

## GAINESVILLE NEIGHBORHOODS UNITED

### Preservation

People in Gainesville, and around the world, are interested in preserving historic buildings, districts, and cities. Reasons for the appeal of historic built fabric vary. Some find the architectural styles of other eras, or their building materials, construction techniques, and quality, appealing and inspiring. Some are attracted to the stories our built environments relay. Others recognize, as the National Trust for Historic Preservation has said, that the most sustainable building is one that is already built, because new materials will not be harvested or mined, transported, or assembled. Each part of new construction carries the cost of new embodied energy.

Similarly, approaches to preserving historic built fabric vary. Some people who advocate for the preservation of our built environment seek to exactly reproduce construction methods of earlier eras—a sometimes expensive or even impossible goal. Others hope our built environment will be preserved more organically, allowing new technologies and materials to mingle with historic ones, to create a living collage. Agreeing on the value of preserving our built fabric, and how exacting to be about this process, requires consensus building, education, and sometimes the need to find compromises.

To learn more, visit our [resource](#) page, or suggest additional resources at [neighbor@gainesvilleneighborhoodsuned.org](mailto:neighbor@gainesvilleneighborhoodsuned.org)