

### 320-21-12 Boards, Commissions and Committees

h-5. Whether retention of the building or structure would promote the general welfare of the people of the city and the state by encouraging study of American history, architecture and design, or by developing an understanding of American culture and heritage.

h-6. Whether the building or structure is in such a deteriorated condition that it is not structurally or economically feasible to preserve or restore or use it, provided that any hardship or difficulty claimed by the owner which is self-created or which is the result of any failure to maintain the property in good repair cannot qualify as a basis for the issuance of a certificate of appropriateness.

h-7. Whether any new structure proposed to be constructed, or change in use proposed to be made, is compatible with the buildings and character of the district in which the subject property is located.

i. Enforcement and Penalties.

i-1. Any violation of this section shall be subject to the enforcement provisions of ss. 200-11-3 and 200-12-1 and the penalty provisions of s. 200-19. The commissioner of neighborhood services shall be responsible for enforcement of this section.

i-2. The historic preservation commission is authorized to hear appeals of orders issued pursuant to this section that require owners to restore their properties to their original condition, to apply for certificates of appropriateness or to comply with the terms of a previously granted certificate of appropriateness. Appeals shall be by a written request filed with the commission within 20 days of the date of the service of the order. If service of the order is made by mail, any appeal of the order shall be made in writing within 30 days of the date of the order. The commission may reverse or revise, in whole or in part, any order which a 2/3 majority of its members find an unreasonable hardship on a property owner. No hardship created by an order shall serve as a basis for reversing or revising an order. The commission shall notify the owner of its decision within 15 days.

j. Compliance. Insofar as they are applicable to a historic structure, historic site, or improvements in a historic district designated under this section, any provision of the building code shall apply, unless waived by the appropriate state or city officials. The commission may support or propose such waivers before the appropriate state or city appeals bodies.

**12. GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATION.** In determining whether to issue a certificate of appropriateness for rehabilitation, the commission shall consider and may give decisive weight to any or all of the following:

a. Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a compatible use for a property which requires minimal alteration of the exterior of a building, structure or site and its environment.

b. 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.

c. All buildings, structures, and sites shall be recognized as products of their own time. Alterations that have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier or later appearance shall be discouraged.

d. Changes which 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.

e. Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship which characterize a building, structure or site shall be treated with sensitivity.

f. Deteriorated architectural features shall be repaired rather than replaced, wherever possible. If replacement is necessary, the new material shall match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Repair or replacement of missing architectural features shall be based on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historic, physical or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different elements from other buildings or structures.

g. 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 without a certificate of appropriateness.

h. Every reasonable effort shall be made to protect and preserve archeological resources affected by, or adjacent to, any project.

i. Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties shall not be discouraged when the alterations and additions do not destroy significant historical, architectural or cultural material, and the design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.

j. Wherever possible, new additions or alterations to structures shall be done in such a manner that if the additions or alterations were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired.

**13. INTERIM DESIGNATION.**

a. Public Hearing. Prior to nomination or final designation of a structure as a historic structure, the commission must, after it is petitioned in accordance with par. b, hold a public hearing on the question of whether or not a structure should be designated, on an interim basis, not to exceed 180 days, either as a historic structure or as a nonsignificant structure not qualifying as a historic structure. Notice of the time, place and purpose of the hearing shall be sent by certified letter at least 7 days prior to the hearing to the owner or owners of the subject structure, and notice shall also be sent by first class mail or other comparable means to the common council member in whose district the structure is located and to the department of neighborhood services. The decision on interim designation shall be made within 5 days after the close of the public hearing, and shall be forwarded by certified letter to the owner or owners of the subject structure and also be sent by first class mail or other comparable means to the common council member in whose district the structure is located and to the department of neighborhood services.

b. Procedure. b-1. The hearing described in par. a shall, in cases where a demolition permit on the subject structure has been applied for under s. 200-26-1, be held within 15 days after receipt by the commission of a duly signed and acknowledged petition from any city resident.

b-2. The hearing described in par. a shall in cases where no demolition permit has been applied for under s. 200-26-1, be held within 45 days after receipt by the commission of a duly signed and acknowledged petition from either a city resident, the owner or owners of the subject structure or any city department, board, commission or official.

b-3. Petitions filed under this paragraph shall be filed on forms approved by the commission and available at the commission office. The commission will not consider more than one such petition on a particular structure in a 180-day period or as provided in par. f.

c. Demolition Permit Withheld. The commissioner of city development shall not issue a permit for the demolition of the subject structure until the conclusion of the hearing and the entry of the interim designation decision provided for in par. a and the exhaustion of either the appeal to the common council described in par. d, or the expiration of the time for taking an appeal. The commissioner of city development's issuance of a permit for demolition of the structure may be further delayed or otherwise affected by the commission's and common council's decision regarding interim and final historic designation.

d. Appeal Petition. If, after holding the hearing set forth in par. a, the commission determines not to designate, on an interim basis, the subject structure, any resident of the city may, within 5 days of the commission's decision, file a duly signed and acknowledged appeal petition with the city clerk for review of the commission's decision by the common council. The appeal petition shall be accompanied with a bond in the form set forth in par. e. The city clerk shall immediately notify the department of neighborhood services and the department of city development of the appeal petition. The common council shall review the commission's decision within 45 days after receipt by the city clerk of the appeal petition. The common council may then, after balancing the interest of the public in preserving the affected structure and the interest of the owner or owners in using the property for his or her own purposes, reverse or affirm the commission's decision on interim designation. If the common council reverses the commission's decision on interim designation, the subject structure shall be deemed designated as a historic structure on an interim basis for a period not exceeding 180 days. The city clerk shall immediately notify the department of neighborhood services and the department of city development of the common council's appeal decision.