RESOLUTION #769-10

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FOR MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA; PROVIDING FOR THE RECOGNITION AND PROMOTION OF HISTORIC SITES AND DEFINING POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Section 1: Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this resolution is to:

a. Promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the recognition, enhancement, and perpetuation of sites and districts of historical and cultural significance;
b. Safeguard the County's historic, aesthetic, and cultural heritage by preserving sites and districts of historic and cultural significance;
c. Stabilize and improve property values;
d. Foster pride in the legacy of beauty and achievements of the past;
e. Protect and enhance the County's attractions to tourists and visitors and the support and stimulus to business thereby provided;
f. Strengthen the economy of the County;
g. Promote the use of landmarks and districts of historic and cultural significance as places for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people of the County.

Section 2: Definitions

a. Commission. The Mitchell Historic Preservation Commission, as established by this resolution.
b. Historic District. An area which contains a significant portion of sites including archaeological sites, buildings, structures, objects and/or other improvements which, considered as a whole, possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

    1. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that posses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
    2. is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our local, state or national history; or
    3. possesses a coherent and distinctive visual character or integrity based upon similarity of scale, design, color, setting, workmanship, materials, or combinations thereof, which is deemed to add significantly to the value and attractiveness of properties within such area.
    4. is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
    5. has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

c. *Historic Landmark. A site including archaeological sites, object, structure or building which,*

1. is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
2. is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
3. embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents a work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Section 3: Mitchell Historic Preservation Commission

a. The Commission shall initially consist of 5 members who shall be residents of the County.
b. Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Members shall demonstrate a positive interest in historic preservation, possessing interest or expertise in architecture, architectural history, history, archaeology, or closely related disciplines.
c. The original appointment of the members of the Commission shall be, three for two years, and two for three years, from January 1 following the year of such appointment or until their successor is appointed to serve for the term of three years.
d. Vacancies occurring in the Commission, other than expiration of term of office, shall be only for the unexpired portion of the term of the member replaced.
e. Members may serve for more than one term and each member shall serve until the appointment of a successor.
f. Vacancies shall be filled by the County according to the original selection as aforesaid.
g. Members shall serve without compensation.
h. A simple majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
i. The Commission shall elect a Chairman who shall preside over all Commission meetings and elect a Secretary who shall be responsible for maintaining written records of the commission's proceedings.
j. The Commission shall meet at least three (3) times a year.

Section 4: Powers of the Commission

a. The Commission may conduct studies for the identification and designation of historic districts and landmarks meeting the definitions established by this resolution. The commission may proceed at its own initiative or upon a petition from any person, group or association. The Commission shall maintain records of all studies and inventories for public use.

b. The Commission may make a recommendation to the State Historic Preservation Office for the listing of a historic district or landmark in the National Register of Historic Places and may conduct a public hearing thereon.
c. Provide information for the purpose of historic preservation to the governing body.
d. Promote and conduct an educational and interpretive program on historic properties within its jurisdiction.
e. Other Powers. In addition to those duties and powers specified above, the Commission may, with Board approval:
    1. Accept unconditional gifts and donations of real and personal property, including money, for the purpose of historic preservation.
    2. Acquire by purchase, bequest, or donation, fee and lesser interests in historic properties, including properties adjacent to or associated with historic properties.
    3. Preserve, restore, maintain and operate historic properties, under the ownership or control of the Commission.
    4. Lease, sell, and otherwise transfer or dispose of historic properties subject to rights of public access and other covenants and in a manner that will preserve the property.
    5. Contract, with the approval of the governing body, with the state or the federal government or other organizations.
    6. Cooperate with the federal, state and local governments in the pursuance of the objectives of historic preservation.

Passed, adopted and approved this 23rd day of March, 2010.

Mitchell County.

Stan Walz, Chair

Chairman, Board of Supervisors