

The Elm Heights Historic District is established to promote a sense of community among a diverse population by working toward a set of flexible goals that include preservation and protection of our neighborhood's diverse architectural significance and retention of its historical integrity and fabric. To encourage a balanced approach, the district adopts a set of flexible guidelines that focuses on the conservation of green spaces, the ability to age gracefully in place, and ecologically sound energy practices including alternative energy sources, as well as a working relationship with the city.

The Elm Heights Subcommittee

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These Design Guidelines were developed by residents of the Elm Heights Historic District. They are intended to assist homeowners by helping them make informed decisions about their historic homes and properties. Much of the information provided here contains simple instructions concerning the treatment and repair of older materials in ways that will make them last. The underlying goal is to preserve the elements of the district that create its historic atmosphere but also to acknowledge the advantages of reuse, renovation, and repair.

New with these guidelines is a section on sustainability and the use of new technologies. We hope to encourage their use by integrating them into our guidelines in clear and actionable ways.

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Place Map Here

1.4 History of Elm Heights

Place History Here

1.5 DESIGN GUIDELINES OVERVIEW

Classification

Following historic preservation laws and ordinances, all homes within a district are classified in one of four categories:

- o **Outstanding** - an outstanding resource so significant that it is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- o **Notable** - a building that, upon further research, may be eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- o **Contributing** – a building that meets the basic criterion of being at least 40 years old but is not sufficiently significant to stand on its own.
- o **Non-contributing** – a building either too recently built or so severely altered so as to be no longer contributing to the historic fabric of the district. Non-contributing properties will have less restrictive review of existing exterior building changes, but additions and setting elements will require review.

It is customary to refer to outstanding, notable, and contributing resources as “contributing” because they all have historic value. The architectural and historic significance of the property is always considered first. If you live in an outstanding home, changes to the exterior will be more sensitive than in a non-contributing or contributing home.

Unique Materials

Historic resources illustrate the past and instruct us about the different ways that we have lived as a society. Durable and natural materials like wood, limestone, and slate were the original building materials and have the added advantage of being able to endure much longer than modern petroleum-based replacement products. It is important to prioritize repair and replacement in kind rather than wholesale replacement with inferior materials.

Visibility

The presentation of the house or property to the street, its public interface, is its most important asset. When possible, major changes should be placed on secondary elevations, taking care not to damage existing historic materials. Throughout the guidelines, we use the term “visible from the

public right-of-way” to highlight this emphasis. Temporary visibility obstructions like fences and landscaping do not remove a property or its features from the review process. This document and the Commission are dedicated to finding the least obtrusive solution for those proposals while implementing suggested changes.

New Construction

Additions and new accessory structures should be consistent in style and scale to the main structure. New residences should be compatible with surrounding contributing properties in placement, proportion, scale, materials, features, and setting.

1.6 HOW TO USE THESE DESIGN GUIDELINES

Start with the index and find the topic appropriate to your project.

Is it repairing an existing building?

Is it new construction?

What materials are affected?

Each topic in this booklet is divided into four sections:

1. Description

Defines the subject and its importance, then describes how it relates to the Elm Heights neighborhood.

2. Preservation Goals

Clearly explains the neighborhood’s as well as the Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission’s approach to the feature or action and the goals we hope to achieve by means of the Guidelines.

3. Guidelines

These are the items that must be reviewed by the Commission and require a Certificate of Appropriateness. This section outlines desired treatments and things to avoid and is always set aside in a graphic box.

4. Things to Consider as You Plan

Provides additional helpful information about the care and maintenance of historic homes and property in Elm Heights.

1.7 CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is issued by Bloomington Historic Preservation Commission (BHPC) after reviewing plans for proposed work on a designated historic building. The BHPC reviews these applications or proposals for work based on the guidelines in this book. Guidelines do not dictate; they provide a range of ways to approach specific design issues. If the proposed changes are generally in conformance with the information in this document, then a COA is issued.

During the meeting, BHCP members may suggest changes to bring the application into conformance. A COA must have an official response from the Commission within 30 days of filing a complete application. The COA should be presented with the building permit application. A COA is much like a building permit, which the property owner must display in a prominent location at the site where the work is taking place.

Projects that do not require a COA

These guidelines for preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and new construction in Elm Heights ensure that everyone's investment in the neighborhood is protected. Some minor reviews can be done at the staff level. Please call Commission staff for more information (349-3507)

You do not need to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for the following:

- Anything not visible from a public right-of-way (See "Visibility" above for more information)
- Re-roofing if using the same type of roofing materials, for example, asphalt to asphalt of the same style. This would be considered an "in-kind" exchange.
- Repair of concrete walkways if not changing design. Changes from limestone or brick or other original materials to concrete would require a COA.
- Routine maintenance, for example, the re-glazing of a broken window pane or minor repairs done in-kind (of the same or similar materials).
- Removal of dead or invasive trees
- Changing paint color where paint is the existing application
- Any change to the interior of your home
- Temporary seasonal fences for gardening
- Flower and vegetable gardens and tree pruning
- Installation of rain barrels if copper gutters are not involved

2.0 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability, in all its aspects, is a critical issue for our community, and the residents of Elm Heights Historic District recognize the intimate connection between sustainability and historic preservation. The guidelines set forth in this document support the goals of sustainability, and a flexible, solution-oriented approach should be used to balance cost-effective implementation of sustainability initiatives with preservation of the historic character of Elm Heights. As laid out in the City of Bloomington's Sustainability Initiative, there are three components to sustainability that fall under the broad categories of environmental health, social well-being, and economic prosperity. Through the following discussion of the connection between historic preservation and sustainability in these three areas, we clarify how sustainability principles motivate many of the preservation guidelines in this document and explain why those interested in developing a sustainable future for our community support the creation of the Elm Heights Historic District.

Environmental Health

The environmental component of sustainability is often the primary focus when discussing historic buildings. However, sustainable development and conservation of resources share a common goal: a building that uses less energy and creates lower carbon emissions. When an existing building is demolished, the embodied energy that went into its creation is lost. More energy is expended to demolish and haul away the building materials, while the debris further burdens landfills. Although some may think that new construction will be more efficient, it can take decades of utility savings in a new building, even a "green" one, to equal the loss of energy represented by the demolition. An additional carbon debt is incurred in building the new structure, and this can require additional decades of energy savings to offset.

Resource conservation and preservation is sustainability in its most basic manifestation. Historic properties are often the best candidates for energy upgrades and reuse because many older buildings already incorporated natural ventilation and lighting features. Moreover, they were constructed for longevity with durable materials that embody sustainability. A good illustration of this is existing windows, which can usually be repaired and upgraded. When old windows are replaced, it can take many more years of energy savings to recoup the cost of the new windows when compared with the lower cost to repair the old ones and add storm windows. Replacement windows are often not very durable compared with the originals, and their manufacture typically involves use of fossil fuels and the creation of toxic byproducts. Similarly, preservation of mature tree canopy and green space, in addition to creating a pleasant atmosphere, contributes to sustainability in several ways, including energy conservation and water management.

Social Well-Being

Neighborhoods like Elm Heights encourage sustainable life styles. There is demonstrated value to living on small urban lots, flanked by alleys, with ready access to downtown by foot and bicycle. In contrast to more modern housing developments, the Elm Heights Neighborhood, with its small bungalows, duplexes, rooming houses, and elegant larger homes, provides a wide variety of housing options, all within easy access to public transportation, downtown resources, and education opportunities from kindergarten through college. Preservation of older neighborhoods, with their compact form,

walkability, and green space, help retain the social fabric of the city by encouraging neighbor interaction and outdoor activities. The values supported are inherent: thrift, energy conservation, and personal health. Historic landscapes, sites, structures, buildings, and features form a neighborhood's unique identity, and preservation of these resources maintains a connection to the community's heritage. Intact historic neighborhoods engender a sense of place and anchor a resident's identity with the community.

Economic Prosperity

The economic benefit of historic preservation and historic districts is well documented, including increased property values, owner-occupancy, and local job creation in rehabilitation industries. As quality of life improves and investments are made, similar positive effects are experienced by surrounding areas. Rehabilitation projects generate both direct and indirect economic benefits. The local purchase of labor and materials is the direct benefit, while the manufacture and transport of materials are indirect benefits. With the increasing cost of energy, conservation through rehabilitation is also a measurable economic benefit

Alternative Energy and Other Sustainability Practices

As laid out in the discussions above, historic preservation and sustainability are mutually reinforcing activities. However, some sustainability practices are not directly related to historic preservation and have, in other communities, been treated as potentially undesirable because of the alterations they might require in an historic property. There is, however, a growing national recognition that alternative energy and ecologically sound practices should be an integral part of historic preservation in any viable future for a community. This requires use of a flexible and balanced approach that acknowledges the importance of adapting new technologies and ecological practices, such as rainwater collection and solar energy collectors, in efficient and affordable ways, while, at the same time, remaining sensitive to preservation of historic features and the overall character and appearance of the neighborhood.

The guidelines for Sustainability and Energy Retrofits in Section 5.5 are written with the combined goals of preservation and sustainability in mind. Property owners, the Neighborhood Association, and the Historic Preservation Commission will collaborate as partners in finding workable and cost-effective solutions to preserve our homes while improving the environment. In this way, the Elm Heights Historic District is at the forefront of a national movement to combine historic preservation and sustainability efforts in a mutually supportive way.

3.0 NEIGHBORHOOD SITE AND SETTING

Elm Heights is Bloomington's largest historic district and one of its most historic, architecturally diverse and significant neighborhoods. Building setbacks, trees and landscaping, fencing and walls, alleys, parking areas and walkways, garages, and accessory buildings all comprise elements of a neighborhood setting. How these elements relate to each other and to a primary building create the individual site setting. How the individual sites and settings relate to each other along the streetscape creates an integrated neighborhood. Unguided alterations to, or outright losses of, any one of these characteristics may damage the fragile overall cohesiveness of an historic neighborhood.

Constructed on a traditional grid pattern, the connections of streets and alleyways in Elm Heights provide both direct and indirect links throughout the neighborhood. Streets provide the formality of public access links, while the alleys link to back yards and places of more private access. Many of these alleys remain gravel, a valued neighborhood feature that lends a sense of history and a less-urban feel to the neighborhood. Alleys encourage safe strolling for pedestrians who wish to explore the less well known corners of the neighborhood.

Unique to Elm Heights are limestone sculptures, urns, steps, and benches, all monuments to our region's limestone history. Many limestone artifacts are unique to their sites, and we feel strongly that they should remain in their original historic settings. Likewise, walls and fences were designed and constructed as integral elements to the buildings they surround. Existing stone walls, both WPA built and dry laid, are treasured neighborhood features. Preserving and maintaining them ensures retention of another character-defining element of Elm Heights.

Our neighborhood is also known for its mature, established landscaping and tree canopy. Although its trees, plantings, and landscaping vary, they create an overall neighborhood ambiance. Steps and walkways invite visitors in from the sidewalks, and the availability of off-street parking and side or rear garages allows houses to remain the primary focus of the neighborhood. Locally designated in 1979, some of the few original street lamps in the city still grace Hawthorne Drive.

Preservation Goals for the Neighborhood Setting

To retain, preserve, maintain, and respect distinctive, character-defining features of the neighborhood or building sites such as tree plots, mature trees, landscaping; fences and walls; limestone objects and elements; walkways and steps; lighting and alleyways; and building setbacks.

To avoid changes in paving, lighting, fencing, and pedestrian or vehicular traffic flow that disrupts the relationship between buildings and their environment.

3.1 Trees and Landscaping

Preservation Goals for Tree and Landscaping

To maintain the mature canopy that is associated with the historic Elm Heights Neighborhood by the care and planting of appropriate trees and gradual removal of invasive trees.

Guidelines for Trees and Landscaping

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

I. Removal of a mature tree that is visible from the public right-of-way.

A mature tree is:

- a) a shade tree that is twelve inches in diameter or larger,
 - b) an ornamental tree that is four inches in diameter or fifteen feet high, or
 - c) an evergreen tree that is eight inches in diameter or fifteen feet high.
- Dead trees do not require a COA for removal. Consult with the City staff person to the Historic Preservation Commission regarding diseased, dying, or infested trees.
 - Invasive trees as defined in the City of Bloomington Tree Care Manual do not require a COA (see Section 7.5)
 - When re-planting, refer to the City of Bloomington's Tree Care Manual for recommendations.
 - Retain historic landscape edging; do not introduce historically inappropriate edging materials and colors.

Things to Consider as You Plan

Periodic pruning of mature trees by a certified arborist can help ensure the tree's health and the safety of pedestrians or site features below it. However, the complete removal of mature, healthy trees should be considered only for compelling reasons because the loss of such trees diminishes the neighborhood and site setting. Assistance with all aspects of tree care, including the selection of appropriate tree species for planting, can be found in the City of Bloomington Tree Care Manual. Within the list of undesirable trees (see Section 7.5), it is important to note this list may only be for tree plot application and does not refer to what may be acceptable in private yards. However, those listed as invasive should never be planted. Remember that the underground structure of a tree is as large as the above ground portion that we can see. Placing trees in close proximity to retaining walls and basements may cause their eventual erosion and collapse. Make sure to consider how large your new tree will be at maturity when choosing a species and variety.

Mature plantings require sensitive treatment particularly while on-site construction is taking place. The roots of established trees should be protected from soil compaction and ground disturbance with temporary fencing, preferably located at the outer drip line, during construction, when new trees are planted; careful consideration with regard to placement will avoid potential

threat to historic structures as the tree matures. Refer to the City's Tree Care manual for guidance; insert website. Choose locations that will not damage buildings through moisture retention, root invasion, and limb movement.

Often, small landscape elements like edging can introduce incompatible colors and materials into a historic environment. The building's architecture and historic features, as well as those of the neighborhood, should be considered when determining the design and materials. Brightly colored materials, plastic, tires, logs, or railroad ties introduce historically inappropriate materials into the neighborhood and gradually erode its integrity of setting.

Planting a large deciduous tree on the south side of your home to shade your roof and windows can greatly reduce cooling costs in the summer. Asphalt in the shade stays 25 degrees cooler, this results in reduced heat island effects, increased efficiency in your home cooling system, and increased moisture retention in surrounding soil.

3.2 Trellises, Pergolas, Gazebos, and Similar Small Structures

Preservation Goals for Trellises, Pergolas, Gazebos, and Similar Small Structures

To maintain and construct secondary yard structures that are compatible with historic materials and templates.

Guidelines for Trellises, Pergolas, Gazebos, and Similar Small Structures

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded item. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

I. Construction or removal of trellises, pergolas, and similar structures that are visible from the public right-of-way.

- Construct trellises, pergolas, gazebos, and similar small structures of historically appropriate materials such as wood or metal, and design them in keeping with the architecture of the house.

Things to Consider as You Plan

It is preferable to identify, preserve, and maintain existing trellises, pergolas, and similar structures that may have historic value. Some may be integral to the original design or style of the house. For information on preservation methods, refer to Section 4, Existing Building Materials, for guidance.

3.3 Walls and Fences

Due to rolling topography, this neighborhood has many retaining walls along alleys and streets. Most of them are of split face limestone, but sandstone and other masonry are also represented. Traditional fencing materials include wrought iron, picket, and woven wire.

Preservation Goals for Walls and Fences

To insure that new construction is compatible with historic walls and fences in materials, form, and scale.

To maintain, repair, and restore existing historic walls and fences that are significant to the neighborhood.

Guidelines for Walls and Fences

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

I. Installation or removal of walls or fences visible from the public right-of-way.

- For new fences, use historically appropriate materials for Elm Heights which, depending on the type and style of architecture, may include iron, stone, brick, or wood.
- New retaining walls should be appropriate in height to the grade of the yard. Rear yard concrete block retaining walls may be considered depending on position, visibility, and design.
- Install new walls or fences so the total height does not obscure the primary facade of the building.
- Installation of rear yard fences should begin no farther forward than a point midway between the front and rear facades of the house.
- Consideration is given for fences that pertain to special needs, children, and dogs. Temporary seasonal fences for gardening are permitted and do not require a COA

II. Reconstruction of historic walls and fences

Things to Consider as You Plan

Historic walls and fences should be restored and maintained using the appropriate methods for the materials. Refer to Section 4, Existing Buildings Materials, for helpful information on maintenance and reconstruction of historic stone or metal fences and walls. Make sure that your new fence also complies with the setback and height restrictions stipulated by the City of Bloomington. Hedges and other plant barriers are encouraged as long as they do not obscure the primary facade of the building

3.4 Walkways and Automobile Areas

Automobiles were just coming into their own during the time of Elm Heights development. Although they were prized possessions, they were nevertheless placed out of view. Where alleys were available, garages and parking areas were placed at the rear of the lot or sometimes beneath the grade of the house, away from the primary façade. If an alley was not available, a narrow inconspicuous drive was used to access a garage in the rear yard, under the house, or a small attached garage. Attached garages were invariably set back from the front facade with a 2nd floor or an outdoor terrace above.

Preservation Goals for Walkways and Automobile Access

To maintain the traditional patterns established within the neighborhood for driveways, walkways, and alleys.

To avoid open areas for car storage visible from primary streets.

Guidelines for Walkways and Automobile Areas

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

- I. Installation, removal, or expansion of all driveways and parking areas, as well as walkways visible from the public right-of-way.**
 - Design walkways, driveways, and parking areas in keeping with the neighborhood setting.
 - Locate parking at the rear of the property and screen appropriately.
 - Protect and maintain mature trees, plantings, and green space as much as possible when planning parking areas.
 - Refer to the guidelines for Accessibility, Safety, and Aging in Place(Section 5.6) when planning disability access.
 - Pervious pavers or pavements cannot be used in exchange for green space requirements.

Things to Consider as You Plan

When available, use the traditional alley network for access to garages or parking areas. To help preserve green space, city code prohibits parking areas larger than 20 by 20 ft. unless the property is zoned multifamily. Other restrictions may apply; please contact City Planning for more information.

3.5 Lighting

Iron street lamps on Hawthorne Drive were purchased by the original homeowners and installed in tree plots to be maintained by the City. Smaller homes often had fixtures on porches and a lamp post at the beginning of the sidewalk or stair for ambiance and safety.

Preservation Goals for Lighting

To maintain and preserve the historic lighting standards and fixtures in Elm Heights.

To maintain and restore the ambient low intensity lighting that is traditional in the neighborhood.

Guidelines for Lighting

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

- I. **Installation or removal of exterior lighting visible from the public right-of-way.**
 - Install historically appropriate exterior lighting that is low-intensity.
 - Locate lights to minimize light pollution and other adverse impacts to surrounding properties, streets, and alleyways.
 - Install light fixtures so as to minimize damage to historic building materials. Avoid removal of character-defining building features when installing light fixtures.

Things to Consider as You Plan

Identify and then repair, restore, and maintain historic exterior light fixtures when feasible. Lighting fixtures of this era were made from high quality materials that are easily repairable and are difficult and expensive to replace. If replacements are necessary, choose reproduction light fixtures that are appropriate to the architectural style or time period of the house. Shining light upward is historically inappropriate and should be avoided.

When choosing outdoor light fixtures, minimizing light pollution is an important consideration. Light pollution is the result of inefficient outdoor lighting that shines light upwards or in other directions where the light is neither needed nor wanted. This not only wastes energy and irritates neighbors but can also affect wildlife and is actually counterproductive to the purposes for which

outdoor lighting is usually intended. Unshielded lights do not direct as much light downward where it is useful, and the associated glare of unshielded or overly bright outdoor lighting can

actually make it more difficult to see steps, sidewalks, and people in the shadows outside the lighted area because your vision becomes less dark-adapted. The increase of upward shining light over recent decades has blotted out the natural beauty of the night sky near concentrations of population, because upwardly directed light, when scattered by particles in the atmosphere, produces a bright background sky through which stars, planets, and nebulae become more difficult to see. Reducing light pollution is one of many ways in which we can sustain our natural as well as historic environment, and it is not hard to do. First, be sure that the outdoor lighting you plan is really necessary. If so, then make sure that the fixtures you choose are properly shielded and shine all their light downward on your own property. Choose lights that are no brighter than required for your purpose, and use energy-efficient light emitters. More information on security and accessibility lighting can be found in Section-5.6.

3.6 Other Landscape Features

Elm Heights has many features designed and installed with the development of the area that make it unique. Included in the original sale of the lots were a locally crafted limestone birdbath and bench. There were also a significant number of residents involved in the limestone industry that lived in the neighborhood and exhibited their craft and livelihood on their homes and in their yards. Limestone Preservation sculptures still dot the area and add to its visual interest and charm.

Goals for Other Landscape Features

To retain distinctive and historic features which make the neighborhood unique..

To encourage the placement of inappropriate features and modern updates or mechanical service equipment in unobtrusive locations or screen them appropriately.

Guidelines for Other Landscape Features

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

- I. Moving, removing, historic decorative yard features and artifacts visible from a public right-of-way.**
 - Retain contributing limestone, wooden, or metal features; their removal requires either a COA or staff approval.
 - Addition of decorative features such as sculptures and benches do not require a COA.
 - Shifting a decorative yard feature for its maintenance or safety does not require a COA, but the feature should not be removed from the property.

- II. Installation of service and technical equipment visible from the public right-of-way.**
 - Locate service, mechanical, electrical, or technical equipment such as satellite dishes, substations, central air conditioning equipment, or heat exchangers so they are not visible from the street. Refer to the guidelines for Sustainability and Energy Retrofits (Section 5.5) when installing energy-generating technologies.
 - Screen equipment so it does not disrupt the integrity of the site or building's architecture.
 - Historic materials should not be damaged or removed when installing equipment whenever feasible.

- III. Installation of swimming pools and permanently installed yard equipment visible from the public right-of-way such as playgrounds, barbecue pits, greenhouses, and pet enclosures.**
 - Locate equipment in the rear yard, and site, landscape, and/or screen them so they are not within public view.
 - In-ground pools are preferable to above-ground pools. Take into consideration the possibility of damage to surrounding historic vegetation, outbuildings, and other features when determining the location.
 - Locate historically inappropriate items to be as inconspicuous as possible.

Things to Consider as You Plan

Great caution should be used if you move limestone objects; they are very heavy but brittle and can shatter or chip easily. See Section-4.2 for care and maintenance of limestone. If you must move limestone artifacts, it is recommended that you pad them carefully and make sure their new location has a stable base that will not shift during freeze and thaw cycles. Limestone planters and birdbaths should be carefully emptied and covered for the winter to prevent cracking and spalling.

Use of service equipment is an inevitable part of homeownership; staff level approvals are available for small-scale installations. Swimming pools can be very obtrusive and space-consuming and can involve new screening, pervious surface, and landscape considerations. Because of their potential impact on the historic neighborhood, they require a full review by the Commission. Creative ways of screening and buffering are encouraged.

Some yard features that do not require review are rain barrels and cloths lines. These traditional items should be placed at the rear or side of a home or be screened from public view in some way. Consider painting additions such as these in a complementary or corresponding color scheme. If adding a rain barrel, please note that changes to copper gutters or downspouts require a COA or staff approval.

4.0. EXISTING BUILDINGS AND MATERIALS

4.1 Wood

Although wood is not the most commonly used building material in Elm Heights, there are still many clapboard and a few shingle houses. Masonry homes and other structures have decorative embellishments and functional wooden features that play an important role in the character of the building. Other uses include fences, gates, and garden features around the neighborhood.

Preservation Goals for Wood

To retain, preserve, and restore original exterior wood siding materials, decorative embellishments, and functional wooden features through repair, cleaning, painting, and routine maintenance.

Guidelines for Wood

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

- I. Reconstruction of missing or installation of new functional or decorative wooden elements visible from the public right-of-way, such as doors, windows, siding, shingles, cornices, architraves, brackets, pediments, columns, balustrades, shutters, decorative panels, pergolas, trellises, fences, gates, and architectural trim.**
 - Replace missing elements based on accurate documentation of the original or use a compatible new design.
 - Only consider substitute materials if using the original material is inadvisable or unfeasible.
- II. Removal or covering of functional or decorative wooden elements as outlined above and facing or visible from the public right-of-way.**
 - Structurally sound, painted historic wood siding should not be replaced with new siding to achieve a uniform smooth surface
 - Historic wood siding, trim, or window sashes should not be replaced or covered with contemporary substitute materials.
 - Although paint color is not reviewed in the Elm Heights Historic District, graphics and lettering are not appropriate.

Things to Consider as You Plan

Wooden features and surfaces on a building should be maintained and repaired in a manner that enhances their inherent qualities and maintains their original character. A regular maintenance program can extend the life of wood for 200 years and more. Yearly inspection of surfaces and trim with prompt application of caulk and paint will keep repairs to a minimum. Do not attempt caulking sealing or carpentry repairs unless the area is clean, dry, and free of all loose material. Surface preparation is key to the long-term success of your efforts. Painting over dirt or chalking and scaling surfaces will cause adhesion problems and any untreated mold or mildew will continue to grow and discolor your new paint. Flexible sealants and paintable waterproof caulking protect wooden joinery from moisture penetration as the wood shrinks and swells. A sound paint film protects wooden surfaces from deterioration due to ultraviolet light and moisture.

Repair or replacement of deteriorated wooden elements or surfaces may involve selective replacement of portions in kind through splicing or piecing. Although wood is a renewable resource new wood is less resistant to decay than the denser old growth wood it is replacing. Specifying decay-resistant wood species and priming the back and ends with a quality primer prior to installation can extend the lifespan of replacement wood. Borates and other pathogen-killing agents can be used to treat rot and insect damage, and the application of a penetrating epoxy may help stabilize and replace the deteriorated portion of historic wood features or details in place. For wood elements particularly vulnerable to ongoing damage—such as window sills, column bases and capitals—replacement with painted synthetic elements that replicate the original shape, texture, dimensions, and details may be a viable and cost-effective solution.

Many substitute siding materials are not as durable or environmentally friendly as wood. In evaluating a possible substitute material, careful consideration should be given to the sustainability of its manufacturing process and its lifespan as well as its physical characteristics. Resurfacing a wooden building with synthetic siding materials, such as aluminum, vinyl, asbestos, and asphalt, change the shadow lines of the historic structure. Although we are led to believe these replacement products have a permanent maintenance-free finish, they eventually require repainting or replacement. Using impervious sheathing materials can endanger the historic structure by concealing maintenance issues such as insect infestations, water infiltration, and mold growth. At their best, synthetic sidings conceal the historic fabric of a building, and, at their worst, they remove or destroy the historic materials and craftsmanship so beautifully displayed in our area.

Lumber from trees that grew very slowly in a natural forest have narrow growth rings and a tight grain.

It is stronger, harder and more dimensionally stable, with superior rot and insect resistance than modern tree farm products.

4.2 Masonry

Limestone and brick are the most prominent and pervasive building materials in Elm Heights. The most historically notable are the limestone homes and features as well as building elements, surfaces, and details executed in carved, cut, and split stone. Many limestone sculptors, cutters, and quarry owners built houses in the neighborhood during the peak of quarry production in the 20's and 30's. They proudly displayed their art and livelihood in the design and building of their homes and gardens. Even small bungalows and cottages have sturdy retaining and garden walls, foundations, steps, and benches made of this locally available resource. Although other masonry materials such as brick, sandstone, geodes, terracotta, and stucco were used, limestone was queen.

Stately brick homes with limestone or wood embellishments are well represented in the neighborhood along with a 1926 school building. Examples of homes using sandstone, and tapestry, rusticated, or colored brick are scattered throughout the area. A few striking clay and slate tile roofs sometimes incorporating colors or patterns also remain.

One of the key goals of the Elm Heights district is to preserve the local limestone heritage through careful stewardship of irreplaceable historic features.

Preservation Goals for Masonry

To retain and restore original exterior masonry surfaces, decorative embellishments, statuary, and functional features through repair, cleaning, tuck pointing, and routine maintenance.

Guidelines for Masonry

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process

I. Removal of masonry or stone features or structures that contribute to the historic character of the property.

- Retain masonry features and statuary that contribute to the historic character of a site. These include but are not restricted to structures, foundations, columns, arches, porches, decorative panels, patios, fenestration, balustrades, lintels, sills, key stones, spouts, brackets, flower boxes, steps, railings, copings, walks, walls, retaining walls, birdbaths, benches, urns, pots, sculptures, fountains, ponds, barbeque grills, landscape edging, and cistern or well caps.

II. Reconstruction or change to a historic masonry or stone feature, structure or surface.


- Match mortar composition to historic construction and materials to prevent future damage to masonry or stone.
- Retained and duplicated distinctive construction features and finish including bond and mortar patterns, width, profile, texture, and color.
- Provide adequate drainage to prevent water from collecting around, behind, or under structures or features.
- It is not appropriate to apply a waterproof coating or to paint exposed masonry or stone.

III. Addition of a permanent masonry or brick feature to a historic property

Things to Consider as You Plan

Masonry surfaces develop beautiful patina over time and should be cleaned only when heavy soiling or stains occur. Usually, gentle cleaning using a low-pressure water wash with detergent and the scrubbing action of a natural bristle brush will accomplish the task. Sandstone and limestone are very soft, absorbent materials and should not be treated or cleaned in the same manner as brick or concrete. Their porosity and easily sculpted nature make them vulnerable to etching, staining, and holding chemicals that can continue to act on the stone after it is rinsed.

Water infiltration, with subsequent damage to a masonry wall, is often the result of open or deteriorated mortar joints. Inspect and repaired damaged areas promptly to prevent costly future rebuilding and replacements. If repointing or rebuilding of masonry is required it is extremely important to match the original color, strength, and hardness of the historic mortar. Incorrect mortar composition that is too strong will damage surrounding stone and brick when natural expansion and contraction of the surface occurs. Mortar that is too soft will not give needed structural support causing the joints to collapse and the repair to be repeated.



There are several affordable companies who can analyze your mortar's composition if you send them a sample.

Water trapped behind or pooling around foundations, walls, and features result in damage when capillary action sucks water into the stone causing fracturing and dissolution of stone during the next freeze cycle. To prevent damage, dry and cover all concave limestone features like bird baths and planters before freezing winter weather. Masonry sealers interfere with the natural ability of stone to evaporate moisture from its surface and can aggravate this problem. Trapped moisture will cause spalling (front of the masonry pops off), splitting, and delamination when winter temperatures return. Painting masonry and stone surfaces is not a cost-effective or sustainable practice, it reduces breathability of the material and initiates a frustrating cycle of maintenance involving scraping, sandblasting, sealing, and repainting.

For more information on the care upkeep and restoration of limestone see Section 7.1, Maintenance, Project Planning and Restoration Resources in the Appendix.

4.3 Architectural Metals

Architectural metals hold a significant place in the history of Elm Heights. Metals have been an integral part of the detailing and the surfacing of homes, street elements, and site features since the original development of the neighborhood. The shapes, textures, and detailing of these metals reflect the nature of their manufacture, whether wrought, cast, pressed, rolled, or extruded. Traditional architectural metals, as well as more contemporary metals, are found throughout Elm Heights. These include, copper, tin, terneplate, cast iron, wrought iron, lead, brass, and aluminum.

Metals are commonly used for roofing and guttering applications such as, standing-seam roofs, flashing, gutters, downspouts, finials, cornices, copings, and crestings. Original copper guttering and steel windows retain the charm and historical importance of our area. Other architectural elements including storm doors, vents and grates, casement windows and industrial sash, railings, hardware, decorative features and trim work are often crafted or detailed in metal. These details make Elm Heights not only spectacular to look at but also unique in appearance. Architectural metals also appear throughout Elm Heights in the form of fences, gates, streetlights, signs, site lighting, statuary, fountains, and grates.

In addition to all of the above, our neighborhood is home to Lustron houses. These prefabricated, enameled steel homes were produced following WWII in an effort to reduce housing shortages due to the return of service personnel.

Preservation Goals for Architectural Metals

To retain and restore the original architectural metals of buildings and sites through repair, coating and routine maintenance. If the original metal elements are deteriorated beyond repair, they should be replaced with components of the same material(s) and design when/where feasible

Guidelines for Architectural Metals

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item assist applicants with the COA process.

I. Removal, replacement, or restoration of existing architectural metal elements including roofing and gutter applications, steel windows, casement windows and industrial sash, storm doors, vents, grates, railings, fencing, and all decorative features of architectural metal elements that are integral components of the building or site and visible from the right-of-way.

- Replace missing elements based on accurate documentation of the original or use a compatible new design. Consider compatible substitute materials only if using the original material is not technically feasible.

II. Addition of permanent metal features including but not restricted to: buildings, roofs, doors, windows, trim, fencing and other architectural elements.

- The installation of new metal garden artwork or decorative item(s) do not require a COA.

Things to Consider You Plan

Preserving architectural metal surfaces and details requires routine maintenance and regular inspection to prevent their deterioration due to the elements or structural fatigue. Early detection of corrosion in metal surfaces is therefore essential to reduce costs. Maintaining a watertight paint film is critical to the life of your metal details. The removal of all rust, followed by priming with a zinc-based primer or other rust inhibitor are important first steps. Copper and bronze surfaces should never be painted as they develop a characteristic patina over time. When corroded metals become fragile, coating with a rust converter may be the best solution to halting further damage. Unpainted soft metal elements like brass or bronze hardware may be protected from corrosion with a clear lacquer following a proper cleaning.

If a feature of a painted metal element, such as a decorative cornice, is missing or deteriorated, replacement in kind may not be feasible. In such a case the replication of the detail in fiberglass, wood, or aluminum may be appropriate.

Asphalt products such as roofing tar corrode metals and should never be used to patch flashing or other metal surfaces.

The care of metals can be a complicated and complex task. Consult with a specialist or the Historic Preservation Commission to best restore or maintain your metal features.

4.4 Roofs

The Elm Heights Historic District is exceptional in the use of fine roofing materials that are increasingly rare in modern construction. Be aware that the salvage value of these materials alone may entice contractors to suggest replacement. Any change in materials requires a COA. Some of these materials are associated with a specific style of architecture, for example, tile roofs on Spanish Colonial homes. Others are associated with higher quality construction: slate is a more lasting investment than asphalt shingling. Roof shapes may also illustrate styles of architecture. In Elm Heights, the most common style of house is Colonial Revival. Colonial style roof shapes are often an assemblage of simple rectangular forms and are usually side-gabled. In this style, additions on either side of the principal roof of the house may have flat roofs with balustrades, a popular sunroom type. This is a typical form that may be appropriate for new additions on existing colonial homes. Roofs are a key element expressing the quality, level of detail, and substance of the historic district as a whole.

Preservation Goals for Roofs

To ensure the structural soundness of the building by preventing moisture damage.

To retain and restore original roofs and special features such as unique materials, cresting, box gutters, dormers, cornices, cupolas and chimneys where they are significant to the design of the building, through routine maintenance and repairs.

To minimize impacts to historic roofs and street views through appropriate design when adding new features, room additions, or energy retrofits.

Guidelines for Roofs

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

I.

A change in the appearance, either shape or materials, of a roof or roof feature, including guttering.

- Replace only the deteriorated portion of a historic roof and use substitute materials only if using the original material is not technically feasible. If full replacement is necessary, replace it “in kind”, matching the original in materials, scale, detail, pattern, and design.
- If a historic roof feature is completely missing, replace it with a new feature based on accurate documentation of the original feature or a new design compatible in scale, size, material, and color with the historic building and district.
- If new gutters and downspouts are needed, install them so that no architectural features are lost or damaged. For modest postwar roofs, galvanized metal may be an appropriate choice. Retain the shape of traditional half-round gutters and downspouts. Historically, copper guttering is not painted.

- When attempting to introduce new roof features such as skylights, dormers, or vents, locate them so that they minimize damage to the historic roof design, character-defining roof materials, or the character of the historic district.
- Install equipment such as solar collectors or antennae in locations that do not compromise roofs of significant durability (clay or slate) and on roof slopes less visible from the street..

Things to Consider You Plan

Historic roofs should be preserved using methods for resetting or reinforcing rather than replacement. See especially Preservation Briefs #4 General information about roofs, #19 Wood Shingles, #29 Slate Shingles, and #30 Tile Shingles.(include web site) Do not walk on roofs made of clay tile or slate, use scaffolding to distribute weight and prevent damage.

The best way to preserve is always to provide timely maintenance on historic materials. A routine of regular roof inspections, gutter cleaning, and flashing replacement is advisable. When wind damage occurs, the anchors for shingling should be checked. Adequate ventilation of roof sheathing can prevent premature curling and rippling. The distinctive shape of half-round gutters is typical for exposed gutters and preserves cornice crown molding, although some K-style gutters are original to later homes in the neighborhood.

Although most homes today use asphalt or fiberglass tab shingles, roofs made of historic durable and natural materials can last far longer. The life span slate or tile roofs, if well maintained can easily reach 200 years, and they are frequently repairable without wholesale replacement.

Historic roofs create distinctive effects through shapes, materials, or color. Because they usually define an architectural style, the view from the front facade is the most important. This view provides the most public benefit. If existing roofing materials must be replaced, and it is a rare or unique type that is not readily available, then a compatible substitute material should be selected that closely resembles the original. Retaining or replacing “in kind” is important if a roofing material obviously reflects a particular architectural style. Several Elm Heights bungalows illustrate the deep overhanging eaves that were designed to shade the house from direct sunlight and to naturally cool the air. This was a trait of the Craftsman style and it provides real practical utility. The owner of a Craftsman home may be able to manage warmer temperatures by just using the double hung window system and taking advantage of the shade provided by the deeper eaves.

The vast majority of roofs in Elm Heights are fiberglass or asphalt shingle, and their historic significance is slight so do not require a COA for replacement. Even the best quality fiberglass shingle roofs will last only 20 to 30 years before going to the landfill. Metal roofs, with proper maintenance, can also last 100 years. The paint coating on metal roofs should be maintained in good condition.

Adding solar collectors that optimize panel efficiency yet are sensitively placed on historic roofs can be a challenge. It is best to first look for roof planes not visible from the street and in areas where historic roof features will not be damaged. See Section 5.5 on Sustainability and Energy Retrofits for more in depth guidelines on new technology.

4.5 Windows and Doors

Windows and doors are important character-defining features of a building. They present the public “face” of the building and lend texture, movement and color changes that create interest. Those windows and doors with unusual shapes, colors or glazing patterns, or are of an unusual material are particularly important character-defining features that generally cannot be replicated.

Although many types of windows are found in Elm Heights’ homes, a majority of those found in early houses are wooden double-hung windows and metal casement windows. Each sash, depending on the style and the age of the house, may be divided, usually by muntins that hold individual lights (panes) in place. Large multi-paneled, metal frame windows are common in the larger limestone and brick homes. The introduction of mass-produced metal windows and doors contribute to the variety of configurations, like picture windows and clerestories found in post-war architecture, such as those in the Lustron houses in Elm Heights.

Doors with various panel configurations as well as a combination of solid panels and glazing are found throughout the neighborhood. Of special note are the round-topped entrance doors, many with distinctive glass inserts and detailing. Decorative stained, beveled, and etched glass is sometimes found, often in entry sidelights and transoms or individual fixed sash.

Preservation Goals for Windows and Doors

To retain and restore character defining windows and doors with their original materials and features through cleaning, repair, painting and routine maintenance.

Guidelines for Windows and Doors

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

- I. **Removal of any window or door or its unique features outlined above and visible from the public right-of-way.**
 - If original windows, doors, and hardware can be restored and reused, they should not be replaced.
- II. **Restoration, replacement, or the installation of new windows or doors and their character-defining features that are visible from the public right-of-way including sashes, lintels, sills, shutters, awnings, transoms, pediments, molding, hardware, muntins, or decorative glass.**
 - Replace missing elements based on accurate documentation of the original.
 - Consider salvage or custom-made windows or doors to ensure compatibility with original openings and style.
 - New units or materials will be considered for non-character defining features and when the use of the original units or materials has been determined to be inadvisable or unfeasible.
 - Inappropriate treatments of windows and doors, particularly in the primary facades, include:
 - a) creation of new window or door openings

- b) changes in the scale or proportion of existing openings
- c) introduction of inappropriate styles or materials such as vinyl or aluminum or steel replacement doors
- d) addition of cosmetic detailing that creates a style or appearance that the original building never exhibited

- Install shutters only when they are appropriate to the building style and are supported by evidence of previous existence. Proportion the shutters so as to give the appearance of covering the window opening even though they may be fixed in place.
- Install awnings of canvas or another compatible material. Fiberglass or plastic should generally be avoided; however, metal may be appropriate on some later-era homes.

III. Installation of new storm windows or doors visible from the public right-of-way.

- Wood frame storm windows and doors are the most historically preferred option. However, metal blind-stop storm windows or full light storm doors are acceptable. All should be finished to match the trim or be as complimentary in color as possible to the building.

Things to Consider as You Plan

Because rehabilitation projects frequently include proposals to replace doors, window sashes, or even entire windows in the name of improved security, thermal efficiency, or new appearance, it is essential that the contribution of the windows and doors to the overall historic character of the building be assessed together with the physical condition before specific repair or replacement work is undertaken. Improper or insensitive treatment of the windows and doors of a historic building can seriously detract from its architectural character.

Repairing the original windows in an older home is more appropriate, sustainable, and cost-effective than replacing them with new ones. Life-cycle cost analyses indicate replacement windows do not pay for themselves with energy savings. Replacement windows have a finite life and, once historic windows are replaced, the owner will need to replace them cyclically. Wood windows also have a lower carbon footprint than their vinyl counterparts. Please refer to the R-Factor computations included in the Appendix.

Routine maintenance and repair of historic wood windows is essential to keep them weather tight and operable. Peeling paint, high air infiltration, sticking sash, or broken panes are all repairable conditions and do not necessitate replacement. Wood windows are generally easy and inexpensive to repair. For example, changing a sash cord is relatively simple, and lightly coating a window track with paste wax may allow the sash to slide smoothly. The inherent imperfections in historic glass give it a visual quality not replicated by contemporary glass manufacturing and such glazing should be retained.

Refer to the sections on Wood or Architectural Metals for further assistance with repairs and maintenance.

5.0 ADDITIONS, RETROFITS AND NEW CONSTRUCTION

Elm Heights is known for its eclectic interpretation of traditional styles such as Art Deco, Spanish, Tudor, and Colonial Revival. Decorative influences from around the world can be seen throughout the district. The historic district encompasses buildings dating from the 1850s up through the 1950s. Lustron the neighborhood includes a wide spectrum of styles, the predominant historic style era remains that of 1920-1930.

There is also great variation in the size of homes in Elm Heights; many are very modest when compared to new subdivision houses. Traditionally it has been popular to expand the living space envelope of these houses by adding rooms at the back or side and by developing outdoor living spaces with patios, terraces and decks. Larger homes are placed on double lots and set well back from the street giving them a gracious front yard and a smaller private in the back.

It is our goal to preserve the historic integrity of the district while allowing for its livability for the residents. Sometimes change is necessary or desirable for older homes to fulfill their function as the needs of the owner changes. Most or all of these changes should be made in a manner that can be reversed and should not damage or remove irreplaceable historic materials or elements.

5.1 Additions and New Construction

Many types of additions can be fitting as long as they do not damage the home's historic features, materials, style and spatial relationships that characterize the original building and site. Although additions and new construction must be compatible with surrounding historic properties, it should be noted that no two houses in the district are alike and therefore creativity and individuality in interpreting a historic design will be considered. Changes to non-contributing houses are held to less restrictive standards than contributing properties, but additions and setting elements will still require review.

Preservation Goals for Additions and New Construction

To harmonize with adjacent and neighborhood buildings in terms of height, scale, mass, materials, spatial rhythm, and proportion when designing additions and buildings.

To preserve the historic character and elements of contributing properties and their surroundings during new construction of compatible buildings and additions.

Guidelines for Additions and New Construction

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

I. New Structures

- Design new houses and other structures to be compatible with, but discernible from each other and surrounding historic buildings.
- New buildings should be compatible with surrounding contributing properties in massing, proportion, height, scale, placement, and spacing.

- New construction should echo setback, orientation, and spatial rhythms of surrounding properties.
- Roof shape, size of window and door openings and building materials should be primarily compatible with any structure already on the property and with surrounding contributing properties.
- Design new buildings so that the overall character of the site is retained, including its topography, any desirable historic features, and mature trees. Sensitive areas around historic features and mature trees should be roped off before demolition or construction begins.

II. Construction of Additions

- Locate additions so as not to obscure the primary façade of the historic building.
- Retain significant building elements and site features, and minimize the loss of historic materials and details.
- Size and scale of additions should not visually overpower the historic building or significantly change the proportion of the original built mass to open space.
- Select exterior surface materials and architectural details for additions that are complimentary to the existing building in terms of composition, module, texture, pattern, and detail.
- Additions should be distinguishable from the original historic building, self-supporting and constructed so that they can be removed without harming the building's original structure.
- Protect historic features and large trees from immediate and delayed damage due to construction activities. Sensitive areas around historic features and mature trees should be roped off before demolition or construction begins.

Things to Consider You Plan

For both additions and new construction, retaining a specific site's topography and character-defining site features assures compatibility. This is especially critical during new site development. The descriptions and guidelines included in Neighborhood Setting will be useful ensuring the compatibility of proposed site development within the historic district. The guidelines for various site features, including driveways, fences, lighting, garages, mature trees, and plantings, apply to both existing site features and proposed development. Consistency in setback, orientation, spacing, and distance between adjacent buildings creates compatibility within the district. The proportion of built mass to open space should remain consistent to surrounding areas to ensure the compatibility of both additions and new construction.

The principal visual elements that distinguish additions and new buildings are its height, form, massing, proportion, size, scale, and roof shape. Additions should be compatible with but discernible from the original historic building, and should not diminish it in size and scale. Careful analysis of the adjacent historic buildings is valuable determining how consistent and, consequently, how significant each of these criteria is in judging how compatible your new construction is with regard to its surroundings. It is especially important to consider the overall

proportion of the building's front elevation because it will have the most impact on the streetscape. Similar study of materials, building features, and details typical of existing buildings along the street will provide a vocabulary to draw designing a compatible building. Consideration should be given to the spacing, placement, scale, orientation, and size of window and door openings as well as the design of the doors and the windows themselves. In additions, exterior surface materials, architectural details, and window and door openings should reflect those of the original house.

Green Box-Elm Heights encourages the implementation of sustainability in all new construction, including LEED principles, solar options, and low-carbon footprint building materials and methods. Landscaping in a sustainable manner is highly desirable within the historic district, including retaining large trees and minimizing ground disturbance to protect critical root zones.

5.2 Patios Terraces and Decks

Lovely historic terraces and patios of both brick and limestone can be seen throughout Elm Heights. Outdoor entertainment and relaxation areas were commonly built into the design of many of the homes in the neighborhood; they included porches, patios and both at grade and roof top terraces. Their appropriate placement is dependent on the house's style.

Preservation Goals

To preserve original patios and terraces and encourage historically correct addition of new ones.

Guidelines for Patios, Terraces and Decks

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) s required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process

I. The removal or reconstruction of patios, terraces or decks.

II. The addition of new patios, terraces or decks.

- New patios or terraces should avoid disturbance of a character-defining features and be subordinate to the scale and mass of the home.
- Appropriately scaled, landscaped and constructed patio seating areas may be permitted in front of the primary façade of the house with permission of the BHPC.
- Employ materials appropriate to the neighborhood, such as stone, brick, or materials suggested by the style of the house constructing your additions.
- Decks should be constructed well behind the primary façade. Although wood is the preferred building material some composite decking materials may be considered.
- All new construction should be self-supporting, not anchored into masonry foundations, and be removable without destroying historic materials.

Things to Consider You Plan

If a deck is being planned as an addition, consult with the BHPC for compatible materials. Wood decks must be sealed and require regular maintenance, consider a terrace or patio instead for a more maintenance free structure. While decks are often added to the rear or side elevations of the house to lessen their street visibility, roof terraces on the side of the house are always visible from the street.

Rubber membranes are often used to give old rooftop terraces new consider painting the top of your new black membrane with an elastomeric reflective coating to make it more comfortable to walk on and save on air conditioning.

5.3 Garages and Service Buildings

Most of the Elm Heights district was built with both the car and pedestrian in mind. Most of the area is platted with alleys to give access to both attached and detached garages. The attached garage at this point in time was a novelty and its design was executed in various ways around the neighborhood. There are many instances of garages directly under the house which made them extremely inconspicuous from the street. Others were quite small, and set back from the front façade with 2nd floor living spaces or a terrace above. The car of this time was very narrow compared with cars of today resulting in repurposed of many attached garages to living space. The most common type of garage was detached, matched the house in both building material and style, and accessed from an alley.

Service buildings were less common than in the surrounding countryside and mostly used for gardening supplies or relaxing and entertaining. Occasionally these small buildings were designed with a fireplace or grill and seating.

Preservation Goals for Garages and Service Buildings

To retain and restore original Garages and Service Buildings along with their inherent materials and features through cleaning, repair, and routine maintenance.

Guidelines for Garages and Service Buildings

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

- I. Removal of a historic garage or service building**
- II. Changes to or construction of garages or service buildings**
 - New construction and additions should follow section 5.1, Additions and New Construction
 - Avoiding the choice of pre-manufactured sheds or service buildings that are uncharacteristic of the surrounding neighborhood. They may be considered if sufficiently screened from view.
 - New structures should be sited with regard for the historic orientation of the house and with care for its impact on the site.
 - New garages and garage additions should be accessed by alleyways when available and appropriate and away from the primary façade whenever possible.

5.4 Porches and Porticos

Front porches and entrance porticos are often the focus of historic homes as they distinguish the street facade. Together with their functional and decorative features such as doors, steps, balustrades, pilasters, entablatures, and trim work, porches and porticos can be extremely important in defining the overall historic character and style of a building. In Elm Heights, porches and porticos vary in size, height, material and covering. The materials used are either the same as the primary structure or are a complimentary material, such as a wood porch on a brick or limestone house. Overall porches and porticos draw attention to the entrance and its features, such as transoms, sidelights, architraves and pediments. Likewise, some entrances have only an uncovered stoop, drawing further attention to the doorway features. Additional information concerning new construction of rear porches and decks can be found in [Additions and New Construction](#) for.

Preservation Goals for Porches and Porticos

To retain and restore original porches and porticos and their inherent materials and features through cleaning, repair, and routine maintenance.

Guidelines for Porches and Porticos

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process. Also refer to section 6.1 Maintenance and Project Planning for additional guidance.

- I. Removal of any porch portico, or their materials or features outlined above and visible from the public right-of-way.**
 - The retention of all architectural metal elements is encouraged. If replacement is necessary, consider in kind replacement over substitute materials if feasible.
 - The enclosure of historically open front porches and porticos is discouraged. Increased flexibility is given for porch and portico enclosures along secondary facades. However, all proposals for enclosure require a COA.
- II. Reconstruction of missing, or the installation of new, functional or decorative porch or portico elements that are integral components of the building or site and visible from the public right-of-way, such as doors, steps, balustrades, pilasters, entablatures, and trim work.**
 - Replace missing elements based on accurate documentation of the original or use a compatible new design.
 - Only consider compatible new materials if using original materials is inadvisable or unfeasible.
 - Porches or porticos that are not original but have gained historical or architectural significance in their own right should be retained. However, new porch or portico elements should not be introduced that create a false historical appearance.

- Refer to the guidelines for Additions and New Construction for design assistance when constructing new porches or porticos.

Things to Consider As You Plan

Front porches are not just a design feature; traditionally they served many different functions including entertainment and relaxation areas. They also provide a place for interaction between the community and home owner, connecting the residents with both neighbors and passersby. When designing your front porch consider not only its appearance but also how you and your family will use it in the future.

Historically open porches and porticos should be maintained in their open state. If original porch or portico materials or features are deteriorated beyond repair, when feasible they should be replaced with components of the same material and design.

5.5 Sustainability and Energy Retrofit

As discussed in Section 2, sustainability and historic preservation are mutually reinforcing activities. This section addresses two specific aspects of the synergy – the preservation of historic features that support sustainability and the implementation of new technologies to enhance it.

Many pre-1950 buildings were built with resource and energy efficiency in mind. Construction methods focused on durability and maintenance, resulting in individual building features that can be repaired if damaged. Buildings were also built to respond to local climate conditions and often integrate passive and active strategies for year-round interior climate control, thereby increasing energy efficiency. Passive strategies typically include building orientation and features such as roof overhangs and windows to provide both natural daylight as well as management of solar heat gain. Active strategies typically include operable building features such as awnings and double-hung and transom windows. Landscape features, such as mature shade trees and other plantings, can also play important roles in energy conservation. Guidelines elsewhere in this document are designed in part to preserve these historic sustainability features.

Sustainability involves more than just preservation of historic features. Modern historic district design guidelines need to address retrofits for resource conservation and clean energy production that employ new methodologies. Guidelines must also accommodate rapid changes in both attitudes toward sustainability and the supporting technologies. The guidelines in this section are meant to encourage a flexible approach to the implementation of energy producing or conserving retrofits. The goal is to achieve solutions that are workable and cost-effective but also preserve the historic character of the district. The guidelines are written with the intent that they can be readily adapted as the science and technology of sustainability evolve.

Preservation Goals for Sustainability and Energy Retrofits

To maintain, repair, restore, and enhance a building's historic sustainability features that promote production or conservation of energy and other resources.

To find installation options that the need for efficient placement of new technology with sensitivity to preservation of the historic character of the building and its surroundings.

Guidelines for Sustainability and Energy Retrofit

Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item further assist applicants with the COA process.

I. Installation of exterior mechanical systems, such as attic vents, heating systems, air conditioners, or other utilities.

- Install and locate new systems to minimize alteration of the building's exterior facades, historic building fabric, and site features. Damaging, obscuring or causing the removal of significant features, materials or objects should be avoided.
- When feasible, installations should be reversible so that they can be removed and the original character of the building and/or site restored.
- New systems may be screened from view with plantings or low fencing.

Construction of a passive energy collection system.

- Due to the likelihood of significant alteration of a historic building with construction, locate a passive system in a secondary location such as a new wing or addition. Refer to the guidelines in Section 5.1 for assistance.

Installation of solar attic fans, solar collectors, solar hot water systems, and other similar energy generating technology.

- Install systems to avoid obscuring significant building or site features or adversely affecting the perception of the overall character of the property.
- Installations visible from the street can be considered when placement elsewhere is not feasible. Consider installing retrofits on an addition, on a secondary structure (e.g., a garage or garden shed), in a side or rear yard, or on yard features (e.g. a pergola or arbor).
- Minimize damage to or removal of significant features. Use the least invasive practical method to attach systems to an historic roof.
- When mounting energy generation systems, consider threats to the structural integrity of the building including load bearing capacities, water infiltration, and forces generated by windstorms.
- To minimize visibility, mount collectors below the ridgeline of a sloping roof and parallel to the roof slope. Reflective exposed hardware, frames, and piping should be consistent with the color scheme of the roof and/or primary structure; matte finishes of black, brown, or grays are suggested.

Things to Consider You Plan

Identifying a building's inherent sustainable features and operating systems and maintaining them in good operating condition are important early steps toward energy conservation. In some cases these features may be covered, damaged or missing, so it is ideal to repair or restore them. This helps retain the building's historic integrity. Additionally, typical retrofit measures include introducing storm windows and, doors adding weather-stripping, caulk and insulation. Installing more efficient mechanical systems also saves energy. Although window replacement is thought to provide substantial improvements in energy efficiency, this is often not the case, as discussed in Section 4.5, Windows and Doors. The most substantial areas of energy loss often result from insufficiently insulated attics and walls, the chimney-effect caused by holes and gaps in the wall, floor and ceiling systems, and windows and doors with insufficient weather stripping. All of these issues can be corrected through standard and economical retrofit procedures.

Solar photovoltaic systems are dropping in cost as demand for them increases. During daylight hours, if a solar PV installation produces more power than you can use, it will run a Duke Energy electrical meter backwards. More information about solar PV systems can be obtained through the Southern Indiana Renewal Energy Network (sirensolar.org).

A historic building's inherent energy efficiency can be augmented by integrating newer energy technologies. With thoughtful planning, it is possible to install these technologies while maintaining the historic integrity of the building and its setting. The installation of solar collectors is becoming more widespread as advances in technology improve their feasibility for homeowners. When planning any alternative energy installation, thoughtful and balanced consideration should be given to the various factors involved, including operational efficiency, cost effectiveness, and impacts to the building and setting. However, as technology and society's understanding of sustainability continue to develop, so too will the methods for integrating these technologies with an historic building.

Shade trees, mature plantings, guttering systems, porches, awnings, and operable windows, transoms, shutters and blinds are traditional ways to mitigate climate that still work if used judiciously. The installation of rain barrels does not require a COA but, where possible, rain barrels should be located away from the front facade and screened with plantings. Consider using materials that are either complementary or subordinate to the building's materials. For additional energy retrofit assistance refer to the websites listed under Things to Consider as You Plan in Section 4.5 Windows and Doors.

5.6 Accessibility, Safety and Aging in Place

Thanks to the diversity of the , our neighborhood is lucky to have people of all age groups. Many people who grew up in this neighborhood have chosen to remain and grow old here or have returned in order to retire, rendering it essential for us to ensure that they can comfortably age in place. Their presence contributes to the stability of the neighborhood as they invest time, money, and affection in keeping their houses in excellent condition while continuing to improve them. Elm Heights is a great place to raise children, have fun, work, retire, and age gracefully. The neighborhood's beauty encourages pedestrian and bicycle traffic and its proximity to entertainment, parks, and shopping it very livable for people of all ages and physical abilities. Accessibility, however, most often requires adjustments to accommodate people with restricted or limited mobility. The guidelines in this section, therefore, aim at improving safety and accessibility to a residence while preserving its exterior historic façades. Simply put, this means allowing for external changes that do not harm the original edifice and are ultimately reversible, such as level entry to the home through ramps, technological additions such as lifts or electric garage door openers, and enhanced security measures such as motion-detector lights and alarms.

Preservation Goals for Accessibility

To preserve and protect the historic and character-defining features of a building while temporarily altering it for accessibility and safety. Designs should be consistent with the prominent features of the house such as scale, proportion, and materials and be installed in a reversible manner

Guidelines for Accessibility, Safety and Aging in Place

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded item. The bullet points that follow it further assist applicants with the COA process. Also refer to section 7.1 Maintenance and Project Planning for additional guidance.

I. Exterior accessibility modifications visible from the public right-of-way.

- When developing a project for special needs access, consult the specific sections of these guidelines for the areas that will be affected.
- Develop a plan and consult with the BHPC before submitting a formal application for the Committee's consideration.
- All new construction should be self-supporting, not anchored into masonry foundations, and be removable without destroying historic materials.
- If a historic feature must be remove for an accessibility issue then it must be safely stored and reinstalled when accessibility is no longer an issue.

Things to Consider You Plan

Elm Heights was built in an era when full basements with raised foundations were a popular design feature. This is a major accessibility concern, and we feel it is imperative that our

guidelines provide ways to safely negotiate stairs, grades, and entryways in our historic homes, sidewalks, and yards. Since few historic houses in our neighborhood were built employing the principles of Universal Design, i.e. houses and features that are accessible for all and easy to use, temporary changes must be considered that will make houses more user-friendly for all but especially those of us who are elderly or have difficulty managing certain features of the residence, such as lighting, heavy original garage doors, fencing, and entry mechanisms.

While these guidelines do not cover internal changes, there are many websites and organizations that can offer suggestions about making your house more user-friendly (or accessible), such as placement of electrical sockets, positioning of storage, reduced height of bathroom and kitchen features, etc.

With regard to external features, a major concern is to provide ways of avoiding stairs by building temporary ramps or lifts. Historic steps, foundations, and features should not be damaged or endangered by construction of a ramp or lift. Ideally, ramps or lifts should be screened from public view, perhaps by tasteful plantings, and located on the side and rear façades of the house when feasible.

Another concern is ensuring the safe use of stairs by the addition of railings. When adding railings to already-existing stone stairs, the railing should be anchored in the ground or on the porch without drilling holes in the stone. Any damage to stone steps, such as drilled holes, could cause water infiltration and cracking and thus should be avoided.

Likewise the replacement of an original garage door with an electric one should be accomplished with the idea that the original should be reinstalled when the electric door is no longer needed. Improving accessibility may include the use of keypads or levers on doors; this may necessitate substitution of the historic hardware on the door but should be done in such a way that the original could be reinstalled subsequently.

Green Box-All modifications for the purposes of accessibility and safety should comply with the requirements set out by the various city, county, and federal building codes that govern safety and accessibility, including the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

6.0 RELOCATION AND DEMOLITION

The purpose of a local historic district is to preserve and protect the buildings, settings, and places of architectural and historical significance to a neighborhood or community. This makes it inappropriate to remove structures that have been listed as contributing to a district.

Most construction within the Elm Heights Historic District took place between 1920 and the 1940's. The houses that had already been built in the area were carefully worked into the fabric of the new with their more modern brethren these older homes create a district rich in architectural diversity.

Preservation Goals

To protect the contributing homes and structures that together constitutes the historic district.

To preserve the historic context and value of the district by discouraging the relocation of its contributing structures.

Guidelines for Demolition and Relocation

A Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) is required for the following bolded, numbered items. The bullet points that follow each numbered item give some examples the BHPC may consider valid reasons to grant a demolition or relocation. The condition of a building or structure resulting from neglect shall not be considered grounds for demolition.

I. Demolition of all primary, secondary, and accessory structures, including contributing walls and fences.

- The structure poses an immediate and substantial threat to public safety as interpreted from the state of deterioration, disrepair, or structural instability.
- Upon further consideration by the Commission, the historic or architectural significance of the structure is such that it does not contribute to the historic character of the district.
- The demolition is necessary to allow development which, in the Commission's opinion, is of greater significance to the preservation of the district than is retention of the structure, or portion thereof, for which demolition is sought.
- The structure is accidentally damaged by storm, tornado, fire, flood or other natural disaster. In this case, it may be rebuilt to its former configuration and materials without regard to these guidelines if work is commenced within 6 months.
- The structure or property cannot be put to any reasonable economically beneficial use without the approval of the demolition.

II. Relocation, either within or outside the district, of primary, secondary, and accessory structures, including contributing walls and fences.

- Relocation is necessary to allow development that, in the Commission's opinion, is of greater significance to the preservation of the district than is retention of the structure in its original location.

- Any relocated structures should be compatible with the contributing architecture surrounding its new site relative to style, setting, scale and era.
- Upon further consideration by the Commission, the historic or architectural significance of the structure is such that it does not contribute to the historic character of the district.

Things to Consider as You Plan

The replacement of demolished or relocated structures should follow the guidelines provided in ,New Construction, except for the situation presented above in the fourth bullet of the first guideline.

Preservation in the Elm Heights historic district extends to architectural features other than just the principle structure. Since demolition and relocation can affect all aspects of a property and the surrounding area, a COA to remove a structure or feature does not apply to the entire property. When planning your project make sure to include mature trees and other features like historic garages, walls, fences, sculpture and cisterns when presenting your plan to the . See 3.1 through 3.6 in Neighborhood Site and Setting for more information.

Green Box - Refer to section 2.0 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY under Environmental Health to find more information on the topic of sustainability and demolition.

-----End of Document-----

7. Appendices

7.

For more information on the care and use of limestone

Table of R-values for window replacements

Alley

Improved

Unimproved but platted

Vacated

Bloomington Historic Commission

Board of Zoning Appeals

Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)

Contributing Structures

Contributing

Notable

Outstanding

Non-contributing – Architecturally the structure has been changed so much that its historic value has been lost or the structure is too new to be considered for historic designation.

Contributing feature or element

Element and Feature – These two words are often used interchangeably in this document but usually a feature (porch) is made up of several elements (rails, materials, brackets, pillars, etc.).

Façade – The exterior wall of a building

Primary façade usually faces a street and includes the main entrance to a building and its most elaborate structural features.

Secondary façade is a building side of lesser importance and can face either a second street or alley.

Historic Districts

Local

Full Historic

Conservation District

State

National

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

Invasive Species are non-native plants or animals that proliferate and overwhelm a local ecology.

Muntin is a strip of wood or metal separating and holding panes of glass in a window.

Muntins

Replacement in-kind

Renovation

Repair

Setback

Spalling happens when stone or masonry has high water content and the surface freezes causing the stone to flake off due to the expansion of the water.

Terneplate or Terne-coated steel is also often referred to as "tin" and can still be purchased at most roofing supply stores.

Visible from the public right-of-way can refer to visibility from either streets or alleys. Fences and greenery can change and are therefore not considered as an impediment for architectural review.

7.3 Procedures for Guidelines Review and Enforcement

7.4 Secretary of Interior Standards

http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_8_2.htm

7.5 City's Tree Care Manual

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