

**POLICY STATEMENT OF THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY
HISTORIC BUILDINGS COMMISSION REGARDING STRATEGIES FOR
PRESERVING HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

WHEREAS, Chapter 1007.040 of the St. Louis County Ordinances authorizes the Historic Buildings Commission (hereinafter called the “HBC”) to “establish and articulate policy with respect to historic preservation in St. Louis County”;

NOW THEREFORE, the HBC establishes the following policies regarding strategies for preserving historic buildings:

1. The HBC encourages the preservation of historic buildings in active, economic use. Use of historic buildings as museums should be limited to the most significant buildings whose historic character may be damaged or destroyed by continued active use.
2. Historic buildings should continue to be used for their original purposes where possible.
3. Where continued economic use of an historic building for the original purpose is no longer feasible, the HBC encourages an alternative economic use that will retain the building’s significant features. This is sometimes called an “adaptive reuse.” The HBC honors outstanding examples of adaptive reuse in St. Louis County each year.
4. Recognizing that historic buildings can be successfully integrated into new developments and land uses, the HBC encourages the sensitive consideration of historic buildings in decisionmaking processes involving planning and development.
5. The HBC encourages the adoption of historic preservation ordinances based on the Missouri’s Local Historic Preservation Act, passed by the state legislature in 1991 (Missouri Statutes 253.415), as the only effective means by which municipalities and counties can regulate the alteration or demolition of historic buildings.

This Policy Statement was approved and adopted by the HBC by a unanimous vote of those members present at its regular meeting on March 9, 1999.

Jane Gleason, Chairman