CITY OF PHOENIX HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

GENERAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES



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- Adopted 02/26:96 Historic Preservation Commission

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GENERAL DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES

INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are intended to supplement the provisions of the Historic Preservation Ordinance in establishing the basis for determining the appropriateness of new additions and new construction attached or adjacent to properties listed on the Phoenix Historic Property Register.

Additional guidelines and specific advice regarding appropriateness and compatibility are provided in *"Historic Homes of Phoenix: An Architectural & Preservation Guide."* The Historic Preservation Office staff also is available for individual consultation. For more information, contact the Historic Preservation Office at (602) 261-8699.





ADJACENT/ALIGNMENT

Addition

Any new exterior construction attached to the original historic building or structure.

Adjacent Elevation

The exterior walls of a new structure that will be located along the alignment of the primary historic building elevations, or generally parallel to any primary wall of the historic building within a distance of fifty (50) feet, and extend up to twice the height of the historic building.

Alignment

The linear or parallel placement of structures and/or primary facades within a row of adjacent properties, or along a streetscape.

Alter

A change to an existing building or structure that modifies its original appearance.

Architectural Feature

Any distinct or outstanding part or characteristic of a building or structure.

14







COMMON ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

Character-Defining

A distinctive architectural feature or combination of features or qualities that distinguish a building from another.



CHARACTER-DEFINING ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

Construction Technique

The method used to assemble the parts of a building or structure.

Color

The combination of chromatic hues, values of light and darkness, intensity and saturation that create, define, ornament, or enhance the visual appearance of an exterior facade.

Compatible

In architecture, a material, element, quality or feature that is congruent or harmonious with existing historic materials, elements, qualities or features.



COMPATIBLE



Cornice

A horizontal element that crowns or completes a wall or defines the roof and wall.

Craftsmanship

The combined effect of the quality of workmanship, skilled artistry or the conjunctive technique and appropriate installation and assembly of materials by which a building or structure is constructed or fabricated.

Design

The arrangement of parts and details that are part of an overall plan that governs the form and function of a building.

Design Guidelines

A set of guiding principles that give direction on how the parts and details of a building's scheme or plan should be assembled.

Elevation

A scale drawing of a front, side or rear of a building.



ELEVATION



Facade

An exterior face or elevation of a building. A principal facade is sometimes distinguished from the other faces by the elaboration of architectural details.

FACADE

FORM



Finishes

The characteristics of texture, gloss, sheen, coloration or patina, that can articulate the character and appearance of an exposed material or surface.

Form

The overall shape or outline of a building.

4

Height

A measurement from ground level to the topmost point of a building or element.

Historic Building

A building over fifty (50) years old which meets Historic Preservation Office standards for integrity and historical significance.

Historic Fabric

Any original materials used in the construction of a historic building.

Hue

A particular shade or tint of a given color

Materials

The physical substance that makes up the products used in the construction or ornamentation of the building.

Mass

The three dimensional qualities of a building that create its size and shape as seen from the outside.



MOTIF

Motif

A principal repeated element in an ornamental design.

New Construction

Any construction that is not an original part of the building or structure.

Neutral Material

Any building material that does not visually compete with either the historic material or the material used in new construction.

Opening

A space which permits freedom of view or passage such as a door or window.





solar orientation and compass orientation

ORIENTATION

Orientation

The placement of a building or structure on a site as it relates to the physical conditions of the site, such as its geography and manmade features, or a compass direction.



site orientation

PATTERN

Ornamentation

In architecture, every detail of shape, texture, and color that is deliberately exploited or added to attract an observer or define the characteristics of an architectural style.

Pattern

An arrangement of form, the disposition of parts or elements.

Porte Cochere

A roof projecting over a driveway supported by piers, columns, or arches.



PORTE COCHERE



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6



PRIMARY ELEVATION

Principal Facade

The front face of a building usually containing its entrance.

Primary Elevation

A scale drawing showing the exterior elements of the main front or principal facade of the building.

Projection

An object or building form that juts out beyond a surface.

Proportion

The comparative relation between parts or elements with respect to size, dimension, ratio and quantity.





tall & narrow







somewhat wider than tall

somewhat taller than wide

PROPORTIONS

gable with

parapets



historic buildings)



same proportionsdifferent size

Roof Form

The shape, outline or configuration of the roof of a building.



hip





gable



low-pitched gable



shed

7

ROOF FORM

flat with parapets

belcast



ROOF PITCH



relative scale to human figures



Roof Pitch

The steepness of the roof plane above horizontal. The slope of a roof is expressed as a ratio of the rise of the roof over the horizontal span. A 4/12 roof rises 4 feet in a 12 foot span.

Scale

The proportional relationship of size and shape of buildings and elements to each other and their site.

or A scale drawing would be a proportional representation with a defined ratio between the actual building or element and the drawing.



architectural drawing scales b) SCALE



SETBACK

Setback

The distance between a building's facade and the related front, side or rear lot line.

Setting

The physical surrounding environment in which a building is located.

Shape

The physical form of a building.

Size

The length, width and height of a building or building feature.



SOLID TO VOID

Textures of stucco finishes

Solid to Void

The relationship between openings (windows, doors, arches, spaces between walls, etc.) on the elevation of a building or buildings and the remaining wall surfaces.

Texture

The surface quality of any material or building product as it affects the appearance or tactile characteristics of a surface of a building.



cat's eye

ship-tro



REHABILITATION

Historic preservation has a philosophical basis or ethic that guides the work of the field. In accordance with historic preservation principles, a successful rehabilitation is one that retains as much of the original historic materials as possible. It also preserves those historic architectural features that are the character-defining elements of a particular historic style or method of construction. To retain historic fabric, it is preferable to repair rather than replace significant architectural elements and historic materials. Repair should be done with the least degree of intervention possible. When the level of deterioration precludes repair, replacement should be done with matching or compatible materials. The following guidelines should be utilized when planning or undertaking the rehabilitation of an existing historic building:

- Rehabilitation of an historic building should minimize alteration to the existing materials, architectural finishes, form, and ornamentation of the building.
- Distinctive architectural features, finishes, materials, construction techniques and examples of skilled craftsmanship should be retained and preserved.
- Deteriorated historic architectural features and exterior materials should be repaired rather than replaced. Where repair is infeasible, replacement features should match the original component in design, material, color and texture.
- Previous additions that are indicative of changes to a building over time should be evaluated for architectural significance and retained if they relate to the historic nature of the building or its design.
- Features that are to be reconstructed should be reproduced according to physical evidence, and/or archival documentation, such as historic photographs or written descriptions. Reconstruction based on details found on similar historic structures, without other supporting documentation, should not be undertaken.
- Abrasive cleaning methods, such as sandblasting, are to be avoided as they can damage historic materials. Cleaning of buildings should be performed using the gentlest effective means possible.



Original brick, stucco or wood siding should be repaired and retained. A change of siding material will significantly detract from the historic integrity of a property.

SIDING/WALL MATERIALS



Original roofing should be retained or replaced in-kind. Shingles should not be replaced with metal or tile. Dimensional composition shingles that simulate weathered wood may be used as a lower cost alternative to wood shingles.





Rehabilitation should correct drainage problems by regrading or sloping earth away from foundation and use of downspouts and slash blocks.

ADDITIONS

When it is necessary to alter or expand an existing historic building, modifications should minimize the visual impact of the new construction on the historic building. The additions or alterations also should be compatible with the historic structure through similarities in size, shape, materials, building elements and detailing. Another historic preservation principle that guides changes made to historic buildings is that alterations or additions should be reflective of the time period in which they are built. Consequently, utilizing current construction methods and styling is encouraged and imitating or exactly copying the building of an earlier period is discouraged. In other words, new construction should not replicate the design of historic buildings. To expand or alter a historic building successfully, the new construction should follow the basic design vocabulary of the historic structure but be clearly distinguishable.

- Additions should be designed and located in a manner that results in new construction which is subordinate to the primary historic building. Additions or changes to the primary facades are discouraged. The location of the addition or alteration should conform with the setbacks, spacing, alignment and orientation of the historic building and/or historic buildings in its immediate vicinity
- Additions should be similar in height and width to the historic building. Its form should correspond to the shape, ridgelines and cornice of the main roof. Doors and windows in the addition should be similar in shape and placement to the openings in the historic buildings. Together, the addition's shape, size and openings should create a directional emphasis (horizontal or vertical) that is similar to the historic building.



APPROPRIATE ADDITION

- Exterior materials should match or be compatible with the surface materials of the historic building. Compatibility is achieved by maintaining the spectrum of materials historically present, corresponding to the pattern of the unit size of the materials (i.e. bricks, blocks, siding, shingles) of the historic structure or continuing the visual and tactile texture exhibited by the historic materials.
- Projecting elements, such as dormers, porches or bays, should be similar in location, size, shape and type to those found on the historic buildings or in its vicinity in a historic district.

APPROPRIATE ADDITIONS



Conversion of attic space to living area with the addition of appropriately scaled dormers.



Subordinate rear addition using similar shape, window proportions and roof form.



Two-story addition remains subordinate due to location, size and use of similar roof form.



Addition of porte cochere or carport using similar roof form, scale and architectural features.



Subordinate addition using similar shape, proportions, roof form and architectural features is distinguished from original by construction off-set where the two structures join.





ALLS

New construction, located on vacant land within historic districts or adjacent to historic buildings, is encouraged when appropriately sited and designed. New construction should be clearly discernible as "new" and reflect the technology, building materials and design ideas of the present era. However, like additions to existing buildings, the design of new construction should be compatible with and respectful of its historic setting. It is recognized that new construction can occur that is similar in scale to the pattern of historic building or, in selected circumstances, new construction may involve development that is of substantially greater scale. Consequently, two types of guidelines have been prepared to assist in the planning of new construction relative to historic buildings and areas.

Similar Scale New Construction

Within the historic residential areas, new construction should be similar in height, shape and materials to the historic structures in its vicinity. Where changes in size must occur, the visual impact of the new construction should be minimized by stepping back the new construction from the historic buildings.

• Building features, such as roof lines, window and door openings, porches, entrances, pergolas, porte cocheres or carports should resemble those related forms found on adjacent or surrounding historic structures.



SIMILAR SCALE, FORM & MASSING

Exterior materials should match or be compatible with the surface materials of the historic building. Compatibility is achieved by maintaining the spectrum of materials historically present, corresponding to the pattern of the unit size of the materials (i.e. bricks, blocks, siding, shingles) of the historic structure or continuing the visual and tactile texture exhibited by the historic materials.

Building detailing or ornamental trim should be made of matching or similar material but simplified in design so as to be distinguishable as a product of its own time.

- Primary new structures should correspond with the setbacks, spacing, alignment and orientation of adjacent primary buildings.
- Secondary new structures, such as garages and outbuildings, should be subordinate to the size and appearance of the primary historic building and located on the rear of lots.

Mechanical, electrical, solar or other exterior equipment should be located in the least visible place possible. Depending upon the location of this modern equipment, screening or boxing is encouraged If the equipment is roof-mounted, it should be on a rear roof slope, behind the roof's midpoint. Ground mounting is also acceptable.

• Access ramps and other accomodations for those with disabilities should be located to minimize the loss of historic features and provide reasonably convenient access without being visually intrusive.

New construction should be located and designed to accommodate distinctive natural or man-made site features.



Substantially Greater Scale New Construction

Achieving compatibility between historic building and new construction of substantially greater scale is dependent upon sensitive site planning and compatibility of the elevations of the new construction immediately adjacent to the historic buildings. For the purposes of these guidelines, the "adjacent elevations" of new construction, which the issues of compatibility should address, are defined as the adjacent exterior walls and treatments that extend twice the height of the historic building.

- The historic building should be a key element of the overall site plan and incorporated in a manner that maintains its visual prominence.
- New construction should be sited in a manner that retains the traditional placement and orientation of the historic building.
- The entrance location and primary facade of the historic building should be retained.
- The proportions of new construction should correspond to the width and depth of the historic building.
- The adjacent elevations of the new construction should be sheathed in an exterior material that matches or continues the proportional pattern of the unit size of the materials found on the historic building.
- The solid to void ratio of the historic building's openings and exterior walls should be repeated in the new construction.
- The size, shape and degree of articulation of the new construction's exterior walls should follow the pattern established by the historic building's construction.
- The pattern of architectural detailing of the historic building should be incorporated into the new construction in a simplified or abstracted form.

The color of the exterior materials of the new construction should be the same or a complementary hue of the color of the historic building's exterior materials.

Where the new construction abuts an existing historic building, a clear definition of the transition between the old and new should be established and maintained. The transitional element may be distinguished by its form or use of neutral materials that distinctly differentiates the new construction from the historic building.



SIMILAR SCALE NEW CONSTRUCTION



SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER SCALE NEW CONSTRUCTION