

## **General - Historic Preservation Overlay District Design Standards**

### **Per Article 4.7.C.5. Design Standards of the Shreveport Unified Development Code:**

Design standards ensure, as far as reasonably possible, that the exterior features of buildings, structures, sites or objects, and their associated features, located within the General Historic Preservation Overlay District remain in harmony with the character defining features of the General-HPOD. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards are hereby adopted by reference and are only to be used as a guideline unless otherwise required by State or federal law.

#### **a. Design Standards for New Construction and Alterations**

All exterior features and/or exterior architectural features shall be harmonious with the special character of the General-HPOD.

In considering new construction, the Shreveport Historic Preservation Commission and the Executive Director shall encourage contemporary design which is harmonious with the character of the HPOD and shall not seek to impose architectural styles from particular historic periods.

The following list of standards will be considered in the review of applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness. These standards apply to both to new construction and any alteration to an existing building, lands, properties, sites, structures and objects, both commercial and residential:

- i. Scale: Height and Width.** The height-width ratio, that is, the relationship between the height and width of the front façade, (in the case of corner lots, two façades including porches, wings and porte-cocheres), should be of similar proportions to the neighboring buildings. Where the height regulations or allowed height encroachments of the underlying district conflict with these height requirements, the height requirements of the Historic Preservation Overlay District shall control.
- ii. Massing and Building Form.** To maintain the existing character of the district, any new construction or alteration should have similar massing and building form among buildings and structures in the immediate vicinity. Massing is defined as the three dimensional geometric composition of a building, or the overall "bulk" of a building and how the building is placed on its site.
- iii. Setback.** The construction of additions and new buildings and structures shall be congruous with the setbacks of any typical well-related nearby building and structure within two (2) blocks and compatible with the character of the district. Where the setbacks or allowed encroachments of the underlying district conflict with these setback requirements, the setbacks of the Historic Preservation Overlay District shall control.
- iv. Orientation and Site Coverage.** The principal façades of new buildings and structures within the district should be oriented parallel to the street. Main entryways should be located along these principal façades. Lot coverage, or that percentage of lot area covered by buildings and structures on a lot, should be of a similar proportion to the site coverage on adjacent lots.

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- v. **Alignment, Rhythm and Spacing.** Along a block, the uniformity of the proportions of the façades and the spacing of the buildings and structures must be considered to achieve harmony along the streetscape. Spacing between buildings and structures should be consistent along the street.
- vi. **Maintaining Materials within the District.** It is important to utilize the types of building materials that are commonly found within the district. Material types which are not commonly found within the district may detract from the continuity and character of the area.
- vii. **Trim and Detail: Link between Old and New.** Any new construction or alteration should be complimentary and harmonious with surrounding historic buildings and structures without necessarily duplicating its detail.
- viii. **Façade Proportions and Window Patterns.** The front façades of buildings and structures within the district may vary in style and detail; however, certain proportional relationships shall exist among buildings and structures in the immediate vicinity. It is important to maintain the relationship between the width and height of the front elevation of buildings and structures in the immediate vicinity. Also, the proportion of openings within the street side façade should reflect the same relationships within existing façades along the street, or visible from the street.
- ix. **Entrances and Porch Projections.** The design of porches in new construction and alterations within the district should capture the character of the porches on historic buildings within the district without imitating them. However, new buildings or structures should reflect the pattern of raising the first floor a few steps above street level if this pattern exists within the district. Ornamentations and details of new porches and entrances should also be complimentary and harmonious with surrounding historic buildings without necessarily duplicating its detail.
- x. **Roof Forms.** It is important to use similar roof and parapet forms drawn from historic buildings and structures within the district.
- xi. **Maintaining Quality within the District.** In new construction and alterations, the quality of materials, design, detailing and execution should be present to assure the continued positive character of the district. Modest buildings and structures constructed on relatively low budgets can show quality of design and detail with careful material selection and construction.