



## Mobile Historic Development Commission Historic Marker Program **Banner and Shield**

### **What is the award process?**

The Mobile Historic Development Commission awards the Banner and Shield twice annually, once in June and once in December. *The deadline for both the application and the non-refundable application fee is March 1 for the June awards ceremony and September 1 for the December ceremony.* The Commission does not provide Banners and Shields outside these two cycles.

When evaluating applications, the Commission considers the age, architectural integrity, and overall condition of the subject property. *Properties must be 75 years old or older, retain most of their original character defining features, and be in good condition with no obvious signs of damage or deterioration. This is true for new and returning applicants.* While the Commission does not remove Banners and Shields from properties that have deteriorated after being awarded, the Commission does typically deny replacement of a Banner or Shield for a previously awarded property that has deteriorated or undergone inappropriate alterations since it was first awarded.

### **How do I apply?**

Return the completed application and fee to the following address before the application deadline (see above).

Checks should be made out to Friends of Mobile Historic Development.

Friends of Mobile Historic Development  
P. O. Box 656  
Mobile, AL 36601

### **When can I expect to hear if my property has been awarded?**

Notification letters are typically sent out 6 to 8 weeks after the application deadline.

### **What if my application is denied?**

The Commission may deny properties that exhibit visible signs of damage or deterioration or that have lost the original architectural features that define their historic character. The Commission will notify the applicant of denial in writing and explain the reasons for denial. This will include a list of alterations and/or repairs that must happen before the Commission will award the Banner and Shield.

After receiving a denial, each property will be given one free “roll-over.” This means the property is automatically reconsidered during the very next award cycle. For example, if the property is denied for the June awards ceremony, it will automatically go back into the pool for consideration for the December awards ceremony. As part of the free roll-over, the applicant will have until the next application deadline (in this case, September 1 for the December ceremony) to complete the Commission’s suggested alterations and repairs. If the work is not completed by the deadline, the property will not be awarded. *After the free roll-over period has expired, the owner will need to submit a new application, including a new application fee, to be considered for the award in future.*

### **Does the Banner and Shield place a property under the jurisdiction of the Architectural Review Board?**

No. The Architectural Review Board is a regulatory body of the City of Mobile that governs exterior alterations to all properties located within any of Mobile’s seven locally designated historic districts. In contrast, the Banner and Shield is an award that recognizes exemplary stewardship of Mobile’s historic architecture. Application for the award is voluntary and does not place any regulatory burdens on the current or future owners. That is to say, the Banner and Shield does not designate a property as being under the jurisdiction of the City’s Architectural Review Board. *All properties within Mobile’s seven locally designated historic districts require approval from the Architectural Review Board prior to completing any exterior work, regardless of the property’s age or Banner and Shield status.* By the same token, properties that possess a Banner and Shield that are located outside the seven locally designated historic districts do not require approval from the Architectural Review Board prior to completing exterior work.

Build Mobile, PO Box 1827, Mobile, Alabama 36633

For more information: [www.BuildMobile.org](http://www.BuildMobile.org)

Visit our help window: Mobile Government Plaza, 205 Government Street, Third Floor South Tower

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