

3.18 Certificate of Appropriateness – Historic District (HD)

Multiples changes are proposed for Sec. 3.18. An explanation of the proposed change is provided for each sub-section.

3.18.1 Intent

Proposed Change: This sub-section has been restructured so that the intent no longer reads as “criteria,” which is found in Sec. 13.8.3. Most of the content has been retained with the proposed revision.

~~This Section is intended to provide procedures and standards to facilitate the review of Certificate of Appropriateness Applications within the Old Town Bluffton Historic District (HD) designated zoning districts. Review of Certificate of Appropriateness Applications HD shall consider the following objectives:~~

~~A. Maintenance of the educational, cultural and general welfare of the public through the preservation, protection and enhancement of Historic Resources and Old Town Bluffton Historic District;~~

~~B. Maintenance of Contributing Resources as visible reminders of the history and cultural heritage of the Town of Bluffton as well as the Lowcountry region in accordance with the standards set forth in the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings; and~~

~~C. Ensure that proposed activities foster the development of quality and innovative designs that respect and complement the eclectic character of the Old Town Bluffton Historic District.~~

This Section provides procedures and criteria to facilitate the review of Certificates of Appropriateness – Historic District (HD) applications within Old Town Bluffton Historic District (HD) zoning districts. The COFA-HD ensures that the historic, cultural, and general welfare of Old Town Bluffton Historic District is protected and preserved and that infill development that respects and complements the character of the district is fostered.

3.18.2 Applicability

Proposed Change: The section has been reformatted to identify criteria specific to new construction and alterations vs. criteria specific to contributing resources. Additionally, to avoid conflict between Development Plans and Certificate of Appropriateness-HDs during the approval process, the order of submittal is clearer, which should prevent undue delays, un-approvable plans, and should reduce the number of conditions associated with the COFA review as it is brought before the HPC.

~~3.18.2 Applicability Except for the removal or replacement of an existing manufactured home, no structure located within a HD designated zoning district or constructed 50 or more years ago within the limits of the Town, may be erected, renovated, demolished, relocated or removed, in whole or in part, nor may the exterior architectural character of such structure be altered until a Certificate of Appropriateness HD has been issued for the project. The Historic Preservation Commission shall review applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness HD for any activity which:~~

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- ~~A. Increases the area of the structure or building footprint;~~
- ~~B. Results in the cutting away of any exterior wall, partition, or portion thereof;~~
- ~~C. The removal or cutting of any structural beam or load-bearing support or the removal or change of any required means of egress;~~
- ~~D. Changes in fenestration location;~~
- ~~E. Requires a development plan or demolition permit;~~
- ~~F. Results in the alteration of the exterior architectural character; and,~~
- ~~G. Is not otherwise able to be reviewed through a Site Feature Permit~~ **HD.3.18.3 Application Review Criteria** Any application for a Public Project located in the Old Town Bluffton Historic District shall be reviewed “for comment only” by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) using the criteria in Section 3.18 Certificate of Appropriateness — Historic District (HD). The UDO Administrator will maintain approval authority and may consider the comments of the HPC. The application shall not require a Certificate of Appropriateness HD to proceed.

- A. The Historic Preservation Commission shall review applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness-HD for new construction, alterations, relocation, or demolition of structures and other activities as may be described herein and that are not otherwise able to be reviewed through a Site Feature-Historic District Permit.

Except for the replacement or demolition of an existing manufactured home, no structure located within Old Town Bluffton Historic District can be constructed, altered, relocated, or demolished, in whole or in part, without an approved Certificate of Appropriateness-HD.

- B. Any application for a Public Project located in Old Town Bluffton Historic District shall be reviewed “for comment only” by the Historic Preservation Commission using the criteria in this Section. The UDO Administrator will maintain approval authority and may consider the comments of the Historic Preservation Commission. The application shall not require a Certificate of Appropriateness-HD to proceed.

3.18.3 Application Review Criteria New Construction and Alterations

Proposed Change: This sub-section has been reformatted to identify criteria specific to new construction and alterations, including criteria specific to contributing resources. Presently, the review criteria are intermingled and some are not applicable (e.g., applying Secretary of Interior standards to new construction). Other substantive changes include requiring an approved Final Development Plan, Subdivision plan and other agreements, as applicable, to avoid potential multiple COFA reviews when those plans and agreements are in the review process. Improvements have also been made to existing criteria.

The Historic Preservation Commission shall consider the following criteria in assessing an application for Certificate of Appropriateness HD:

- ~~A. Consistency with the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings;~~
- ~~B. Consistency with the principles set forth in the Old Town Bluffton Master Plan;~~

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~~C. The application must be in conformance with applicable provisions provided in Article 5, Design Standards;~~

~~D. The nature and character of the surrounding area and consistency of the resource with the scale, form and building proportions of the surrounding neighborhood;~~

~~E. Preservation of the existing building's historic character and architecture;~~

~~F. The historic, architectural, and aesthetic features of the resource including the extent to which its alteration or removal would be detrimental to the public interest;~~

~~G. For an application to demolish, either in whole or in part, any Contributing Structure, the Historic Preservation Commission shall consider: 1. The existing and historical ownership and use and reason for requesting demolition; and 2. Information that establishes clear and convincing evidence that: a. The demolition of the structure is necessary to alleviate a threat to public health or public safety; and b. No other reasonable alternatives to demolition exist; and c. The denial of the application, as a result of the regulations and standards of this Section, deprive the Applicant of reasonable economic use of or return on the property;~~

~~H. The application must comply with applicable requirements in the Applications Manual.~~

To maintain the character of Old Town Bluffton Historic District, new construction and alterations shall be consistent with the standards, criteria and guidelines developed for the district. The Historic Preservation Commission shall consider the following criteria in its consideration of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness-HD for new construction and alterations:

1. Consistency with applicable principles set forth in the *Old Town Bluffton Master Plan* and *Town of Bluffton Comprehensive Plan*;
2. Conformance with the approved Final Development Plan, Subdivision Plan, and any other agreements or plans that are applicable;
3. Conformance with applicable provisions in Article 5, Design Standards;
4. Demonstration of a compatible visual relationship between new construction or alterations and existing buildings, streetscapes and open spaces. A compatible visual relationship must be generally of a similar structural mass, scale, height, proportion, directional expression of the principal elevation and rhythm of spacing, as applicable;
5. Compliance with applicable requirements in the Applications Manual.

In addition to 1-5 above and as applicable, the Historic Preservation Commission shall consider the following criteria for a Contributing Resource:

6. Compliance with the *U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Structures*;
7. Demonstration that historic architectural features will be preserved to maintain the resource as a Contributing Resource to the Old Town Bluffton Historic District. Additions shall not destroy any features that characterize the Contributing Resource. New work shall be differentiated from and be compatible with the size, scale, material, and character of the property and surroundings.

8. Demonstration that any new additions will be undertaken in such a manner that the essential form and integrity of the structure would be unimpaired if such additions were to be removed in the future; and,
9. In the case of a Contributing Resource approved for relocation, the Historic Integrity shall be maintained to the greatest extent possible, including siting the relocated structure as close to the original site as possible, in a setting similar to its historic placement including building orientation setback from the street, and lot coverage. The new foundation shall match the original foundation in height, design, and materials to the extent possible.

3.18.4 Demolition of a Contributing Structure Relocation

Proposed Change: This is a new section to provide specific and improved criteria for the relocation of any structure—contributing resource or not—within, into or out of the Old Town Bluffton Historic District.

~~A. In addition to the Application Review Criteria set forth in Section 3.18.3, in reviewing and recommending action on, or approving, approving with conditions, or denying, applications that include the demolition of any Contributing Structure, either in whole or in part, the Historic Preservation Commission may find that the preservation and protection of the Contributing Structure and the public interest will best be served by postponing the demolition for a designated period not to exceed 180 days. During the period of postponement, the Historic Preservation Commission shall consider what alternatives to demolition may exist and then, as appropriate, make such recommendations to Town Council and the Applicant. Such consideration by the Historic Preservation Commission shall, at a minimum, include the following:~~

- ~~1. Alternatives for preservation of the structure, either in whole or in part, including consultation with civic groups, interested private citizens, and other boards or agencies (both public and private); or,~~
- ~~2. If other alternatives for preservation cannot be identified and the preservation of a given structure is clearly in the interest of the general welfare of the community and of certain historic and architectural significance, investigation of the potential use of the power of eminent domain by the Town to acquire the property.~~

~~B. If after the postponement period has expired and an alternative for preservation has not been recommended, action regarding the application shall be taken in accordance with this Section at the next regularly scheduled Historic Preservation Commission meeting.~~

A. Non-Contributing Structures

The relocation of non-contributing structures into or within Old Town Bluffton Historic District shall be reviewed as new construction and the criteria in Sec. 3.18.3. shall be applied.

B. Contributing Resources

The relocation of any Contributing Resource is detrimental to the integrity of Old Town Bluffton Historic District and, where applicable, the Bluffton Historic District (listed in the National Register 1996), as significance of the resource is embodied in location, context, and setting, as well as the resource itself. Relocation of a Contributing Resource may destroy the relationship between the resource and its surroundings, associations with historic events and persons, historic features

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(such as landscaping, foundation, chimneys), and known or potential archaeological resources. Relocation may also create a false sense of historic development. For these reasons, relocation of a Contributing Resource that is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, contributes to the Bluffton National Register Historic District, or that was designated as contributing to the Old Town Bluffton Historic District on or after June 19, 2007 shall not be permitted except in extraordinary circumstances.

1. The Historic Preservation Commission shall consider the following in its consideration of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness-HD for relocation:

- a. The reason for the relocation and evidence that one or more extraordinary circumstances exists to support relocation;
- b. The construction date, history of ownership, development, use(s), and any other pertinent history of the Contributing Resource;
- c. Relocation alternatives on the existing site of the Contributing Resource that were explored and why they are not feasible;
- d. Demonstration that the proposed relocation site will approximate the historic character and development of the original location, and the proximity of the relocation site to the original location;
- e. Demonstration through a report prepared by a State of South Carolina registered professional structural engineer with demonstrated experience in historic preservation that the structure can be relocated without irreparable harm, supported by findings. If the report finds that intact relocation is not possible, findings shall also be provided for relocation by partial or complete disassembly of the Contributing Resource for reassembly in another location without irreparable loss of Historic Integrity.

2. **Effect of Approval**

If relocation of the Contributing Resource is approved, the approval shall be conditional until the following are provided:

- a. An approved Certificate of Appropriateness-HD for the receiving site if located within Old Town Bluffton Historic District;
- b. An approved Final Development Plan for the receiving site, when applicable;
- c. Compliance with the relocation and documentation guidelines approved by Town Council; and,
- d. Compliance with applicable requirements in the Applications Manual.

3.18.5 Effect and Expiration of Approvals Demolition

Proposed Change: Provides demolition standards for both contributing and non-contributing resources.

A. Approval:

1. ~~Following approval of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness HD the Applicant may apply for a building permit or any other plan approval, if applicable. In the event such additional approvals are not applicable or necessary, the Applicant may commence the activity(ies) as authorized by the approved application.~~

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~~2. Following approval of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness HD that includes the demolition, either in whole or in part, of any Contributing Structure and prior to the commencement of any demolition activities, the Applicant shall document the structure according to the documentation standards of the Historic American Building Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record for archival purposes and submit such recording to the UDO Administrator for review and approval.~~

~~B. Expiration. Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness HD shall expire two years from the date of its issue unless an appreciable amount of improvement or development commences and proceeds to completion in a timely and customary manner in accordance with the Certificate of Appropriateness HD.~~

A. Non-contributing Structures

The below items shall be provided by the Applicant and reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission in its consideration of a request for demolition of any structure, in whole or in part, in Old Town Bluffton Historic District that is not designated as a Contributing Resource:

1. The construction date, history of ownership, development, use(s), and the reason for the demolition request; and,
2. Compliance with all applicable requirements in the Applications Manual.

B. Contributing Resources

The demolition of a Contributing Resource, either in whole or in part, is detrimental to the integrity and status of Old Town Bluffton Historic District and, where applicable, the Bluffton National Register Historic District, as significance of these districts is embodied by their contributing resources. Demolition of a Contributing Resource that is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, contributes to the Bluffton National Register Historic District, or that was designated as contributing to the Old Town Bluffton Historic District on or after June 19, 2007, shall not be permitted except in extraordinary circumstances and when all preservation alternatives have been exhausted.

1. The Historic Preservation Commission shall consider the following in its consideration of an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness-HD for demolition, either in whole or in part:
 - a. The construction date, history of ownership, development, use(s), and other pertinent history of the Contributing Resource, and the reason for the request;
 - b. A report prepared by a State of South Carolina registered professional structural engineer with demonstrated experience in historic preservation detailing the structural soundness of the Contributing Resource supported by findings, including clear and convincing evidence that demolition is necessary, in whole or in part, to alleviate a threat to public health or public safety;
 - c. Evidence that demolition is required to avoid exceptional practical difficulty or undue hardship upon the owner of the property and that no other reasonable alternatives to demolition exist, including but not limited to relocation. If exceptional practical difficulty or undue hardship is claimed, evidence shall be provided to demonstrate

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that the applicant did not have the opportunity to discover the nature of the difficulty or undue hardship and that application of the standards would deprive the applicant of reasonable use and economic return on the property.

- d. Consistency with applicable principles set forth in the *Old Town Bluffton Master Plan* and *Town of Bluffton Comprehensive Plan*; and,
- e. Compliance with all applicable requirements in the Applications Manual.

The applicant should provide, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) Nature of ownership (individual, business, or nonprofit) or legal possession, custody, and control;
- (2) Financial resources of the owner and/or parties in interest;
- (3) Cost of repairs;
- (4) Assessed value of land and improvements;
- (5) Real estate taxes for the previous two years;
- (6) Amount paid for the property, date of purchase, and party from whom purchased, including a description of the relationship between the owner and the person from whom the property was purchased, or other means of acquisition of title, such as by gift or inheritance;
- (7) Annual debt service, if any, for previous two (2) years received;
- (8) Any listing of the property for sale or rent, price asked, and offers received, if any;
- (9) In addition, for an income-producing property, the following information from the previous two years: the annual gross income from the property, itemized operating and maintenance expenses, and annual cash flow; and
- (10) The timeline and circumstances under which the applicant learned of the condition of the Contributing Structure which gave rise to the applicant's decision to request approval to demolish it.

2. Delay of Decision Regarding Demolition

In considering the criteria for demolition, the Historic Preservation Commission may find that the preservation and protection of the Contributing Resource and the public interest will best be served by postponing a decision for a designated period not to exceed 180 days. During the period of postponement, the Historic Preservation Commission shall consider what alternatives to demolition may exist. Consideration by the Historic Preservation Commission shall include:

- a. Alternatives for preservation of the structure, either in whole or in part, including consultation with civic groups, interested private citizens, and other boards or agencies (both public and private); and,
- b. If other alternatives for preservation cannot be identified, including relocation, and the preservation of the Contributing Resource is clearly in the interest of the general welfare of the community, investigation of the potential of the Town to acquire the property.

3. Effect of Approval

- a. In granting a Certificate of Appropriateness-HD for demolition, the Historic Preservation Commission may impose such reasonable and additional conditions, which may include deconstruction of historic building components for re-use.
- b. The process for demolishing a Contributing Resource, including documentation to be provided, shall comply with demolition guidelines approved by Town Council.

3.18.6 Amendments to Approvals **Expiration of Approvals**

Proposed Change: To have this sub-section be specifically for expiration of an approved COFA-HD. Amendments to an approved COFA-HD would have its own sub-section (3.18.7).

3.18.6 Amendments to Approvals

~~A. An Applicant who has been granted a Certificate of Appropriateness HD shall notify the UDO Administrator of any proposed amendments to approved plans.~~

~~B. Changes may be approved by the UDO Administrator if the proposed revision complies with the standards of this Ordinance and does not substantially alter the basic design approved by the Historic Preservation Commission.~~
~~C. If the UDO Administrator determines that the requested modification to the approved plans substantially deviates from the basic design approved by the Historic Preservation Commission in accordance with the Certificate of Appropriateness HD, a new, separate application shall be submitted.~~

Approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness-HD shall expire two years from the date of approval unless an appreciable amount of improvement, development or other activity approved by the Historic Preservation Commission commences, as determined by the UDO Administrator, and proceeds to completion in a timely and customary manner in accordance with the Certificate of Appropriateness HD.

3.18.7 Amendments to Approvals

Proposed Change: To provide the amendment process with its own sub-section.

- A. An Applicant who has been granted a Certificate of Appropriateness HD shall notify the UDO Administrator of any proposed amendments to approved plans.
- B. Changes may be approved by the UDO Administrator if the proposed revision complies with the standards of this Ordinance and does not substantially alter the approval by the Historic Preservation Commission.
- C. If the UDO Administrator determines that the requested modification to the approved plans substantially deviates from the approval by the Historic Preservation Commission in accordance with the Certificate of Appropriateness HD, a new application shall be submitted.

3.19.2 Site Feature – Historic District Permit, Applicability

Proposed Change: Includes the addition of “shed,” which is presently a type of “garden structure.” As a roofed structure less than 121 square feet, a shed can be for both residential and commercial storage, including commercial freezers. Garden structures are yard elements, such as fences, walls, and trellises.

A. **Permit Required.** A Site Feature - Historic District (HD) Permit is required for the following:

1. Sign, to include new signs, modifications to existing signs, or replacement of existing signs. Certain signs, as indicated in Sec. 5.13.3, are exempt from the Site-Feature-Historic District (HD) Permit requirement.
2. Modifications or improvements to site elements such as changes to parking lots, sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting;
3. Garden Structures and Sheds; as specified in Sec. 5.15.5;
4. *[No change.]*
5. *[No change.]*

Sec. 3.25 Designation of Contributing Resources

Proposed Change: The process for designating a contributing resource exists, but a formal process to remove contributing status does not. Removal of the designation has been a policy decision that includes a recommendation from the HPC for consideration by Town Council.

~~3.25 Designation of Contributing Resources~~ **Contributing Resource Procedure and Criteria**

Proposed Change: Renaming this section as it is proposed to include a process to remove a contributing resource designation.

3.25.1 Intent

This Section is intended to provide procedures and criteria to facilitate designation or the removal of designation as a ~~of~~ Contributing Resources ~~s within to the~~ Old Town Bluffton Historic District.

3.25.2 Applicability

Applications to designate or remove the designation as a Contributing Resources to or from the Old Town Bluffton Historic District may be initiated by the property owner, UDO Administrator, Historic Preservation Commission or Town Council. ~~When the applicant is not the property owner, written consent of the property owner is required at time of application.~~

3.25.3 Application Review Criteria

A. Except as provided elsewhere in this Section, any ~~resource building, structure, object, site~~ that is at least 50 years old, as applicable, and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association may be considered for a Contributing Resource designation by Town Council upon a recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission. At least one of the following criteria must be present:

1. ~~The resource is associated~~ An association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
2. ~~The resource is associated~~ An association with the lives of persons significant in our past;
3. ~~The resource embodies~~ Embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses ion of high artistic values, or ~~represents representation of~~ a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction; or
4. ~~The resource has yielded, or is likely to yield, information~~ Information important in prehistory or history has been yielded or is likely to be yielded.

B. Resource of Exceptional Importance

Any ~~resource building, structure, or object~~ that is less than 50 years old may be designated as a Contributing Resource by Town Council, upon a recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission, if ~~the resource it~~ is of 'exceptional importance.' In consideration of the designation, the Historic Preservation Commission and Town Council shall consider the following:

1. Significance ~~of the resource~~ in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture when evaluated within the historic context of the Town, State or Nation;
2. Integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association ~~of the resource~~, as applicable; and,
3. Compliance with Criterion G, as provided in the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, as amended.

C. The application must comply with applicable requirements in the Applications Manual.

3.25.4 ~~Effect of Approval~~ Application Review Criteria to Remove the Designation as a Contributing Resource

~~Upon designation, Town Council shall amend the 'Contributing Resources' map to include the approved Contributing Resource.~~

1. Any Contributing Resource that no longer meets the criteria for designation because the qualities which caused it to be originally designated have been lost or destroyed, or the designation criteria in Sec. 3.25.3.A. no longer applies, Town Council may remove the designation as a Contributing Resource upon a recommendation of the Historic Preservation Commission.
2. The application shall comply with applicable requirements in the Applications Manual.

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3.25.5 Effect of Approval

Upon designation or the removal of the designation, Town Council shall amend the 'Contributing Resources' map accordingly to include the approved Contributing Resource.

Sec. 5.15 Miscellaneous Old Town Bluffton Historic District

Proposed Changes: The increase in the minimum front build-to zone in the NC-HD and NCE-HD zoning districts increases the area between the buildings and the right-of-way by 5 feet, which does not include porches or stoops. At present, the front build-to, which typically has a 6-10 foot front porch area, extends beyond the front build-to. Since the minimum porch depth is 6 feet, a 5-foot build-to line is not possible should a front porch be proposed. The increase allows more flexibility to set the structure back farther on the lot and ensures there is at least a small amount of space at the front of the lot for the required street trees, foundation plantings, and will help to save large trees at the front of lots.

Sec. 5.15.5.A. Neighborhood Core Historic District, Building Type Requirements, Front Build-to Zone

Neighborhood Core Building Type Requirements	Front Build-to Zone
Main Street Building	0' – 10' <u>10' – 20'</u>
Commercial Cottage	5' – 15' <u>10' – 15'</u>
Live-Work Sideyard	0' – 5' <u>10' – 15'</u>
Duplex	5' – 15' <u>10' – 15'</u>
Triplex	5' – 15' <u>10' – 15'</u>
Mansion Apartment House	5' – 15' <u>10' – 25'</u>
Civic Building	5' – 25' <u>10' – 25'</u>
Additional Building Type	0' – 25' <u>10' – 25'</u>

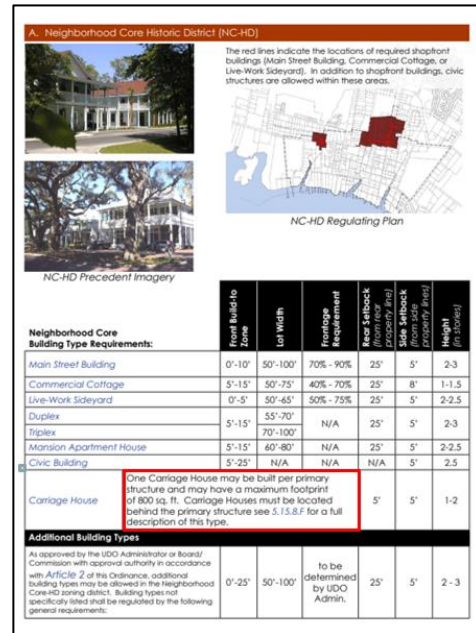
Sec. 5.15.5.B. Neighborhood Center Historic District, Building Type Requirements, Front Build-to Zone

Neighborhood Center Building Type Requirements	Front Build-to Zone
Main Street Building	10' – 25'
Commercial Cottage	5' – 20' <u>10' – 20'</u>
Live-Work Sideyard	0' – 5' <u>5' – 10'</u>
Duplex	5' – 15' <u>10' – 15'</u>
Triplex	5' – 15' <u>10' – 15'</u>
Mansion Apartment House	5' – 15' <u>10' – 25'</u>
Cottage	5' – 15' <u>10' – 15'</u>
Village House	5' – 15' <u>10' – 15'</u>
Sideyard House	5' – 10' <u>10' – 15'</u>
Vernacular House	10' – 20'
Civic Building	5' – 25' <u>10' – 25'</u>
Additional Building Type	10' – 25'

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5.15.5.A-E. General Standards

[Editor's Note: Example graphic provided to show where change is proposed in Secs. A-E. See below for proposed amendments.]



5.15.5.A. Neighborhood Core Historic District

Carriage House	One Carriage House may be built per primary structure and may have a maximum footprint of 800 sq.ft. Carriage Houses must be located behind the primary structure see 5.15.8.F. for a full description of this type. <u>See Sec. 5.15.8.F. for placement and other requirements.</u>
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5.15.5.B. Neighborhood Center Historic District

Carriage House	One Carriage House may be built per primary structure and may have a maximum footprint of 800 sq.ft. Carriage Houses must be located behind the primary structure. See 5.15.8.F. for a full description of this type. <u>See Sec. 5.15.8.F. for placement and other requirements.</u>
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5.15.5.C. Neighborhood General Historic District

Carriage House	One Carriage House may be built per primary structure and may have a maximum footprint of 800 sq.ft. Carriage Houses must be located behind the primary structure. See 5.15.8.F. for a full description of this type. <u>See Sec. 5.15.8.F. for placement and other requirements.</u>
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5.15.5.D. Neighborhood Conservation Historic District

Carriage House	One Carriage House may be built per primary structure and may have a maximum footprint of 800 sq.ft. Carriage Houses must be located behind the primary structure. See 5.15.8.F. for a full description of this type. See <u>Sec. 5.15.8.F. for placement and other requirements.</u>
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5.15.5.E. Riverfront Edge Historic District

Carriage House	Two carriage houses may be built per primary structure and may have a maximum footprint of 800 sq.ft. each. They must be placed between the primary structure and the street. See Sec. 5.15.8.F. for placement and other <u>requirements.</u>
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5.15.5.C. Neighborhood General Historic District (NG-HD)

Proposed Change: Reformatting for consistency and clarification on the residential character requirement..

~~1. The Neighborhood General HD zoning district shall be primarily residential in nature. All commercial or mixed use development within this zoning district must maintain a predominantly residential character.~~

~~2. A waiver of the mandatory residential component may be granted by the UDO Administrator for commercial properties with direct frontage on SC Highway 46 or Bruin Road. While these commercial properties may have retail shopfronts or have awning/marquees or colonnades/arcades and be at grade, in accordance with this Ordinance, they must still maintain residential scale.~~

Within the NG-HD district, building form and scale shall be primarily residential to maintain the predominantly residential character component of this district. The UDO Administrator may waive the mandatory residential component for properties with frontage on SC Highway 46 and Bruin Road; buildings on these properties may be constructed with retail shopfronts, awnings, marquees, colonnades, or arcades in accordance with this UDO but must be residential in form and scale.

Sec. 5.15.5.E. General Standards, Riverfront Edge Historic District

Proposed Change: Zoning districts are used in place of transect zones.

In the Riverfront Edge ~~Transect Zone-~~ HD district, the river shall be the focus of each lot abutting it and therefore acts as the “front” of the lot.

Sec. 5.15.5.F.11. Old Town Bluffton Historic District, General Standards, Large Footprint Buildings

Proposed Change: To remove the “large footprint building” standards from General Standards. They directly conflict with the maximum size permitted for buildings, which was an amendment added to the Additional Building Type in 2021. Should this be amended in the future to allow large footprint buildings, it should fall under the Building Types for each district rather than the General Standards for Architecture. This subsection will be for sheds and identify the number permitted.

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11. Large Footprint Buildings Sheds

- a. Large footprint buildings can only be located in the Neighborhood Core Historic District Zoning District.
- b. Buildings may be one story in height, but shall be at least 24 feet in height. This may be accomplished with ~~Liner Buildings or higher ceiling heights and/ or parapets.~~
- c. ~~To encourage use by pedestrians and decrease the need for solely auto-oriented patronage, Large Footprint Buildings must reinforce the character of the Old Town Bluffton Historic District and shall therefore front the buildings to the sidewalks, providing windows and doors at frequent intervals. Operable doorways should occur on an average of every 50 feet for the whole length of the street frontage.~~
- d. ~~Building footprints shall not be larger than a single block. Floor area of buildings shall not cantilever over public rights-of-way.~~
- e. ~~Loading docks, service areas and trash disposal facilities shall not face streets, parks, squares, waterways, or significant pedestrian spaces.~~
Sheds shall not be taller than one-story, exceed 121 square feet, and no more than three (3) are permitted per lot.

Sec. 5.15.6.E.8.b., Chimneys, Roof Appurtenances, and Roof Penetrations

Format issue—move standard “b” to correct location (appears under “Chimneys Precedent Imagery”)

Sec. 5.15.6.E.8.d., Chimneys, Roof Appurtenances, and Roof Penetrations

Proposed Change: To provide concealment of arrestors, flues and caps from street view. This change was proposed by the Planning Commission.

- d. In keeping with masonry building technology, metal spark arrestors, exposed metal flues, ~~or~~ and pre-fabricated chimney caps are ~~not~~ permitted only when concealed within a masonry architectural feature and screened from a street.

Sec. 5.15.6.G. OTBHD, Architectural Standards, Building Walls

Proposed Change: Removal of an incorrect term (“bulkhead”) to prevent confusion.



Sec. 5.15.6.N.7.a. OTBHD, Architectural Standards, General Standards, Corners and Water Tables, Water Table Trim

- a. Drip boards shall be a minimum 5/4 stock with a bevel (any exposed flashing must be copper or match color of water table [trim](#));

Table 5.15.6.Q.4.a. OTBHD, Architectural Standards, Signs

S.R. [SC](#) 46 / Bruin Road Square Footage & Height (Maximum)

5.15.8.A. thru M. Building Types “Note”

Change the word “Notes” to “Characteristics” for building types “A” (Main Street Building) thru “M” (River House). This includes: 1) “A” (Main Street Building); 2) “B” (Commercial Cottage); 3) “C” Live-Work Sideyard; 4) “D” Duplex/Triplex; 5) “E” (Mansion Apartment House); 6) “F” Carriage House; 7) “G” Bungalow Court; 8) “H” (Cottage); 9) “I” (Village House); 10) “J” (Sideyard House); 11) “K” Vernacular House; 12) “L” (Center Hall House); and, 13) “M” (River House).

Sec. 5.15.5 Old Town Bluffton Historic District, General Standards

Proposed Changes: Creating a Medium House Type which will help span the gap between the small Cottage and the large Village House. Many buildings come through as this and end up defaulting into the Additional Building Type, causing the appearance of something abnormal. This addition will allow for ease of review, but should not negatively impact any proposed structure that will fall within this type, nor should it cause existing structures to be non-conforming. Buildings which do not meet the characteristics of this type may still be reviewed as ABTs, but it will reduce the number. Allows for smaller setbacks for this smaller structure than would be permitted under ABT – which is intended for structures that are typically larger, but do not quite meet shape or massing of those building types already existing.

Trees located in setbacks and buffers are supposed to be saved. With a 5’ side setback, this is nearly impossible as the roots are disturbed beyond the ability to save. The other side of the lot typically has a driveway, which also requires all trees to be removed. For commercial structures, there is an 8’ foundation planting requirement, which cannot be met with the current setbacks. The increase in side setbacks will allow for side entry stoops (which cannot happen given the required Finished Floor Height), foundation plantings, tree preservation etc. It should be noted that porches, bay windows, roof overhangs, stairs, chimneys, service yards and other uninhabited appurtenances may encroach into setbacks (but no closer than 3’ from prop line).

ATTACHMENT 1

B. Neighborhood Center Historic District (NCE-HD)

[Note: No change to photos or text above chart.]

Neighborhood Center-HD Building Type Requirements		Front Build-to Zone	Lot Width	Frontage Requirements	Rear Setback (from rear property line)	Side Setback (from side property line)	Height (in stories)
Carriage House	One Carriage House may be built per primary structure and may have a maximum footprint of 800 sq. ft. Carriage Houses must be located behind the primary structure. See 5.15.8.F for a full description of this type.				5'	5'	1-2
Main Street Building		10'-25'	50'-80'	75%-90%	25'	8'	2-2.5
Commercial Cottage		5'-20'	50'-60'	50%-70%	25'	8'	1-1.5
Live-Work Sideyard		0'-5'	50'-60'	40%-75%	25'	5'-8'	1.5-2.5
Duplex		10'-20'	55'-70'	N/A	25'	8'	1.5-2.5
Triplex			70'-100'				
Mansion Apartment House		10'-20'	60'-80'	N/A	25'	10'	2-2.5
Cottage		5'-15'	50'-60'	N/A	25'	5'-8'	1-1.5
Medium House		5'-15'	50'-60'	N/A	25'	8'	1-2
Village House		5'-15'	50'-60'	N/A	25'	5'-8'	2-2.5
Sideyard House		5'-10'	50'-65'	N/A	25'	8'	2-2.5
Vernacular House		10'-20'	60'-80'	N/A	25'	10'	1.5
Civic Building		5'-25'	N/A	N/A	N/A	5'-8'	2
Additional Building Types							
As approved by the UDO Admin. or Board/Comm. with approval authority in accordance with Article 2 of this Ordinance, additional building types may be allowed in the Neighborhood Conservation-HD zoning district. Building types not specifically listed shall be regulated by the following general requirements:		10'-25'	50'-100'	To be determined by UDO Admin	25'	8'	1-2.5

ATTACHMENT 1

C. Neighborhood General Historic District (NG-HD)

[Note: No change to photos or text above chart.]

Neighborhood General Building Type Requirements		Front Build-to Zone	Lot Width	Frontage Requirements	Rear Setback (from rear property line)	Side Setback (from side property line)	Height (in stories)
Carriage House	One Carriage House may be built per primary structure and may have a maximum footprint of 800 sq. ft. Carriage Houses must be located behind the primary structure. See 5.15.8.F for a full description of this type.				5'	5'	1-2
Live-Work Sideyard		10'-20'	50'-100'	N/A	25'	10'	1-2.5
Commercial Cottage		10'-20'	50'-100'	N/A	25'	10'	1-1.5
Bungalow Court		10'-20' for foremost bungalow	60'-100'	N/A	25'	15'	1-1.5
Cottage		10'-20'	50'-60'	N/A	25'	10'	1-1.5
Medium House		<u>10'-20'</u>	<u>50'-60'</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>25'</u>	<u>10'</u>	<u>1-2</u>
Village House		10'- 15 20'	50'-65'	N/A	30'	15'	2-2.5
Vernacular House		10'-20'	60'-100'	N/A	30'	15'	1.5
Center Hall House		15'-25'	70'-100'	N/A	30'	15'	2-2.5
Civic Building		15'-35'	N/A	N/A	N/A	10'	2
Additional Building Types							
As approved by the UDO Admin. or Board/Comm. with approval authority in accordance with Article 2 of this Ordinance, additional building types may be allowed in the Neighborhood Conservation-HD zoning district. Building types not specifically listed shall be regulated by the following general requirements:		10'-35'	50'-100'	N/A	30'	10'	1-2.5

ATTACHMENT 1

D. Neighborhood Conservation Historic District (NCV-HD)

Neighborhood Conservation Building Type Requirements		Front Build-to Zone	Lot Width	Frontage Requirements	Rear Setback (from rear property line)	Side Setback (from side property line)	Height (in stories)
Carriage House	One Carriage House may be built per primary structure and may have a maximum footprint of 800 sq. ft. Carriage Houses must be located behind the primary structure. See 5.15.8.F for a full description of this type.				5'	5'	1-2
Cottage		10'-20'	50'-60'	N/A	30'	10'	1-1.5
Medium House		10'-20'	50'-70'	N/A	30'	10'	1-2
Village House		10'-20'	50'-70'	N/A	30'	10'	2-2.5
Vernacular House		15'-25'	60'-100'	N/A	30'	10'	1.5
Center Hall House		20'-35'	80'-100'	N/A	30'	15'	2-2.5
Civic Building		15'-40'	N/A	N/A	N/A	10'	1.5
Additional Building Types							
As approved by the UDO Admin. or Board/Comm. with approval authority in accordance with Article 2 of this Ordinance, additional building types may be allowed in the Neighborhood Conservation-HD zoning district. Building types not specifically listed shall be regulated by the following general requirements:		10'-35'	50'-100'	N/A	30'	10'	1-2.5

Sec. 5.15.5.F.7. OTBHD, General Standards, Garden Structures

Proposed Change: Garden Structure is proposed to become a definition (see Sec 9.2).

~~7. **Garden Structures.** Garden structures are small accessory buildings which may contain storage space, trash receptacles, or other garden uses. Structures such as sheds, fences, pergolas, and gazebos are considered to be garden structures. Garden structures shall not be greater than 120 square feet in footprint, shall not exceed 1 story in height, and must comply with the architectural standards.~~

Cupolas

Sec. 5.15.6.E.4. Cupolas/Small Footprint Towers

Proposed Changes: Formatting and providing clarity regarding maximum height.

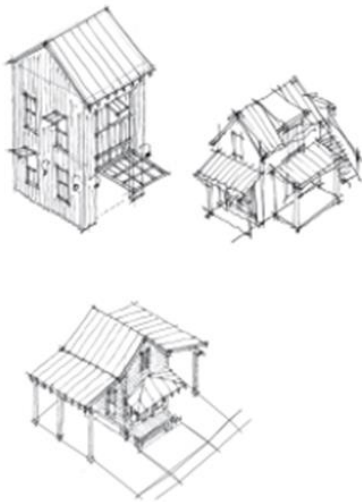




- ~~Plan Area Footprint: =20' x 20' Maximum Footprint~~
- ~~Height: Cupolas and towers may extend a maximum of 15 feet above the Zoning District height limit. roof ridge but shall not be taller than 50 feet above the adjacent grade level.~~

Sec. 5.15.8, Building Types

5.15.8.F. Building Types, Carriage House

Proposed Changes: 1) Revise minimum size range from 200 sf to 121 sf to eliminate the square footage gap between carriage houses and garden structures (garden structures presently includes sheds); 2) Change characteristics, including allowing two carriage houses in the Riverfront Edge zoning district; 3) To be clearer as to how the Carriage House building form can be used, including as a dwelling or garage; 4) To clarifying that an “opening” is for vehicles and is intended to be limited as to the number of openings; and, 5) To allow the placement of a Carriage House to be considered in an alternate location when on the same lot as a Contributing Resource—other than behind the Contributing Resource—if approved by the UDO Administrator.

Note: The sections proposed to be amended are highlighted on the next page with a red box, and the proposed text is shown on the page that follows.


F. Carriage House			
General: Accessory Structure.			CORE ●
Size Range: 200 – 1,200 sq. ft. (per unit).			CENTER ●
Maximum Footprint (not including porches): 800 sq. ft.			GENERAL ●
Height: 1 – 2 stories.			CONSERVE ●
Notes: Must be an accessory structure. Only one permitted per lot, unless otherwise noted. May be used as a garage, living unit or home business (or combination). May function as a small-scale shop, studio or workshop. Garages are limited to 2 cars, with maximum garage door widths of 12' each. Must be of same general character as primary structure. Must be placed behind the primary structure and towards the back of the lot			RIVER EDGE ●
<p align="center"><i>Carriage House Precedent Imagery</i></p> <div>     </div>			
<p>*Precedent images are for illustrative purposes only, with no regulatory effect. They are provided as examples, and shall not imply that every element in the photograph is permitted.</p>			

ATTACHMENT 1

F. Carriage House
General: Accessory Structure
Size Range: 200-121 – 1,200 sq.ft. (per unit)
Maximum Footprint (not including porches): 800 sq.ft.
Height: 1-2 stories
<p><u>Notes: Characteristics:</u></p> <p>Must be <u>A detached or an attached</u> accessory structure. <u>An attached structure must be clearly incidental to, smaller than, and distinguished from the principal building form.</u></p> <p>Only one permitted per lot, unless otherwise noted <u>except within the RV-HD district where two may be allowed for lots of at least one acre.</u></p> <p>May be used as a garage, living unit or home business (or combination).</p> <p>May function as a small-scale shop, studio or workshop. <u>May be used as a garage, carport, dwelling unit, shop, studio, workshop (or combination thereof) as permitted by Sec. 4.3.</u></p> <p>Garages are limited to 2 cars, with maximum garage door widths of 12' each. <u>Garages are limited to two vehicular openings not exceeding 12ft in width each. One additional vehicular opening not exceeding 6ft in width may be allowed provided the building footprint is not exceeded.</u></p> <p>Must be of the same general character as primary structure.</p> <p>Must be placed behind the primary structure and towards the back of the lot. <u>For lots with a Contributing Resource, the UDO Administrator may consider an alternate location.</u></p>

Sec. 5.15.8 Old Town Bluffton Historic District, Building Types

Proposed Change: To provide the Medium House Type category, requirements, and characteristics.

I. Medium House Type		
<u>General: Detached Single Family Residence</u>		<u>CORE</u>
<u>Size Range: 1,300 – 3,000 sq. ft.</u>		<u>CENTER</u> •
<u>Maximum Footprint: (not including porches)</u> <u>1,300 sq. ft.</u>		<u>GENERAL</u> •
<u>Height: 1-2 stories</u>		<u>CONSERVE</u> •
<u>Characteristics:</u> <u>Larger than a Cottage, smaller than a Village House.</u>		<u>RIVER EDGE</u>
<u>The street elevation must have a front porch that is at least 50% of the façade.</u> <u>Shall be narrower along the street front than it is deep.</u> <u>May have dormers.</u>		

ATTACHMENT 1

Medium House Precedent Imagery



*Precedent images are for illustrative purposes only, with no regulatory effect. They are provided as examples and shall not imply that every element in the photograph is permitted.

Note: The addition of the Medium House Building Type would be most appropriately located between the Cottage and Village House Building Types. This addition will cause all building types to be re-lettered as follows, without any changes to the associated text, drawings and photos:

- ~~J.~~ J. Village House
- ~~K.~~ K. Sideyard House
- ~~L.~~ L. Vernacular House
- ~~M.~~ M. Center Hall House
- ~~N.~~ N. River House
- ~~O.~~ O. Civic Building
- ~~P.~~ P. Church Building
- ~~Q.~~ Q. Manufactured Homes

Sec. 9.2, Defined Terms

Garden Structure

Structure, Garden: Any unenclosed and unroofed Accessory Structure, including but not limited to fences, walls, pergolas, decks, and patios. Garden structures shall comply with all applicable architectural standards of this Ordinance.

Historic Integrity

Historic Integrity: The ability of a property to convey its historical associations or attributes through seven aspects that include location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The National Register Bulletin “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation” produced by the National Park Service, and as amended, shall serve as the reference document for interpretation of these aspects.

Principal Building

Building, Principal: ~~The building in which is conducted the principal use of the zone lot on which it is located. Zone lots with multiple principal uses may have multiple principal buildings, but storage buildings, garages, and other clearly accessory uses shall not be considered principal buildings.~~

The building in which the principal use of a lot is conducted. Accessory buildings, such as carriage houses, Sheds, and garages shall not be considered principal buildings.

Shed

Shed: A one-story detached and roofed Accessory Structure that is clearly incidental and compatible with the Principal Building or Use located on the same lot. Such structures shall not be used as a Dwelling Unit or for an independent commercial enterprise.

Structure, Accessory

Structure, Accessory: A detached or attached Structure that is clearly delineated from, and secondary to, the building form of the Principal Building located on the same lot. Such structures may include carriage houses, Sheds and Garden Structures. Should the Accessory Structure be attached to the Principal Building, the delineation of square footage shall be made where the exterior visual separation occurs. Sheds cannot be attached Accessory Structures. Accessory Structures shall comply with applicable architectural standards of this Ordinance.