The following materials are required for the Historic Preservation Office (HP) to consider an application to demolish or move a building within a historic preservation overlay complete:

1. A completed Request for HP Demolition Approval form for the structure(s) or area(s) of a structure proposed for demolition. This form can be completed in person at HP or online at https://www.phoenix.gov/pdd/historic/historicservices.

2. A minimum of one close-up photograph and one overview/context photograph of each structure or area of a structure proposed for demolition.

   Please note: additional photographs of the structure, both inside and out, showing the condition are helpful when determining whether or not it retains sufficient integrity to be considered a contributor.

3. If more than one structure is on a single legal parcel, or only a portion of a given building is being considered for demolition, then a scaled and labeled site plan showing the locations of each structure proposed for demolition and preservation on the site is required.

Incomplete applications will not be accepted for review.

According to §813 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Phoenix, demolition or moving of structures listed on the Phoenix Historic Property Register (available at http://phoenix.gov/pdd/historic/historicmaps/index.html) proceeds as follows:

1. Within three business days after receiving a demolition application for a property listed on the Phoenix Historic Property Register, HP will evaluate an application based on:
   
   (A) Whether the structure is of no historic or architectural value or significance and does not contribute to the historic value of the property, and
   
   (B) Whether the loss of the structure would not adversely affect the integrity of the Historic Preservation Overlay District or the historic, architectural or aesthetic relationship to adjacent properties and whether its demolition shall be inconsequential to historic preservation needs of the area.

2. If the demolition application meets the above criteria, the applicant may need to provide the HP with a reuse plan for the property. Approval of this plan (via a Certificate of Appropriateness or Certificate of No Effect as determined by HP staff) is needed prior to obtaining HP approval for the demolition work.

3. If a demolition application is denied, the applicant has the option to submit a Request for Certification of Economic Hardship and request a hearing. (see the information on page two). Otherwise, the city cannot issue a demolition permit on the property for a period of one year from the date of the denial. For properties designated as “landmarks,” the restraint of demolition applies for three years (see §813.C & D of the Zoning Ordinance).

4. From the time the demolition restraint expires or demolition approval is granted, the owner has one year to obtain a city demolition permit and complete all demolition work. The HP may grant a one-time six-month extension if the demolition work is not completed within one year due to unforeseeable circumstances. If the work is not completed within this time frame, the owner must re-apply for a demolition permit according to the regular demolition permit procedures delineated above.
REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP PROCESS

1. The applicant submits a Request for Demolition Approval that is denied by the Historic Preservation Officer. The applicant is informed of the option to wait until the restraint of demolition has expired (one year from the date of the denial in the case of most properties within the historic preservation overlay, three years from the date of the denial in the case of properties designated as historic landmarks per §813.C & D of the Zoning Ordinance) or to file a Request for Certification of Economic Hardship.

2. The applicant submits a completed application form and all required materials from the “Request for Certification of Economic Hardship” checklist to the HP. The assigned planner determines whether the application is administratively complete within 10 days of the date that the application is submitted. The hearing will be scheduled within 20 days of the determination that the application is administratively complete.

3. The city will post a sign on the property and send letters to the owner and neighborhood association providing information on the hearing date, time and scope of work. The sign must be posted at least 10 days prior to the hearing. Either the owner or a representative must be present at the hearing. The public may attend a Request for Certification of Economic Hardship hearing to express support or concerns regarding a proposal or may send a letter or email to that effect.

4. The assigned planner will perform a site visit and then review the application to determine whether the project meets the city's standards for obtaining Certification of Economic Hardship. The planner will prepare and forward a staff report to the applicant three days in advance of the hearing.

5. The hearing officer will provide the applicant with an opportunity to explain his/her application, answer questions and provide additional information. The hearing officer will approve or deny the application based on the standards established in §814 Zoning Ordinance or continue the hearing if additional information is needed.

6. An appeal process is available for the applicant or other interested parties aggrieved by the decision of the hearing officer. See below for information regarding the appeal process.

7. If the “Request for Certification of Economic Hardship” is approved, the applicant must wait at least six calendar days before returning to the HP for final demolition approval because the applicant cannot apply for a building permit during the appeal period. If the Request for Certification of Economic Hardship is denied, the applicant still has the option to wait until the demolition restraint expires on the one or three-year anniversary of the original denial of the Request for Demolition Approval.

8. Once the final demolition approval from the Historic Preservation Office has been provided, the applicant then proceeds to the Development Division to apply for a building permit.

9. The applicant has one year from the date of the final demolition approval to obtain a demolition permit. A one-time, six-month extension may be approved if the demolition work is not completed within one year due to unforeseeable conditions. If the work is not completed within this time frame, the owner must re-apply for a demolition permit according to the regular demolition permit procedures delineated above.

APPEAL PROCESS

Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Historic Preservation Hearing Officer may appeal that decision within five calendar days of the action. The appeal form must be delivered in person to the HP by the specified date and time. If the fifth day falls on a weekend or holiday, the appeal period will expire at the close of business on the next regular business day (see §812.C.3.a-d of the Zoning Ordinance).

All appeals are heard by the city Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) at its next available meeting. Any person aggrieved by the decision of the HPC may appeal that decision to the Phoenix City Council. A written appeal must be filed in person with the HP within five calendar days of the HPC’s decision. All appeals of HPC decisions are heard by the City Council at its next available meeting.

IMPORTANT

The Hearing Officer, Historic Preservation Commission and City Council all act in a quasi-judicial manner for Certificate of Appropriateness hearings. There is to be no ex parte communication with any of these entities to include phone calls, e-mails, text messages or meetings. Supplemental materials may be submitted through the Historic Preservation Office to be included in the packet provided to the hearing body. Check with staff on any deadlines for submission of supplemental materials. Materials provided at the hearing should include copies for the hearing body, staff, applicant, and appellant.