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## State Helps Designate Downtown District as Historic

The city of Hamilton and the Downtown Hamilton Special Improvement District (SID) plan to continue the revitalization of downtown with help from the Ohio Development Services Agency. A grant from the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Pipeline Initiative will support creating a National Register Historic District.



The \$11,600 grant, made possible through a partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office at the Ohio History Connection, will provide funds to research and prepare the application for federal designation on the National Register of Historic Places. This will make the 45 downtown buildings eligible for both the state and federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit programs.

“Downtown Hamilton has been a success story of the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit,” said David Goodman, director of the Ohio Development Services Agency. “Helping the larger downtown area receive this federal designation will continue the revitalization of this growing community.”

The city of Hamilton, through partnerships with multiple developers, has been successful at facilitating historic rehabilitation in downtown Hamilton. To date, five Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit projects have been completed or approved in downtown, representing more than \$24 million in total investment. Recent projects, including the Mercantile Block and Artspace Hamilton Lofts, had to wait for historic designation individually. The new district designation will allow developers to immediately begin the tax credit application process for any contributing building.

“Designating Hamilton’s downtown as a historic district is an important step forward. We have had initial successes with redevelopment with projects such as the Mercantile Lofts, the Journal-News, Artspace and the Robinson-Schwenn. Historic preservation tax credits were critical to these projects and they will continue to be important in future projects,” said Jody Gunderson, economic development director for the city of Hamilton. “The historic district designation will make redevelopment much more attractive for more than 20 historic buildings.”

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