



Historic District Commission Certified Local Government Report – August 13, 2024

Summary Report

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL PLANNING DEPARTMENT
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Historic District Commission (HDC) review the Certified Local Government (CLG) Report submitted to the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office (HPO) in December 2023.

BACKGROUND

1. *What is a Certified Local Government (CLG)?*

A local government whose local historic preservation program has been certified by the State Historic Preservation Officer, with the concurrence of the National Park Service, to carry out the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

2. *What is the purpose of CLGs?*

According to the [National Park Service](#)¹, "The goal of the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program is to facilitate State and local government to cooperation with Federal partners to promote nationwide preservation initiatives. Through the certification process, local communities make a commitment to national historic preservation standards. This commitment is key to America's ability to preserve, protect, and increase awareness of our unique cultural heritage found across the country."

3. *What are the requirements to be a CLG?*

- Enforce state and local legislation for designation and protection of historic properties
- Establish a historic district commission
- Maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties
- Provide adequate public participation in the local preservation program, including recommending properties to the National Register of Historic Places
- Perform responsibilities delegated to it under the 1980 Historic Preservation Act

4. *What are the benefits of being a CLG?*

- Eligible to compete for Historic Preservation Fund grant money. Eligible activities include architectural surveys, preservation planning, pre-development and development activities, as well as physical restoration and stabilization projects.
- Review new nominations to the National Register of Historic Places
- Continuing education expanding the expertise of Commissioners that, in turn, benefits the community

5. *What is the annual CLG Report?*

Each December, the HPO requires CLGs to submit a report demonstrating compliance with the CLG requirements. The report includes:

- Data about Commissioner turnover
- Highlights of Commission activities, such as public outreach events
- List of local historic districts and updates about resources added or removed from inventories
- Summary of design review activity

6. *Did Chapel Hill maintain its CLG status?*

Yes, the HPO found that the Town of Chapel Hill continues to meet its requirements to be a CLG.

¹ <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/clg/index.htm>

Exhibits

1. Chapel Hill CLG FY2022-2023 Annual Report
2. [Certified Local Government Program in NC](#)²
3. [Guidelines for North Carolina's Certified Local Government Program - 2003](#)³

² <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/state-historic-preservation-office/local-historic-6>

³ https://files.nc.gov/ncdcr/historic-preservation-office/CLG/2003_CLG_Guidelines.pdf