ABSTRACT

**THESIS:** The Impact of Historical Designation on Neighborhood Residents’ Perception of Social Cohesion

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**PAGES:** 46

As an important policy to encourage preservation and revitalization of historic neighborhoods, historical designation is widely utilized yet largely understudied within sociology. Focusing on a neighborhood in a midsized Midwestern city that includes areas both with and without historical designation, the current study attempts to understand the relationship between historical designation and social cohesion, an important neighborhood dynamic that has been linked to outcomes such as prevalence of crime, health outcomes, and access to important neighborhood information. Results suggest that while residing in a historically designated area is not associated with higher levels of interaction within the neighborhood, perceptions of social cohesion are higher among residents who reside within a historically designated district than for residents who reside in other portions of the neighborhood that do not have a historical designation. Additionally, results suggest that the association between historical designation and perceptions of social cohesion is at least partially mediated by residents’ perception of the neighborhood as a “good” and safe place.