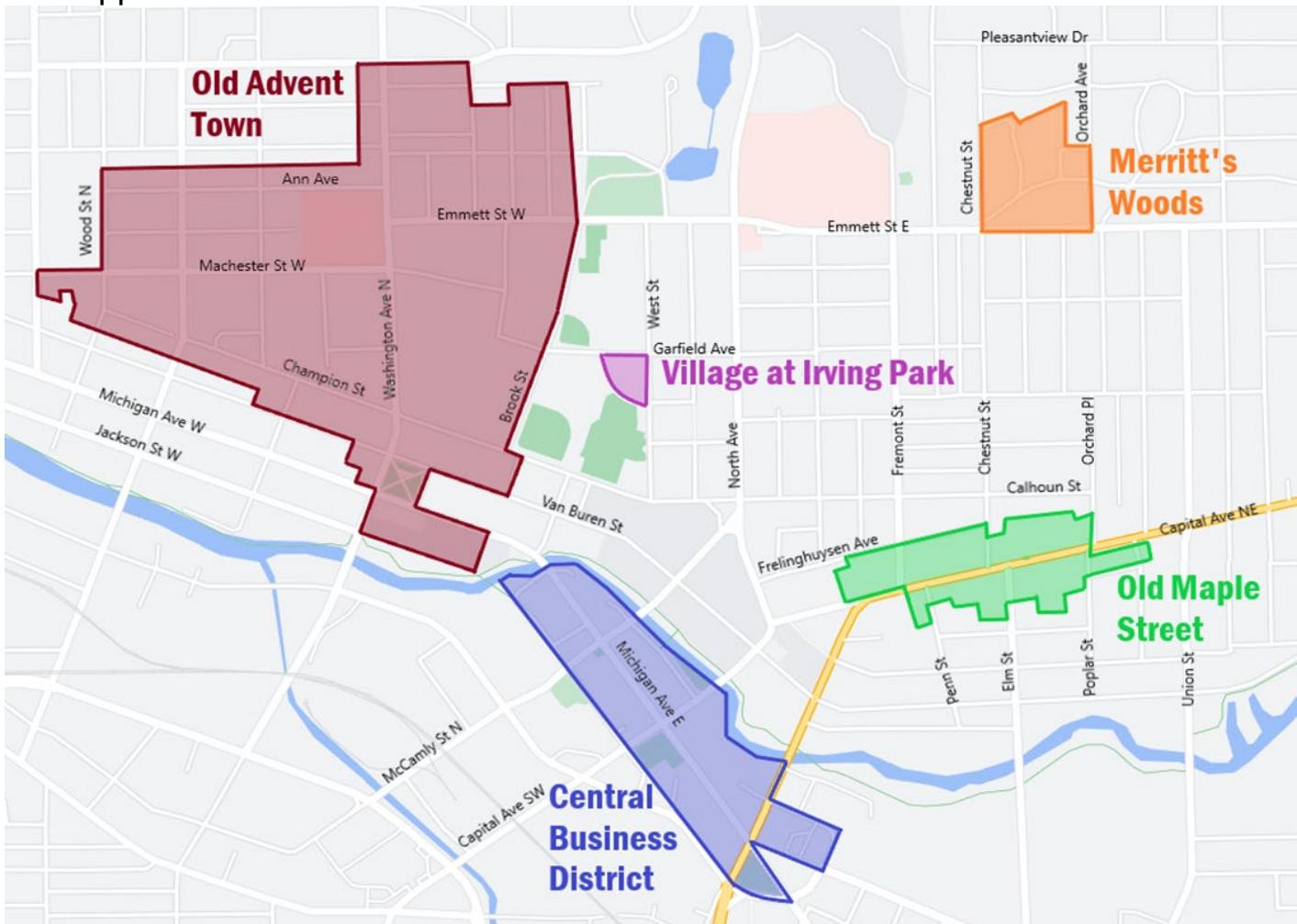


WHAT IS A LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT?

LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Local Historic Districts are areas that are characterized by their historic, cultural, and architectural significance. In the City of Battle Creek there are 5 Local Historic Districts as mapped below:



- Old Advent Town
- Village at Irving Park
- Merritt's Woods
- Old Maple Street
- Central Business District

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (HDC)

The regulatory body that oversees improvements and modifications within Local Historic Districts is The City of Battle Creek's **Historic District Commission (HDC)**. This is a group of volunteers that meets once a month to review developments within Local Historic Districts to assure that improvements and modifications adhere to the nationally-set standards of Historic Preservation.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Historic Preservation is the act of maintaining unique attributes and resources of historic, cultural, or architectural value. Historic Preservation is a city-wide effort that is regulated by the City of Battle Creek's **Historic District Commission (HDC)**. The HDC uses regulatory measures indicated by the U.S. Secretary of Interior.



The photo on the left shows the condition of this home decades ago. The photo below shows this home in its current state. The two are nearly identical, making this an excellent example of proper Historic Preservation.

43 Merwood Drive
Old Maple Street Historic
District



63 N Wood Street
Old Advent Town Historic
District



I AM A RESIDENT OF A LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Living in a Local Historic District means that you play an active role in the ongoing preservation of Battle Creek's most treasured structures. With this role comes a number of both **benefits** and **responsibilities**.

BENEFITS

- Properties within Local Historic Districts appreciate at greater rates than the local market.
- Your investment is protected within the bounds of your neighborhood as any major changes are regulated by the HDC.
- Opportunity to aid in maintaining local charm- encouraging tourism and business recruitment, which can further appreciate property value.
- Decreased environmental impact by maintaining existing homes rather than demolishing them and rebuilding using new materials.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Any proposed improvements and modifications affecting the exterior appearance of buildings and property improvements within a historic district require submittal of an application for approval.
- Application to the HDC must be approved prior to initiating improvements or modifications.



265 Capital Avenue, N.E.
Old Maple Street Historic District

APPLICATION PROCESS

Two types of applications are submitted to the HDC. These include **Certificate of Appropriateness** and **Notice to Proceed**. A Certificate of Appropriateness is used when making any repairs or restoration to the exterior of a property. In order for it to be approved, the project shall conform to the set of standards as defined by the U.S. Secretary of Interior. A Notice to Proceed is used when carrying out demolition of a structure. In some cases, a request may be defined as a **Minor Class of Work**. This means that the nature of the request does not require HDC approval and can be processed and approved by the Planning and Zoning Division.

