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**Harrisonville's**  
**Guidebook**  
*for*  
**Landmarks**  
*and*  
**Preservation Districts**



Cass County Courthouse, Harrisonville, Missouri – built in 1897

*Published by*  
**THE HARRISONVILLE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
*an agency of the City of Harrisonville, Missouri*

**Mayor William F. Mills**

*Aldermen: Gerald Steele, Laurence Smith, Dorothy A. Young, Robert E. Barrett,  
Alicia Chai, Maureen Lehr, Lorene M. McRell, Mitchell W. Greenwell*

*Commission: Gary Lee, Charles Hight, Donald Bockelman, Larry Hahs, Eldine Weaver*  
*For additional copies of this guidebook, contact the City of Harrisonville at 380-8900*  
*Cover photo compliments of Skinner-Vaughn Photography*

**Chronological Events of the  
Historic Preservation Commission**

**1990**

- Board of Aldermen approved city sponsorship of a grant to fund an Historical Property Survey.

**1991**

- February – Historic Survey Draft is completed.
- September – Courthouse Square District survey is completed.

**1992**

- City applied for a grant from the State Historic Preservation Fund to nominate the Square Area to the National Historic Register.

**1993**

- State Historic Preservation Fund Grant Received.
- January – Council Bill 046, Ordinance 1928 was passed which established the Historic Preservation District in the City Zoning Ordinance.
- July – Amended Historic Preservation District Ordinance, 1928.
- The Historic Preservation Commission was appointed in March and began holding meetings in May.
- November – Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation recommends approval of nomination to the DNR.
- City qualifies as a Certified Local Government.

**1994**

- January – Historic Preservation Commission votes to support the Courthouse Square District project.
- **April 8<sup>th</sup>** – District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- December – the Historic Preservation Commission approves Guidebook for Landmarks and Preservation Districts.
- November – City was awarded a \$7,332 grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Program.
- December – HPC moves to recommend that the Planning and Zoning Commission amend the zoning ordinance to include the Design Guidelines.
- December – entered into agreement with Architectural and Art Historical Research from Kansas City, Missouri to complete the architectural survey, Council Bill 087, Ordinance No. 2101.

**1995**

- January – Planning and Zoning Commission discussed and deferred the approval of the Design Guidelines.
- Architectural Survey was completed.

**1997**

- March – Planning Commission approves Guidebook for Landmarks and Preservation Districts.
- April – Board of Aldermen approved Guidebook for Landmarks and Preservations Districts, Ordinance No. 2367.

**2000**

- March – Planning Commission approves revisions to Harrisonville Guidebook for Landmarks and Preservation Districts.
- April – Board of Aldermen approves revisions to Harrisonville Guidebook for Landmarks and Preservations Districts, Ord No. 2638 (1600).

**Other important information:**

The Harrisonville Courthouse Square Historic District consists of four full blocks of commercial buildings facing the Courthouse Square and portions of five additional City blocks just off the Square. All together, the district contains 37 buildings, 34 of which contribute to the historic architectural qualities and historic associations of the district.

Sanborn fire insurance maps show that nine buildings date before 1885, ten by 1900, ten between 1900 and 1910, two between 1910 and 1917, three between 1925 and 1929, one in 1939, one in 1959, and one in 1980.

All but four of the buildings are constructed of brick and a large number retain partial façade coverings of decorative brick lintels and/or pressed metal hold molds, as well as ornamental brick and/or metal cornices.

***Courthouse Square District  
As defined by the  
Harrisonville Historic  
Preservation Commission***

Owning property within Harrisonville's locally designated preservation district or an individual landmark is both a privilege and a responsibility. Property owners can benefit from generally increased property values, the availability of professional design guidance, federal and local tax advantages for rehabilitation, and protection

from destructive planned change. By the same token, owners are responsible for helping to maintain the distinctive characteristics that make an historic district unique.

This guidebook is designed to aid the property owner when rehabilitating a property located within the specified historic districts in Harrisonville, Missouri

## **Preserving Harrisonville's Historical Buildings**

The Harrisonville Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was formed as a result of a city ordinance (#1928 Section HR in 1993) adopted by the Board of Aldermen, City of Harrisonville. Under the terms and conditions of this ordinance, it is the duty of this commission to identify structures of historic significance and to encourage their preservation.

In compliance with this ordinance, the HPC has surveyed properties in and around an area commonly described as the "Courthouse Square District". This survey was conducted by a professional architectural historian in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Office of Historic Preservation. As a result of this survey, an historically significant district was identified. The Harrisonville Courthouse Square Historic District consists of four full blocks of commercial buildings facing the Courthouse Square and portions of five additional City blocks just off the Square. All together, the district contains 37 buildings, 34 of which contribute to the historic architectural qualities and historic associations of the district.

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All but four of the buildings are constructed of brick and a large number retain partial façade coverings of decorative brick lintels and/or pressed metal hold molds, as well as ornamental brick and/or metal cornices.

This district has subsequently been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department Interior, National Park Service. It is the intent of these design guidelines to supplement the protection of this area as described in the Historical Preservation City Ordinance.

This commission is providing these guidelines to property owners throughout the district, as assistance in developing plans for renovation and remodeling of structures located within the district boundaries. It is the objective of this commission to preserve and protect the historically significant features of each building as identified in the application to the National Park Service for registration in the National Register of Historic Places.

While not required by the commission, property owners submitting applications to this commission are encouraged to seek professional assistance in order not to damage the historically significant features identified on the national survey. It is the desire of the HPC to assist property owners in preserving the historical significant features of their structures while

recognizing the importance of adapting the structures to modern commercial uses.

It is believed that with a working partnership between building owners and the

commission, the integrity of the entire "Courthouse Square District" area can be maintained as an historically significant district worthy of National Recognition.

## The Review Process

Applications for exterior changes not pre-approved under the Guidelines are first reviewed through an informal presentation.

The HPC will then act upon the application. Applications for the Certificate of Appropriateness form, supplied by the city, must be received by the office in time to allow for inclusion to the agenda for the HPC meeting.

For review, the owner must provide sufficient graphic information to fully explain the proposed work drawings, sketches, photographs, etc. In reviewing all applications, the HPC will use the standard measures of design, including scale, texture, rhythm, massing, material, color, pattern and the relationship of solid to void, in the context of the district. The owner, or his representative, should plan to attend the HPC meetings to discuss the proposed work.

The members of the HPC may vote to recommend approval or denial, or to take the matter under advisement for a period not to exceed 45 days. An HPC vote of approval results in the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, which is the official document recording the proposed work. The commission will render its decision only upon the appropriateness of the specific, non-binding actions identified in the application. Recommendations of additional actions may be made by the HPC, but shall not form the basis for denial. A vote of denial by the HPC will include specific reasons for the denial, at which time the property owner may then elect to institute an appeal to the Board of Aldermen, as prescribed by the ordinance. The HPC will reconsider an amended

application filed in accordance with the requirements.

The applicant may suspend or reinstate an application by written request at any time during the process outlined above. The Certificate of Appropriateness shall be valid for a period of six months. Property owners should be advised that all required city building permits must be obtained in addition to the Certificate of Appropriateness.

In an effort to speed up the review process, the HPC has increased the scope of work that may be approved by the staff. A letter from the staff\* approving work to be done in accordance with the HPC's approved Guidelines may be issued in a matter of hours. Staff may approve proposed work that restores an existing element to its original design, if the original design can be documented. The owner is strongly encouraged to consult with staff before beginning work, to ensure that the work will enhance and improve the quality of detail on the structure. Staff may reserve the right to refer any application to the Commission where the intent of the design guidelines are not clearly defined in relation to the application.

The Department of Building Inspection will not issue a building or demolition permit affecting a designated property without a Certificate of Appropriateness.

HPC authorization is not needed for the purpose of remedying emergency conditions officially determined by the Department of Building Inspection, the Fire Department, the Board of Health, or any court.

Design and technical assistance, as well as tax and historical information are available at City Hall. If you desire further

explanation or clarification, please call the City of Harrisonville at 816-380-8900.

\*All references to staff shall refer to the personnel of the Codes Enforcement Department of the City of Harrisonville.

## Planned Information and Services

The goal of the HPC is to provide resources to property owners designed to assist in their preservation efforts. Such resources may include:

- ◆ A library of resource documents on building styles.
- ◆ Information about Harrisonville's historic neighborhoods and structures.
- ◆ A complete set of the Old House Journal, one of the best sources for rehabilitation information and techniques.
- ◆ Preservation briefs from the Technical Preservation Services Division of the National Park Service on masonry cleaning and tuck pointing, windows, roofing, simulated siding, etc.
- ◆ Publications of the Department of the Interior related to tax certification and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.
- ◆ Guidelines for historically correct color selections for the style and age of the building.

## About the Historic Preservation Commission

The seven members of the HPC are appointed by the Mayor and appointed by the Board of Aldermen. They serve without compensation. The HPC consists of citizens of Harrisonville, all of whom must have a demonstrated interest in historic preservation. The duties of the HPC include designating local landmarks and preservation districts. Local designation occurs only after extensive historical and/or architectural documentation, using criteria similar to those required for listing of the

property on the National Register of Historic Places, and a public hearing where property owners and neighborhood residents may endorse or oppose the designation.

Another principal duty of the HPC is to review the design of exterior changes to locally designated structures. This is accomplished through an application and the HPC review process. Many exterior changes subject to review by the HPC are described in the following Guidelines section.

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<b>Type of Work</b>	<b>No Approval Required For:</b>
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**Awnings & Canopies**

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**Construction  
of New Buildings  
or Additions**

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**Cornices**

Repair using existing material and duplicating design. If existing design or material is not original, consult staff. See tuck pointing section.

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**Decks**

decks at ground level, not visible from any street that do not require alterations to any structure

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**Demolition**

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**Doors**

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# Staff May Extend Approval For:

# HPC Approval Required For:

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canvas awnings and canopies

metal awnings and canopies

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Cladding with simulated materials those portions not facing any street where the work duplicates original appearance

all new buildings or additions, including garages, porch enclosures and garden structures

any work that does not duplicate original appearance/any work visible from the street

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all visible decks at ground level and decks above the first-floor level and/or the front of the structure

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removal of additions or alterations that are not original to the structure or are not otherwise historically significant

all other conditions

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- stained glass panels
- security grilles of simple design
- new doors not visible from any street that are compatible in size and style with the original
- doors & lintels must be compatible with others on the structure
- removal of doors not visible from any street that are closed with brick toothed-in to match or recessed to express the original opening, leaving sills and lintels intact. On frame structures, siding to match the existing should be placed across and randomly extended beyond the opening to be closed. Permanently fixed shutters or doors may also be appropriate to close an opening.
- storm doors-*see storm doors and windows*
- all door hardware visible from the street

all other changes visible from a street and not covered by staff approvals

## Type of Work

**No Approval  
Required For:**

**Fencing—also see retaining walls**

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**Fire Escapes**

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**Gutters**

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**Landscaping**

tree planting, trimming, pruning,  
general landscaping

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**Masonry Cleaning**

low pressure and/or detergent water  
cleaning. Any cleaning that does not  
abrade or stain the masonry surface.

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**Painting**

painting previously painted masonry  
a color closely matching the original  
color of the material

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**Exterior Fixtures**

residential buildings--flag brackets,  
address numbers, lights and mail  
boxes

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**Public Right-of-Way  
Improvements**

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**Retaining Walls**

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**Staff May Extend  
Approval For:**

**HPC Approval  
Required For:**

iron fences visible from any street, rear-yard  
fencing where it is not visible from any street

chain-link, wooden or other fence  
types adjacent to street rights-of-way

fire escapes in the rear of the buildings and  
when the construction is unobtrusive and  
painted to harmonize with the background

all other fire escapes

roofing over built-in gutters and applying  
an appropriate style gutter from the over-  
hang, leaving all cornice details intact

all other gutter designs

driveways and parking areas

tree removal, except where required  
by the city

any other masonry treatment

paint colors on an approved color palette

painting unpainted masonry--stone,  
brick, terra-cotta and concrete

commercial buildings--flag brackets,  
address number, lights and mail boxes

street lights, paving, landscaping,  
etc.

retaining walls not exceeding 24 inches in  
height in rear and side yards

all walls in front yard

**Type of Work**

**No Approval  
Required For:**

**Roofs**

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**Security Grilles**

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**Siding**

repair of wooden siding with wood  
that duplicates original appearance

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**Signs**

removal of signs

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**Skylights**

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**Storm and Screen  
Windows and Doors**

installation of doors and/or windows  
constructed of narrow frame design  
that is not visible from any street

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***Trees-see landscaping***

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**Tuckpointing**

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**Windows**

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## **Staff May Extend Approval For:**

## **HPC Approval Required For:**

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replacement of slate, tin or tile roof with dark grey or black composition shingles, when repair is infeasible

any roof color other than dark grey or black or change of material not covered by staff approval

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grilles of a simple design

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installation of simulated materials on portions of the structure not facing any street when the simulated material duplicates original in width, depth, height, profile and general appearance, corner boards are retained in original width and decorative trim; and details are retained

applying simulated materials on the public facade

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non-lighted simple signage not exceeding 20 square feet and containing not more than three colors

all other signs

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installations not visible from any street

installations visible from any street

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all windows and doors visible from any street. Colors should match sash and not alter visual effect of the opening.

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tuckpointing with lime mortar of the same masonry color and hardness. Contact staff about this issue as well as mortar joint removal.

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--stained, leaded or beveled glass  
--new windows not visible from the street must be compatible in height, width and style with the original windows and have lintels and sills that are characteristic of the structure.  
--removal of windows--*see doors*

changes visible from the street or not in conformance with the guidelines for staff approval

# Guidelines for Harrisonville's Preservation Districts and Landmarks

## I. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

A. No Commission approval is required for the repair and maintenance of any exterior building feature when such work exactly reproduces the existing design and is executed with identical material. When a building has had an addition and/or an alteration differing from the original design elements of the structure, the owner is strongly encouraged to consult with the Commission staff before making any repairs, thereby possibly protecting or enhancing the owner's investment and improving the relationship and harmony between the architectural element.

The HPC does have the power to require minimum maintenance of historic properties. The Commission may request the appropriate city officials to take action on properties being neglected or not maintained.

B. No HPC approval is required for the installation of permanently fixed brackets or standards to display flags or for house numbers, mail boxes, small porch lights, kick plates, or door knockers.

C. No HPC approval is required for the installation of storm

windows, screens, and/or doors constructed of a narrow frame or of the same color as the sash and which, when installed, will not alter the visual effect of the openings.

D. Fire escapes, not in the street-yards or not blocking a street-yard view of the building, may be approved by the staff when the construction is unobtrusive and is painted to harmonize with the background. If the fire department requires a fire escape to be located in a street-yard, the staff, after coordination with the fire department and the applicant, shall determine the best solution and approve the application.

E. Installation of canvas awnings and canopies of a simple design and of a color compatible with the structure may be approved by the staff. Installation of metal awnings must be reviewed through the established application process.

F. In areas visible from the street, wrought iron fencing and security grilles of a simple design may be approved by the staff. Staff approval may also be granted for the construction of low retaining walls in brick or poured concrete in side and rear yards. HPC approval may also be granted for the construction of 18-inch-tall low retaining walls in front yards.

## II. SIMULATED MATERIALS

- A. The HPC will rarely approve the installation of simulated materials on the front or public facade of any structure in a preservation district or on any individual landmark, except that consideration will be given to its use on cornices and their returns when the work can be demonstrated to duplicate the original details and appearance.
- B. Staff approval may be given for installation of simulated materials on portions of the structure not facing any street if the following criteria are met.
1. When simulated material is used to replace an original material, it must duplicate the original in width, depth, profile, and general appearance.
  2. On additions or detached structures where the existing materials are not of the vernacular of the district or landmark, the simulated material should be compatible with that which is natural to the district.
  3. Corner boards must be retained in the original width. Decorative details such as fish-scale siding, ornate window trim, etc., must not be removed or their distinctive character destroyed. In most instances, artificial wood grain effects will not be approved.
- C. Installations that do not

conform to B. above must be reviewed through the established hearing process.

## III. PAINTING

- A. HPC must approve color selection and will emphasize colors that fit the style and age of the building and complement the overall color schemes on the street. Avoid using bright and obtrusive colors, too many colors, or a single color for the entire building.
- B. HPC approval is required for painting unpainted masonry--stone, brick, terra-cotta and concrete.
- C. No HPC approval is required for painting previously painted masonry a color closest matching the original natural color of the material. Painting any other color requires staff approval.
- D. Advice and counsel from design professionals regarding color selection is available with nominal charge.

## IV. ROOFS AND GUTTERS

- A. Owners are encouraged to maintain slate, tin and tile roofs and overhanging cornices with built-in gutters. However, when repairs prove to be infeasible, the staff may approve the following:
1. The replacement of slate, tin and tile roofing material with slate grey, charcoal, or black composition shingles. All other

- roof colors require HPC approval.
2. Roofing over a built-in gutter and applying an appropriate style gutter from the overhang, leaving

## **V. WINDOW AND DOOR CHANGES**

- A. Installation of stained, leaded or beveled glass windows may be approved by the staff.
- B. Window and door changes not visible from any street may be approved by the staff if the changes meet the following criteria.
  1. New windows and doors must be compatible in height, width and style with original windows and doors. Lintels and sills, which are characteristic of the structure, shall be added.
  2. If doors and windows are to be removed on brick structures, brick, toothed in to match or recessed to express the opening, should be used. Lintels and sills should be retained when the recessed approach is taken
  3. If windows and doors are to be removed from frame structures, siding to match the existing should be used and members placed across and randomly extended beyond the opening.
  4. On some structures, fixed shutters may be appropriate to close an opening.
- C. Work that does not meet these criteria must be reviewed through the established application process.

the original cornice details intact.

- B. Installation of skylights that are not visible from any street may be approved by the staff.

## **VI. LANDSCAPING**

- A. HPC approval is required for tree removal except when directed by the City.
- B. No HPC approval is required for landscaping, tree planting, tree trimming and pruning.

## **VII. REAR YARD IMPROVEMENTS**

- A. No HPC approval is required for rear yard improvements including fencing, landscaping, decks, etc., not visible from any street at the ground level, which does not necessitate alterations to the main structure or to a detached structure.

## **VIII. ADDITIONS OR ALTERATIONS**

- A. Removal of an addition or alteration to a structure that is not original may be approved by the staff.

## **IX. SIGNS**

- A. Staff approval may be granted for the installation of signs.
- B. No HPC approval is required for the removal of signs.

## **X. NEW CONSTRUCTION**

- A. New buildings should always be designed to harmonize with the existing character of the area. When developing plans for a new building, it is always best to think

of that structure as one element in a continuous series of similar structures. The size, height, facade

rhythm and facade openings should all be considered.

## Federal Standards for Rehabilitation

The United States Department of Interior has established the following ten standards to assist property owners in planning sensitive rehabilitation of historic property. While the Historic Preservation Commission does not require property owners to comply with Federal Standards, it does not want to discourage property owners from following them in order to take advantage of the tax credits available. These nationally accepted and widely used standards form the basis for review of all rehabilitation done under the federal 25 percent investment Tax Credit program. The ten standards have been adopted by the HPC as corollaries to the local district guidelines.

1. Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property that requires minimal alteration of the building, structure, or site and its environment, or to use a property for its originally intended purpose.
2. The distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment shall not be destroyed. The removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features should be avoided when possible.
3. All buildings, structures and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and that seek to create an earlier or later appearance shall be discouraged.
4. Changes that may have taken place in the course of time are evidence of the history and development of a building, structure, or site and its environment. These changes may have acquired significance in their own right, and this significance shall be recognized and respected.
5. Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship that characterize a building, structure or site shall be treated with sensitivity.
6. Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture and other visual

qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features should be based on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historic, physical or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.

7. The surface cleaning of structures shall be undertaken with the gentlest means possible. Sandblasting and other cleaning methods that will damage the historic building materials shall not be undertaken.
8. Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archeological resources affected by, or adjacent to,

any project.

9. Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural, or cultural materials, and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material and character of the property, neighborhood or environment.
10. Wherever possible, new additions or alterations to structures shall be done in such a manner that if such additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired.