



Forms Of Additions

The following are additional guidelines for additions to existing construction:

- New front porches should not be added to a historic building without precedent for a porch.
- It is inappropriate to enclose front porches.
- Handicapped access ramps should not be located on the primary facades of historic buildings, unless they can be located and designed to be unobtrusive. Regardless of where they are located, the sloped run of the ramp should be screened such that the slope of the ramp does not detract from the horizontal elements of the building to which it is attached. A new ramp should be constructed in a manner that does not require the removal of historic fabric, and does not damage the existing building. The ramp should be constructed in a manner such that its future removal will not damage existing historic fabric.
- Roof-top additions should not be constructed. These would disturb the

proportions of the building and the historic form of the roof.

- The addition of dormer windows and skylights is not recommended, but may be acceptable if kept to the rear of the building, not visible to the street.
- The design of the addition should make clear what is new and what is original. This may be done in a variety of ways, including simplifying of details, changing materials, slightly altering proportions, or even slightly varying paint color.
- Decks are inappropriate on front or side facades. When decks are constructed on rear facades, they should be screened from the street with landscape materials.
- The architectural style of an addition should not be older than the style of the existing building.

Demolition

The pressure to demolish buildings within any historic district is a regrettable fact of life. Either through catastrophic damage or through years of neglect, there are and will continue to be situations when a building is deemed beyond repair and "not worth" preserving. As the Dover Historic District continues to attract new residents and businesses, there will be pressure to "make way" for the "progress" that new construction is believed by some to represent.

Whereas issues of design guidelines for preservation and new construction are driven by architectural and aesthetic considerations, demolition, especially of repairable structures,

is more frequently an economic issue. Indeed, the only other legitimate reason for consideration of demolition is if the building poses a threat to public safety. In considering applications for demolition, especially those based on economic or development considerations, the City must weigh issues beyond matters of architectural appropriateness, for demolition of an historic building in an Historic District is rarely if ever appropriate. Rather, the City must be convinced that all possible means of saving the building have been exhausted.

It should be noted that the City of Dover is trying to prevent unnecessary demolition by giving the Historic District Commission the authority to determine when "Demolition by Neglect" is occurring. "Demolition by Neglect" is defined as "improper maintenance or lack of maintenance of a building, structure or object which results in substantial and widespread deterioration of the building, structure or object which threatens the likelihood of preservation and which presents a threat to the public safety, health and welfare of the immediate community." Once the Historic District Commission determines that a property is in a state of Demolition by Neglect, it can direct the building inspector to take actions under the City's Dangerous Building Code or Housing Code to order repairs. It is the responsibility of all citizens to look for and report instances of Demolition by Neglect to the City of Dover Historic District Commission.

The following criteria should be evaluated in considering applications for the demolition of historic buildings within the Dover Historic District:

- To determine the financial implications of maintaining a property versus demolishing it, the City may ask an

applicant to submit documentation pertaining to differential costs, structural soundness, suitability for rehabilitation, estimated market value of the property as is and after renovation for continued use, economic feasibility of rehabilitation, purchase price, income, and cash flow information (relating to the property only) and any other information considered necessary.

- Regardless of economic issues, the relative significance of the building slated for demolition should be evaluated. If the building is not considered a contributing structure in the District, then its demolition may not be objectionable. If a building is significant, then even a finding of economic hardship may not be sufficient to allow demolition. Some buildings, such as the Richardson mansion, the Parke-Ridgely House, the Rose Cottage, etc., are so significant that extraordinary measures should be made to delay or prevent their demolition. Adaptive reuse of historic buildings is always preferable to demolition and new construction.
- In development-related applications, the City should review schematic plans for the new structure, in order to help weigh the virtues of the new versus what exists.
- Further, in order to provide some slight mitigation of the effects of unavoidable demolition of historic structures within the Dover Historic District, owners should be required to provide adequate recordation of a property. The extent of such recordation would depend on the

significance of the property. At the least, archival photographs should be produced for every historic building that is lost to demolition within the District. When the demolition of an extremely significant building is unavoidable, measured drawings should be produced that comply with the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

- Lots left vacant by demolition should be treated in a manner that is sympathetic to the historic context. In the residential and commercial contexts, a 5' high opaque barrier should be constructed at the building line, either a fence or plant materials or both. Parking should not be permitted on vacant lots. Community gardens or parks should be encouraged.

Relocation of Existing Buildings

Moving historic buildings out of, into or within the Historic District should be discouraged. The removal of historic buildings from the District has the same effect as demolition on the historic character of the District. Moving historic buildings within the District confuses the actual history of the District. Moving historic buildings into the District falsifies the existing historic record by adding a building that does not belong to either time or place. Relocating a building, however, is always preferable to its demolition.