

SECTION 11 NEW CONSTRUCTION.

It is the intent of these regulations to assure that new construction, including additions to existing improvements, is congruous with the special character of the district. In considering new construction, the Commission and/or the Planner shall direct design that it is harmonious with the character of the district. If a small outbuilding is 150 square feet or less or an addition of a home is a 250 square feet or less a massing study is not required.

Consultation with the Swansboro Historic Preservation Commission in the early stages of a new construction project to become familiar with its procedures and aspects of design is recommended.

Massing studies enable graphic analysis of the shape, form, size and building envelope of proposed new construction. The massing study provides the applicant with a way to document the proposed building height and scale, and other elements of the proposed construction as they relate to nearby existing buildings, especially in the block.

MASSING STUDY

1) Engage a state-licensed architect or engineer to prepare a massing study. This massing study shall include an existing conditions plan (including, but not limited to, showing topography, any significant trees, and utilities,) and a proposed condition site plan. Plans shall be prepared with a scale of 1 inch = 20 feet or of a size easily reviewed by staff and the Swansboro Historic Commission.

SITE PLACEMENT

2) Maintain a similar front, side, and rear yard setback to other contributing and non-contributing buildings on the block and/or side of the street.

3) Orient the building's front entrance similar to other contributing and non-contributing structures on the block and/or side of the street. Use architectural elements such as porches to define new entrances.

4) Maintain the pattern of building separation and lot coverage that is found on the block and/or side of the street.

5) Place outbuildings and accessory structures in rear yards. Avoid locations that obscure the principal building's prominent architectural features or significant site features.

6) Make the proposed landscaping, groundcover, and any pavement treatment for the site compatible with surrounding properties on the block and in the historic district.

7) Minimize ground disturbance during new construction to avoid unnecessary damage to unknown archaeological resources.

BUILDING HEIGHT/SCALE

8) Maintain a building height that is consistent with the height of contributing buildings found on the block or side of the street. Residential buildings traditionally range from one to two and one-half stories in height, while commercial buildings range in height from one to four stories.

9) Make the scale (the relationship of a building's mass and details to a human being) of the proposed building compatible with the scale of other contributing structures in the historic district. This relationship to building mass should include nearby buildings in the block and adjoining open space.

10) Design the proportion (the ratio of height to width) of the proposed new building and its architectural elements to be consistent with the proportion of contributing buildings and their associated architectural elements in the historic district.

11) Use windows and doors in new construction that are compatible in proportion, shape, location, pattern, and size with windows and doors of contributing buildings in the historic district.

MATERIALS

12) Keep the siding and trim material of the proposed building consistent with materials traditionally used on the immediate block and in the historic district. This includes the physical elements of the building, such as stone or wood walls, brick, fencing, landscaping mass, building facades and other elements, or combinations thereof.

13) The use of synthetic products such as vinyl siding and other modern day products marketed to imitate traditional building materials are permitted but not encouraged.

14) Use materials in traditional ways. New materials should appear as if they were applied in a traditional manner so as to convey the same visual appearance as historically used and applied building materials.

DETAILS

15) Use architectural details on the building that complement the architectural details of contributing structures on the block and/or side of the street.

16) Avoid exact replications of historic buildings and their architectural elements. Such efforts may provide a false sense of history by confusing the age of a "new" building.

17) Provide a date brick or other exterior date identification marker on all new construction to assist future generations in the dating of buildings.

TEXTURE

18) Create in new construction a similar degree of texture that is found in contributing buildings in the historic district. However, concentrate on the ability to blend rather than duplication. Texture is the relief on a building surface that is achieved through the use and interaction of a variety of building materials and shapes. Materials such as weatherboard

siding, decorative fish-scale shingles, and beaded board porch ceilings are examples of wooden architectural elements that have different physical and visual qualities and contribute to the “texture” of a building surface.

19) Use traditional building materials in traditional locations to achieve texture.

COLOR

20) Choose exterior colors for new construction that will blend and work with the surrounding buildings and area.

FORM AND RHYTHM

21) Design new construction that reflects the basic shapes and forms found on the block and in the historic district.

22) Maintain a consistency in roof shape between new construction and the contributing structures found on the block and/or side of the street. Roof forms commonly found in the historic district include gable varieties with an average pitch of 7/12 or greater, hipped roofs in the residential areas, and flat roofed buildings in the late 19th and early 20th century commercial downtown with storefront facades.

23) Maintain similar percentages and patterns of window and door openings. Openings which vary considerably from the established patterns found on the block in which the new construction is placed will tend to have a disruptive effect on the desired harmony of the streetscape.

24) Create form and rhythm in new construction through the use of architectural elements and details. Study neighboring historic structures on the block to see if a consistent treatment of elements exists and emulate this pattern in the new construction. However, limit the amount in which one new building emulates a contributing building unless the building is a reproduction of an existing contributing building from the Town’s Historic District. In which case, a key stone should be imbedded in the foundation to identify when the new building was built.

(Ord. 2005-03, passed 3-15-2005; Am. Ord. 2021-03, passed 5-24-2021; Am. Ord. 2023-02, passed 1-23-2023)